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**The Jefferson County
Historical Society**

and

**The Jefferson County
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CONTENTS – OCTOBER 2020

Women Elected to Govern	3
Oskaloosa, Kansas, in 1888	11
All Aboard for Dunavant, Kansas	12
Love on the Poor Farm	12
Milk Shakes	12
Tornado, Oskaloosa, 20 May 1960, by J.W. Roberts	13
Spring Snows	14
Domestic Hints	15
Big Celebration of Emancipation Day, Sept. 22, 1908, Valley Falls	16
From Thompsonville	17
Start a Saloon	17
Early Recollections of Kansas by J.H. Bennet	18
Winchester Academy Class of 1878	20
Whose Daily Sugar Ration Should Be Cut?	21
Little Difference	21
A Pretty Double Wedding, Perry, Kansas, 1907	22
New to the Shelves in the Genealogy Library	23
Jefferson County Tax List, 1861	(separate PDF document)

Yesteryears is published online as two separate PDF documents. The first document contains articles and newspaper stories of historical interest. The second document contains primary source material for researchers; it will not be sent out on paper in the U.S. mail. If you receive *Yesteryears* as an email attachment, you will receive both documents. If you need a paper copy of the primary source information, please contact the Jefferson County Historical and Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 174, Oskaloosa, KS 66066, email, oldjefftown@gmail.com

The primary source material and the articles are being made available on the new website, <https://www.oldjeffersontown.com/>

Individual articles from past issues of *Yesteryears* are being posted online at storiesofyesteryears.blogspot.com

The Jefferson County Genealogical Society is in the process of merging into the Jefferson County Historical Society. The new bylaws will be voted on at the annual meeting, Nov. 8, 2020. Updates will be posted on the Jefferson County Historical Society page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/255368121254017/>

Yesteryears editors, October 2020: Jane Hoskinson, Liz Leech

Women Elected to Govern

“In the year 1888, there occurred an event which brought Oskaloosa into the limelight of the entire English speaking world. The city election that year saw the election of an all-woman municipal government, mayor and five councilwomen. It was put over as a half humorous, half serious protest at the laxity of city officials in matters of civic pride. The women proceeded to clean up the town, enforced ordinances against the roaming livestock, cracked down on laxity of liquor law enforcement. The event was heralded by the press all over America and in other lands as far away as New Zealand, whence came letters and telegrams of congratulation.”

*John Wilkins Roberts, August 9, 1951,
Oskaloosa Rotary Club address to an orientation class of Exchange Students.*

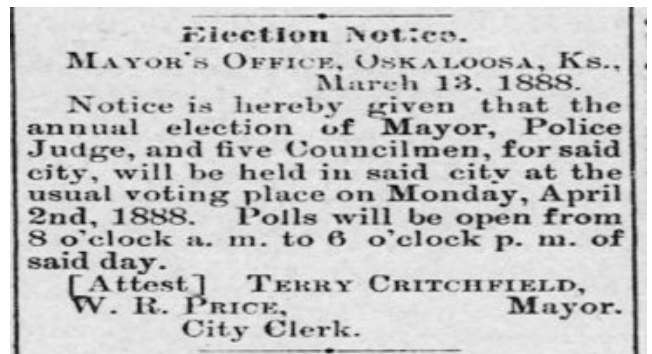
In 1887, Kansas women gained the right to vote in municipal elections. On April 4, the first city election that year, Susanna Madora Kinsey Salter* was elected mayor of Argonia, Kansas, in a failed attempt to defeat Prohibition Party candidates. Also on April 4, Syracuse, Kansas, elected five women to its city council, to serve with a male mayor.

On April 2, 1888, Oskaloosa, Kansas, elected Mary D. McGaughey Lowman mayor, with city council members Hanna Pym King Morse, Sarah E. “Sadie” Bonifield Balsley, Nancy “Emma” Kirkpatrick Hamilton, Carrie Lura “Caddie” Critchfield Johnson, and Mittie Josephine Ervul Golden.

Party politics were secondary to local concerns in choosing a women’s ticket. Many of the town’s businessmen felt that the incumbent council had failed to carry out civic improvements and campaign promises. Dr. John Balsley (husband of Sadie Balsley) proposed an all-female city government and, after some joking, received support for the idea from the townsmen. The list of candidates was finalized only a day before the election. One of the original nominees declined to run and was replaced on the ballot on election morning.

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Mar. 31, 1888

There is considerable talk of electing a city ticket composed mostly of ladies, and a selection has been made of ladies who are entirely competent, we think, to manage our municipal affairs. We believe if the ladies had control a better system of sidewalk and street improvement would be inaugurated at once. The present walks are a disgrace to the town.



Many citizens considered the women’s ticket something of a joke. On election day, a few young men proposed an alternative slate of candidates with the slogan, “YOUNG WOMEN FOR OFFICE; New ideas, new issues and new notions.” They got as far as presenting their candidates to the printer, but the women and their families objected. The proposed nominees were, “For Mayor, Miss Frank A. Fairholm. For City Council, Miss Mary M. Roberts, Miss Nellie Bliss, Miss Brittie Emert, Miss Frank McClellan, Miss Meta Morgan. For Police Judge, J.N. Insley.”

On April 7, the *Independent* listed election returns: “Following is the vote cast at the city election for the respective candidates: Mayor, Mrs. Lowman 110, J.M. Dick 44. Council, Mrs. Morse 110, Mrs. Hamilton 112, Mrs. Johnson 108, Mrs. Balsley 114, Mrs. Golden 111. Mr. Huddleston 46, Macomber 42, Williamson 42, Wilson 41, Patterson 41. Police judge, W.A. Hamilton 111, J.F. Bliss 42.” The women’s ticket had swept the polls.

* Susanna Madora “Dora” Salter is profiled (and Oskaloosa is mentioned) in an episode of KMBC Chronicle: Pioneers. Patriots.

Trailblazers: <https://www.kmbc.com/article/chronicle-pioneers-patriots-trailblazers/33579212>

See the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Autumn 1954: <https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-historical-quarterly-susanna-madora-salter/13106>

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Apr. 7, 1888

OUR NEW DEPARTURE

Oskaloosa to be Governed by Women Officials.

As is well known by the world at large now, Oskaloosa elected Mary D. Lowman mayor, and Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Balsley, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Golden, members of the council, at the election last Monday. The action was taken in good faith, in the belief that needed public improvements would be pushed through better by the ladies.—Notoriety was not sought or expected, and a very brief associated press dispatch announced the result.—Then, suddenly, our lady officials found themselves famous, and the name of our little city is on everybody's lips. The like had never before been done in the wide world, and telegrams, letters and special reporters have deluged us, while interviews and photographs are in great demand.

Our good-looking and intelligent but retiring and modest city officials have been sorely amazed and perplexed at the turn of affairs, but finally concluded to good-naturedly bear the honors thrust upon them and make the best of the novel situation. Accordingly, they took the oath of office yesterday, and will bravely assume the responsibilities made doubly great by the fact that the eyes of the whole country are upon them.

The ladies have no light task before them, and they should have the utmost encouragement and assistance from all good citizens. We believe that they will demonstrate that they can wisely govern the city, and that we will have something to show for their work at the end of the year.

Newspapers from all over the country printed their reactions to the results. The extent of interest in the “new departure” became apparent as the month went on and journalists poured into town from as far away as Chicago. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, a national literary and news magazine published in New York, ran portraits of the mayor and council, along with a panoramic sketch of 1888 Oskaloosa.

The jokes began immediately. Wilson & Conant's Drug and Bookstore ran an advertisement in the form of a mock council ordinance requiring women to shop in their establishment. Wits predicted that the council's husbands would have to stay home to mind the children, that women would arrest men for drunkenness, and that the council would discuss recipes for angel food in preference to civic affairs. A fictional gentleman proposed to release live mice at council meetings. The *Topeka Journal* retaliated: “Some sour fellows are ridiculing the Oskaloosa city government. It makes them mad to see a woman do anything but fry beefsteak.”

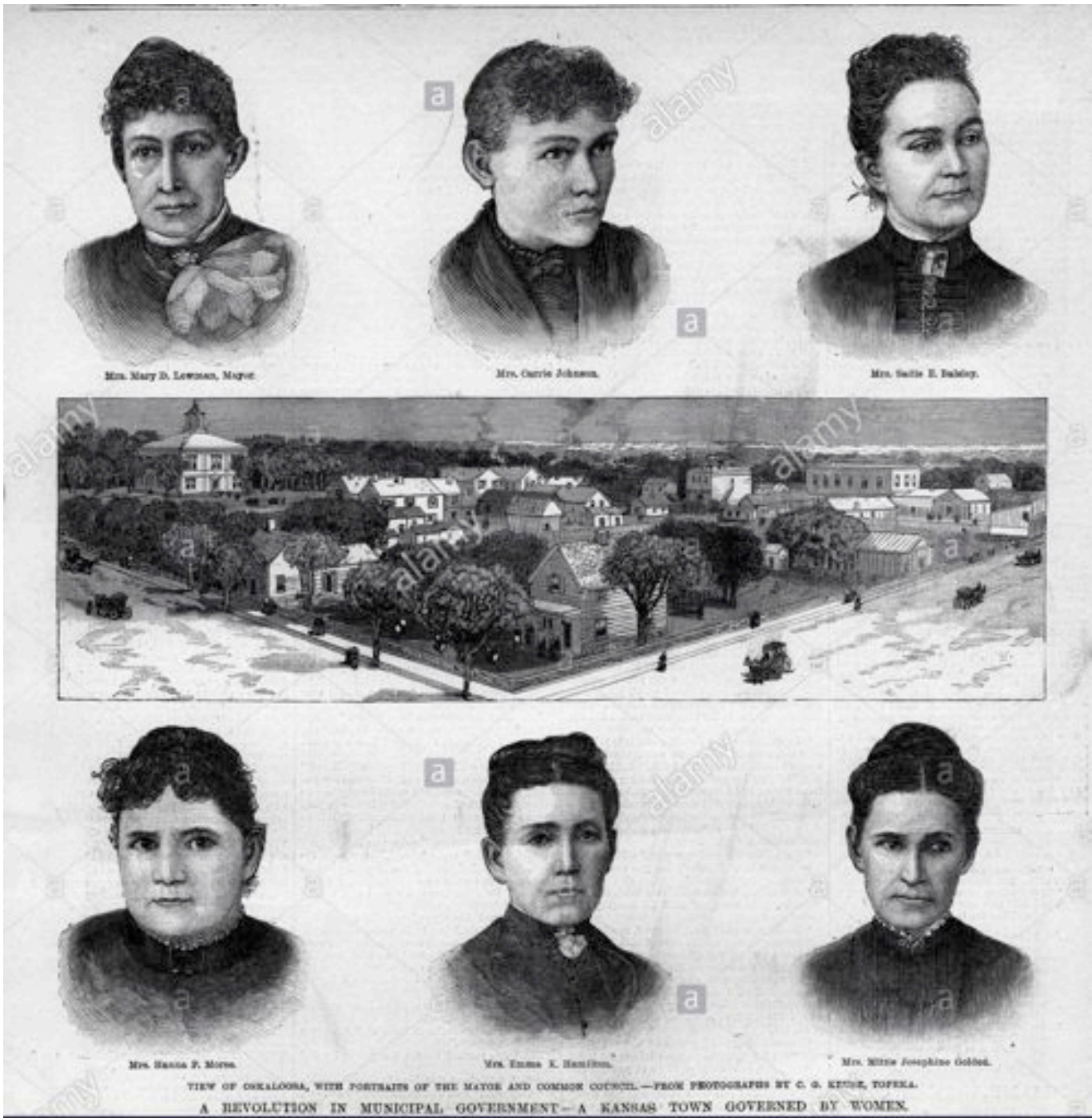
By April 21, the nationwide reaction had reached such a pitch that the *Independent* devoted its front page to other newspapers' coverage of the “petticoat government.” The reporters and correspondents considered it pertinent to mention that the women were not noted for suffragist opinions, that they were not, in the words of the *Wyandotte Gazette*, “the ‘short-haired,’ speech-making, office-seeking sort, but good wives and mothers, who will bring to bear in their new responsibilities the same good sense used in keeping their houses and homes.”

The *Independent* took care to mention the municipal support for the new mayor and her council, asserting that even though many voters considered the women's ticket a joke, they voted for it whole-heartedly. The town band came out in support of the winning candidates and paraded through the city serenading the mayor and council-elect.



From the *Chicago Tribune*, Apr. 5, 1888

Mary Abarr reported for the *Topeka Capital*: "The ladies now have an ample field. The city needs a system of street lighting, new walks, better street grades and macadamizing, especially around the court-house, and a system of waterworks would not be amiss. The taxes have been very light in the past and doubtless there will be some growling if an improvement tax is levied. The city is hoping for an appropriation from the county for the purpose of beautifying the court house park by way of ornamental and drinking fountains. Truly are the mayor and members of Oskaloosa council representative women. They are bright, cheery, intelligent, womanly women with a large share of common sense. They are representative mothers and housekeepers too, for, although the house cleaning season is on and some were washing, all busy with or directing their house work, not one was found untidy, not one whose hair was not neatly done, not one but whose house was in perfect order. If they can direct their individual households so well can they not direct and guide the municipal affairs of their city? They have every appearance in their favor. They may differ politically, but they are all staunch prohibitionists. They are for principle more than party. Long may the 'city mothers' of Oskaloosa rule."



In a traditionally Republican town, it was a surprise, especially to many of the men, to learn that the new council was composed of four Democrats and two Republicans. The tally of religious affiliations was of equal interest: four Methodist, one Episcopal, one Presbyterian. It became immediately apparent that the women were all independent thinkers, not to be unduly influenced by their families.

By Mr. Ellis, special reporter for the *Kansas City Times*: "It was not known until a couple of days after that the council had a democratic majority, for Oskaloosa is strongly republican. Among those who were surprised, none were more so than Dr. Balsley who prepared the ticket. He is a staunch republican, but found after the election that Mrs. Balsley had placed herself on the democratic side. . . . Mrs. Balsley said that she couldn't go back on the democratic party just because her husband was a republican.

"Since coming into official positions the opinions of these ladies on certain political matters have been plainly expressed. Some of these expressions go to show that the women of Oskaloosa intend to think differently from their husbands just as much as they please, and hold up their end of the family opinion in the council just as well. . . . All of the ladies are decidedly in favor of prohibition and, strangely enough, . . . only one pronounces herself a thorough woman's suffragist."

In an address to the Jefferson County Historical Society, Ailee Decker Henry, granddaughter of Mary Lowman, outlined the accomplishments of the mayor and council. (Portions of Henry's speech were published in the October 1995 issue of *Yesteryears*.)

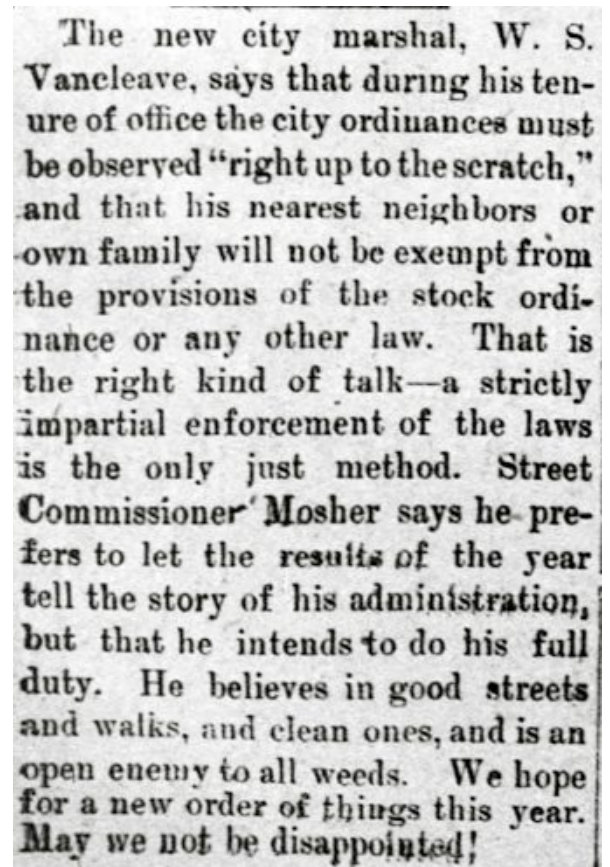
"Many obstacles confronted this new council. The town was in debt and had only 85 cents in the treasury when they came into office. The City Marshal would not enforce the ordinances so Mayor Lowman promptly removed him and appointed a man upon whom she could rely. Then began a crusade as never before had been known.

"For years the town had been annoyed with bad boys or the young toughs of the place loafing around the streets at night, molesting and moving signs and belongings of others. The Mayor and Council issued a proclamation commanding all boys under 18 years of age to be off the streets at eight o'clock in the evening under penalty of arrest.

"The ladies were concerned about the subject of tobacco-chewing and looked carefully through the statutes for an ordinance that could be used to stop men from squirting tobacco juice on the sidewalks. There was none so they made a personal request asking every tobacco-chewer in town not to expectorate on the sidewalks. This had just as much effect as an ordinance, for the men were so respectful of the wishes of female guardians that they unhesitatingly complied with the request and now a lady may fearlessly sweep her skirts over the side walks without danger of getting them all stained up with nicotine.

"All seemed to be going along very well with the ladies until they passed an ordinance prohibiting stallions from being kept within the city limits. On one corner of the public square there was a big, red barn owned by the proprietor of the Jefferson

Hotel. He owned the finest breeding stallion in the county and kept him at this barn on the public square. It was on the way to and from school for a lot of children, and young boys had a tendency to loiter around the place. This situation had worried many parents and citizens, and it took a women's council to do something about it. The ordinance was passed, and the owner was in a rage. He procured an attorney and filed a bill for an injunction and at the same time presented a petition signed by many of the businessmen to rescind their action.



The new city marshal, W. S. Vancleave, says that during his tenure of office the city ordinances must be observed "right up to the scratch," and that his nearest neighbors or own family will not be exempt from the provisions of the stock ordinance or any other law. That is the right kind of talk—a strictly impartial enforcement of the laws is the only just method. Street Commissioner Moshier says he prefers to let the results of the year tell the story of his administration, but that he intends to do his full duty. He believes in good streets and walks, and clean ones, and is an open enemy to all weeds. We hope for a new order of things this year. May we not be disappointed!

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, May 12, 1888

“The night the petition was brought in, the Council Chamber was filled to overflowing and Mr. Buck’s attorney made an oral argument against the enforcement of the ordinance. Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Balsley answered him, and the logical and determined manner in which they overwhelmed every point of the lawyer’s argument won for them a wide degree of admiration. Finding the women obdurate, the lawyer went before the District Court and was again defeated, the judge deciding the case in favor of the women.

“The ladies also met with poor cooperation on the matter of making necessary sidewalk improvements, but they went to work with a will and in the course of their administration there is scarcely a bad walk in town. They had trouble with the richest man in town, who owned an entire block in the heart of town and refused the request of the council that he put a sidewalk in front of it. The plucky women warned him that they would have the walk constructed and compel him to pay for it. The women were not stubborn but they would not be daunted. The walk was laid in spite of its causing them another law suit. In contrast to this we find the women taking up a subscription to pay for the part of the sidewalk in front of a poor widow’s property so that she would not be taxed for it. This sidewalk was necessary as it led to the school house. It had been ten years since anything had been done about sidewalks, and there was none to the school. This the women also accomplished.

“At the end of their first year, this first ‘Petticoat Government’ had made enemies as well as friends, but there was yet work to be done. They were asked to run again, and all but Mrs. Hamilton, who for domestic reasons could not, and Mrs. Johnson, who had never been active through this first year and was not interested, said they would serve again if elected.”

The “domestic” reasons influencing Emma Hamilton’s decision not to run for the city council again may have been connected to the birth of her sixth child, Albert Wallace, in September 1889. Carrie Johnson also had personal reasons to retire from the council. In September 1888, her son Terry was born; he died just a month later, according to the *Independent*. Her daughter and only surviving child, Roxlena, was born in October 1890.

As the 1889 election neared, opposition to and support for the council grew. The *McLouth Times* wrote, “The ‘woman’s government’ took hold of Oskaloosa with a depleted treasury and lots of poor streets and dilapidated sidewalks, but during the year they have made many needed improvements and have over \$100 in the treasury. It would only be justice to give them another term at the helm.”

A SUCCESSFUL GOVERNMENT.

One year ago the town of Oskaloosa, Kas., which has had a sleepy rest existence by way of a rest since it was the seat of the border war of “bleeding Kansas” days, woke up and elected under the law of that state a mayor and city council composed entirely of ladies. At first it was thought a huge joke and much laughter followed, but some of the old fossils of the town soon began to laugh out of the left hand corner of their mouths.

The new council meant business and they ordered the city to be cleaned up. The old rotten sidewalks were torn up and new ones built. In the centre of the city resided an old hunk who had never built a sidewalk around his large block and who had taken a ponderous oath to the effect that he never would. The men councils had always been afraid of him but the ladies did not propose to be bulldozed. They ordered him to put a sidewalk around his entire block and upon his refusal they hired a squad of brave carpenters and superintended the job themselves in a body.

Then the venerable fossil hired some lawyers and began to devise ways and means to escape payment. He sold a strip eight inches wide along two sides of his property to his son, abutting on the new sidewalk, and another strip ten inches wide around the other two sides to his wife and thinks that when the ladies have sold out the “abutting property” to pay for the sidewalk they will be badly left.

This teaches us what a fool a man usually makes of himself when he attempts to fight his women folks. The ladies say they are going to collect the bill of him and doubtless they will do it. The citizens are delighted and they propose to keep that female city government in power for another term. They claim that the town of Oskaloosa has prospered as it never prospered before, since they tried the experiment of a petticoat government.

From the *Nebraska State Journal*, Mar. 27, 1889

The *Oskaloosa Independent* reported on the election and its results, April 5, 1889:

“The city election last Monday was the most hotly contested one in our history. The opposition to the woman’s government developed surprising strength and left no stone unturned to gain their point. At a caucus on Saturday night, T.H. Noble was selected for mayor; Deibert, Geo. Wise, Hofmann, Lohman and Monroe for council, and V.M. Stevens for police judge. The ladies’ ticket was the same as last year excepting that Mrs. W.H. Huddleston and Mrs. D.H. Kline were put in place of Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Johnson. All day long hacks and carriages were run, and many were those who obtained the unwonted luxury of a ride in state. We were glad to see some of our democratic friends made converts, not only to negro suffrage but to woman suffrage, also. We congratulate them on their progression.—The result was the election of the entire woman’s ticket, Mayor Lowman receiving 68 majority, Mrs. Morse 33, Mrs. Balsley 36, Mrs. Golden 47, Mrs. Kline 41, Mrs. Huddleston 36 and Police Judge Hamilton 72.”

Financial Statement	
For the city of Oskaloosa, during the year commencing April 1, 1888, and ending April 1, 1889.	
Cash received from City Treasurer at commencement of year	.85
Cash received from city taxes	427.56
Cash received from city licenses	32.00
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Total cash received for the year	460.41
Cash paid out for vouchers issued during previous year	16.30
Cash paid out for constructing and repairing sidewalks, work on streets and street commissioner's salary	237.22
Cash paid for city expenses during year (including attorney's fees)	114.30
Balance cash now in city treasury	92.59
<hr/>	
460.41	
J. L. RAINES, City Clerk.	

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Mar. 23, 1889

Three other Kansas towns, Baldwin City, Rossville and Cottonwood Falls, elected women as city officials in 1889. In Valley Falls a woman’s ticket was nominated but defeated by an average margin of 45 votes. Perry reported that only two women voted in its city election.

The new council members, Maria Snyder Emert Huddleston and Irena D. Cole Kline, received much less attention from the press than the original six women. They took their duties just as seriously, however, serving on committees for claims, streets and alleys, and ordinances.

Ailee Decker Henry continued her account:

“To further the improvement of their streets they deemed it wise to purchase a road grader. To make it more economical they suggested they buy it in conjunction with the township for road maintenance. That idea was rejected by the township officials and so the women ordered the purchase of a road grader independently. They then constructed a shed to shelter the grader and other tools. This allowed the streets to be much improved, widened, straightened and made more uniform. Several new streets and alleys were opened up.

“New improved street lamps were installed. They were gasoline instead of coal oil and so constructed that they were supposed to burn out about midnight. [The lamps, installed on a trial basis, were eventually rejected as “no good.”]

“It seems the city had been careless with the fire department equipment. City Marshal Golden was instructed to gather together the ladders and buckets, hooks and chains in various places and new ladders were also made.

“A city pound was established in which to keep stray livestock that wandered the streets. Citizens were urged to keep their cows, pigs and chickens shut up.

“The railroads that furnished transportation in and out of Oskaloosa, especially the Leavenworth, Topeka and Southwestern, were a source of concern to the Mayor and Council and they repeatedly appealed to the Railroad Commission for better service and better schedules.

“God Bless The Women.”

So writes the widow Odell, to the agents for her property here, on learning that the ladies composing the city council had actually raised the money by private subscription to build a sidewalk in front of her property, instead of having it run on the tax-roll and charged up to her, when she is scarcely able to care for her little crippled daughter and get along herself. She asks for the names of the ladies that she may know to whom she is indebted, saying that language cannot express her gratitude.

For her information we will say that the following named ladies compose the council: Mayor, Mrs. M. D. Lowman; members of council, Mrs. Hannah Morse, Mrs. Sadie Balsley, Mrs. Emma Hamilton Mrs. Caddie Johnson and Mrs. Mittie Golden.

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Jan. 19, 1889

“Their second term in office drew to a close and a job well done. They had executed the work equally as well and somewhat better perhaps than any group before them. It is interesting to note, there was still a difference because of their womanly instincts. There were a number of bills allowed for meals for tramps. The local paper made mention of the fact that tramps were more numerous of late and suspicioned that they knew about our women Mayor and Council and no doubt expected aid and comfort from that source. This small benevolence was not missed—there was still a balance in the treasury of \$165 and better than that, a lot of public spirit and good will in the community in which they served. But they did not choose to run again.”

Mary Abarr described each woman in detail for the *Topeka Capital*, April 1888 (Illustrations from the *Chicago Tribune*, March 25, 1889):

“It is with extreme pleasure the worthy ladies of this wonderful council is introduced to the readers of the *Capital* this morning. Call on them separately and without warning and you will see six earnest mothers engaged in home duties, but still broad enough to be deeply interested in their sons, daughters and husbands even beyond the threshold of home, out in the busy field of life.



“The mayor, Mrs. Mary D. Lowman, you will see in the office of register of deeds, where she has been for nearly five years, under the different administrators. She is 49 years of age and has led a busy life. When not at present employed she taught school. She looks at you out of pleasant eyes and gives you the impression of exactness,

firmness, kindness and a woman of great force of character. Her dark brown hair streaked here and there with a silvery thread is becomingly done in a French twist. She is attired in a suit of brown and receives her guests cordially. She is a native of Pennsylvania and has lived in Kansas twenty years, eighteen of which have been spent in Oskaloosa. She is the mother of two children, a son and a daughter, both grown. Mrs. Lowman is republican in politics and a Presbyterian in religious faith. That she will fill the mayor’s chair acceptably is universally conceded. She is fitted for it in every way, in business training and executive ability. Her husband was for some years the register of deeds of Jefferson county.

“Mrs. Hanna P. Morse you will find in her cozy home on the hilltop, gay with the songs of her feathered pets, a canary and a mockingbird. She is

of medium height with plump, round form, very dark brown hair and eyes, hair worn in a coil at her neck, with a cluster of ringlets in each temple. She is neatly attired and meets you with a smile of welcome. Mrs. Morse is 45 years old and was born in England. She has lived twenty-two years in Oskaloosa. She is the mother of one child. Her political faith is democratic and her religious belief Methodist. Her husband is a genial, jolly attorney who by his good grace always wins his cases.



“Mrs. Emma Kirkpatrick Hamilton, a near neighbor of Mrs. Morse, is 39 years of age and is a native of Indiana. She has lived in Oskaloosa for fifteen years. Mrs. Hamilton was educated in Oxford, O., and received her musical education in Findley of the same state. She is the mother of three children, and though one of the chief officers of the city, neglects none of her

household duties, but is a patient, faithful mother, whose influence will be felt for good in the council chamber. She is a staunch republican and is also a member of the Methodist church. In appearance Mrs. Hamilton is a little above the medium height with dark blue eyes and dark hair that persists in assuming pretty wavy lines over her head. Her husband is a member of the real estate firm of Insley & Hamilton.



“Mrs. Sadie Balsley was born in Ohio 35 years ago. The past fifteen years she has lived in Oskaloosa. Mrs. Balsley is politically a democrat, religiously a Methodist. She kindly came in to receive her callers in a cozy sitting room flooded with sunshine, fragrant with flowers and cheery with the song of birds. Her height is slightly

above the medium, with dark hair and eyes and rosy cheeks. Her wavy hair was coiled neatly on her crown. Her appearance is such that you would be willing to trust to her judgment even in weightier matters than helping to rule a city. She is the better half of Dr. Balsley, a skilled physician whose healing powers are phenomenal.



“Mrs. Mittie Josephine Golden spent twenty-two years of her life in Topeka and the past eight in Oskaloosa. She was born 31 years ago at Independence, Mo. Politically she is a democrat, religiously a Methodist. She has a slender, girlish figure of medium height. Her eyes are of the deepest blue, hair light and was prettily coiled high.

Notwithstanding, she was initiating a new laundry woman and caring for a sick child, she was neatly attired and her cozy home was in perfect order. She is the fond mother of two little girls. Her husband is a mechanic of great skill.

“The youngest member of the council-elect is Mrs. Carrie Johnson. She is only 23 years old and was born and brought up in Oskaloosa. She is the eldest daughter of Terry Critchfield. She was for a time a student at Bethany college, Topeka. Her political views are democratic, religious Episcopal.—



The reporter was shown into a pleasant parlor, fragrant with the scent of roses and bright with pretty things wrought with her own dainty hands. There were books and magazines in profusion and music too. The hostess received her guest in a pretty “at home” of some dark surah. Her blue eyes were shaded by fluffy blonde hair which was loosely coiled. Her husband is the cashier in the Oskaloosa bank.”

The new council members elected for 1889-90, Maria Snyder Emert Huddleston and Irena D. Cole Kline, were not interviewed or sketched by the press.

Maria Huddleston was 59 years old, a native of Illinois and the mother of three from her previous marriage. Her daughter, Brittie Emert, was one of the “young women” proposed to run for the council in 1888.

Irena Kline was 52 years old and a native of Ohio. She came to Kansas in 1867, where her family farmed northwest of Oskaloosa for 14 years before she and her husband retired and moved to town. She had four grown children when she was elected to the council.

Mary Lowman died June 2, 1912, as a result of a kitchen fire. Her clothing caught fire while she was reviving the coal embers in the cook stove. She ran to her porch, where a passerby heard her cries and put out the flames with his coat. She died several hours later. According to F.H. Roberts, editor of the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Lowman “was above reproach. . . . Her portrait and life sketch are found in a book published by Frances Willard and Mary Livermore, entitled, ‘A Woman of the Century.’ She became famous unexpectedly when she was elected mayor of Oskaloosa in the spring of 1888, and received letters from all parts of this country and many foreign parts.” Her husband, George W. Lowman, died in 1930. Her children were Dr. Richard C. Lowman (1867-1954) and Monica S. “Montie” Lowman Decker (1870-1968). The *New York Times* carried Mary Lowman’s obituary, saying that her administrations “were marked as much for efficiency as honesty.”

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, June 7, 1912: "Mrs. Lowman and her women friends on the council modestly deprecated all this notoriety but went on with their duties courageously and well, Mrs. Lowman's self-poise and fine temper greatly assisting in keeping things harmonious and free from bickering or criticism."

Hanna Morse died May 2, 1911, in Oskaloosa. Her husband, Dennis H. Morse, died in 1913. Her son was William Justin Morse (1864-1938).

Sadie Balsley died Feb. 20, 1907, in Lawrence, Kan. Her husband, Dr. John W. Balsley, died in 1895. Her adopted daughter was Helen Claire "Nell" Needham Balsley (1881-1971).

Emma Hamilton died Feb. 18, 1913, in Oskaloosa. Her husband, William A. Hamilton, died in 1912. Her children were Leila Hamilton Buck (1875-1935), Sada Hamilton (1879-1886), Johnnie Hamilton (1883-1886), Mary Emma "Mayme" Hamilton (1884-1969), Margaret Hamilton Perry (1887-1957), and Albert Wallace Hamilton (1889-1952).

Carrie Johnson died Oct. 5, 1929, in Chicago, Ill. Her husband, Charles F. Johnson, died in 1914. Her children were Myrna Johnson (1885-1886), Terry Johnson (Sept. 1888-Oct. 1888), and Roxlena Johnson Hargreaves (1890- ? after 1930).

Mittie Golden died Jan. 7, 1934, in Oskaloosa, the last survivor of the women's council. Her husband, Charles E. Golden, died in 1945. Her children were Nellie Gertrude Golden Hosford (1878-1941) and May B. Golden Snellgrove (1881-1955).

Maria Huddleston died May 26, 1894, in Oskaloosa. Her husband, William H. Huddleston, died in 1910. Her children were Samuel Emert (1861-1942), Estelle Emert Gillham (1865-1909), and Brittie Emert Huddleston (1867-1928). She is buried with her first husband, William Emert, in Illinois.

Irena Kline died Nov. 1, 1907, in Oskaloosa. Her husband, David H. Kline, died in 1902. Her daughter Amanda died in infancy. Her surviving children were William Henry Kline (1859-1946), Robert Lincoln Kline (1861-1936), John G. Kline (1864-1917), and Clara Elizabeth Kline Davison (1866-1958).

All the council members except Maria Huddleston are buried in Pleasant View Cemetery, Oskaloosa, Kansas.

Oskaloosa, Kansas, in 1888

By Mary Abarr for the *Topeka Capital*, April 1888

Oskaloosa is beautifully located on wooded hills, the native trees still shading one or both sides of the streets. The court house is a two-story brick situated in the center of a shady square, terraced above the surrounding streets. It is heated by steam and its broad hall is as clean as a sanded New England kitchen. There is no system of lighting the city save by the good old-fashioned kerosene lamp. Electric light is looked forward to with pleasure. There are two public school buildings, both two-story, one for white and the other for colored children. The churches are Methodist and Presbyterian, white, and Methodist and Baptist, colored. There is an Episcopal church building, but no organized society at present. The manufactories are represented by a flourishing creamery, a meal and feed mill and a saw mill. Business interests of every kind is well represented save the liquor interest, which is entirely unrepresented. The secret societies there are, Masons, Odd Fellows, A.O.U.W.K. of P., Good Templars, the Rebecca and Eastern Star orders, the G.A.R. and its

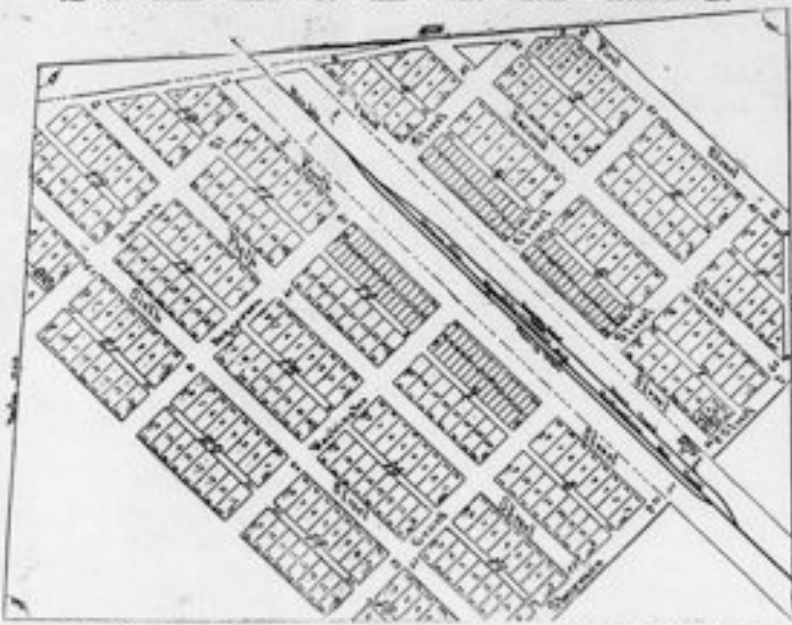
auxilliary and the Sons of Veterans. The Masons, the A.O.U.W. and the Odd Fellows each own their halls. Of these the Masonic temple is the largest and best equipped. The opera house will be a gem when completed. Even now it quite equals houses of greater pretensions in larger cities. There is a library association under the direction of the Odd Fellows. It is well patronized and its capacity is often taxed to its utmost. The postoffice is newly fitted and is quite spruce with its brass furnishings and ground glass window screens. There are three banks, the State Bank of Oskaloosa in the Blue Ribbon office, with the mammoth products of the county arranged in artistic designs on all sides of the room; the Jefferson County bank and the Oskaloosa bank. The city contains some 2,000 inhabitants, scattered over its many hills. A place of interest and beauty near the city is Lover's Leap. It is a magnificent, rocky, craggy bluff over 100 feet high, overlooking the forest below. Some years ago the noted desperado, Daugherty, who was a prisoner in the city, broke jail and escaped, leaping for his life over this cliff.

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, June 2, 1888

All Aboard for Dunavant, Kansas.
GRAND EXCURSION ON JUNE 7, 1888!
OVER THE KANSAS CITY, WYANDOTTE & NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD.
NO A - FREE - RIDE - TO - ALL - WHO - HOLD - TICKETS. - 23

This beautiful town is located fifty miles northwest of Kansas City, in the center of Jefferson County,
The Banner County of the State,
On the K. C., W. & N. W. R. R., and the Atchison, Lawrence and Southern R. R.
The Railroad Eating-House
will be located here, where ALL TRAINS WILL STOP FOR MEALS. Two-thirds of the lots in this the FUTURE COUNTY SEAT of Jefferson County will be sold at auction to the highest bidder on the above date.

TERMS: One-Third Cash; Balance in One and Two Years.



One-half of the purchase price of lots sold will be placed in the hands of a board of trustees to be named to consist of three of the leading bankers of Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Mo., to be expended in
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS,
As a majority of the property-holders direct and approve.
THIS IS THE STEPPING-STONE TO FORTUNE!
And all who fail to attend this
GRAND SALE OF LOTS
will miss an opportunity to gain a fortune that may never again be presented to them.

W. H. Young, Real Estate Agent,
Rooms 16 and 17, First National Bank Building. - - - KANSAS CITY, KAN.

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, June 9, 1888

It is said that many who attended the lot sale at Dunavant yesterday were much disappointed at the marked absence of beer and other drinks. It was a regular drouth instead of a spring freshet.

Love on the Poor Farm

Contributed by Leanne Chapman

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, May 16, 1883

Probate Judge Schaffer united in marriage, at his office, last Tuesday, Chas. M. Scott and Elizabeth Larrison, whose present residence is at the Jefferson county poor farm. The new made husband is a youth of some 76 winters of storm and snow and ice, while his loving bride has seen the flowers and sunshine of 78 summers. Well, better late than never 'tis said.

From the *Oskaloosa Sickle*, Mar. 15, 1884

We learn of the prospective good fortune of one of the inmates of the county poor farm. It seems that a

relative of Mr. Scott, the person mentioned above, is found to be one of the legal heirs to a fortune of \$150,000. There are but three members of the family living, we believe, which will give the old man a fair start in business.

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Mar. 27, 1886
Metzger & Insley report the sale of lots 4 and 5 in block 23, Newell's addition, to Chas. M. Scott. This includes a small dwelling-house west of David Linn's, and Mr. Scott and his wife now occupy it. This is the old couple who were married at the county farm some time ago, and he having fallen heir to a thousand dollars or so, they have come to town to live.

Milk Shakes

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, May 12, 1888

The *Independent* boys sampled the "milk shake" at Wilson & Conant's yesterday, and the whole outfit unite in saying that it is the best drink that ever came to town. It is *the* popular drink.

Tornado, Oskaloosa, 20 May 1960

This letter was contributed by Linda Stehlik, granddaughter of John Wilkins Roberts, publisher of the Oskaloosa Independent. Roberts wrote to his East Coast relatives: his daughter, Margaret Roberts Stehlik, and her family in New Jersey, and his brother Wes Roberts and family (Roberts referred to them as "the Washingtonians").

from John and Lena Roberts

Lest you hear of Oskaloosa's travail of last night [Thursday, May 19] and begin to wonder about our personal situation, I will try a letter by light of two candles beside my faithful typewriter mounted on a shaky TV table. It is now nearly dark for the second night, we have no electricity and hence no furnace heat, but by cooping up in diner and half kitchen we are keeping warm and dry.

The tornado struck at around 7:20; our electric clock stopped at 6:50; Lena had just heard TV warnings from Topeka that funnels were heading towards Meriden. I was at hotel in Rotary club when the lights went off and the fellows began to drift outdoors. As soon as I got outside and saw the appearance of sky I hit for home. Lena was calm but sure the storm would be bad, glad I was home. There was 4th quarterly conference scheduled at the church for 7:30 but I decided not to go.

The atmosphere was very quiet – entirely too quiet. About 7:30 it struck, strong wind from the west and hail. Lena was in kitchen when plaster began to fall followed by the most awful thud like a tree falling on the kitchen roof. I said let's go to basement.

By the time we reached the cellar entrance the hail was striking the west porch so strongly we somehow feared to enter the basement staircase and turned back inside. I went upstairs, found a window on southwest corner of bedroom lacking its glass, the glass covering the bedspread. I began pulling the mattress away from the water, she got a quilt, I nailed it to the opening. I went to the attic, found a window blown inside, replaced it and locked it in.

Other rooms seemed o.k. except water was being forced through every "join" of the windows. Kitchen continued to leak, we put pans and more pans down, found candles and kept watch of the rooms till 9:30. Our neighbor Harry Bateman came to door around 9:30. He said our biggest hard maple was badly shot, also his own, and that the parsonage lawn seemed to be strewed. We couldn't see, so went to bed.

When daylight came we found that the tall chimney alongside our kitchen had fallen on the kitchen roof in three large pieces and many smaller ones. That old wire bedframe on the roof had partially broken the fall, however the kitchen had lost a few "acres" of ceiling plaster, a lot of it in Lena's hair. The back porch a shambles, most of its sides gone or fallen, water dripping all around.

Anyhow we are alive and well and only have to wait one more night I hope without furnace and electricity. The electrician took my name, said he would help me if possible but failed to arrive today. So much for usn's who got off easy. I have insurance.



The tornado did its worst in Meriden. It marched right up Main Street, toward the east, took the bank, the stores on both sides of the street. The Methodist Church, only ten years old, is flattened, likewise the grade school nice brick building is flat, and all the houses even in the newest addition on toward the east. Paper says about half the town is ruined. One dead, 39 to hospitals.

At Ozawkie considerable damage but no details.

At Oskaloosa:

Courthouse minus its cupola and more than half its roof. About noon a snow fence was thrown around it, the

officers distributed: clerk and treasurer to old State Bank building, district court and probate court to Ratliff's empty building, sheriff to jail (that is, the undersheriff; Johnny Pence is our one "casualty," his car turned over on him and sent him to Lawrence hospital.)

Judge Kaul was due today – the judicial chair sits high in the ruins.

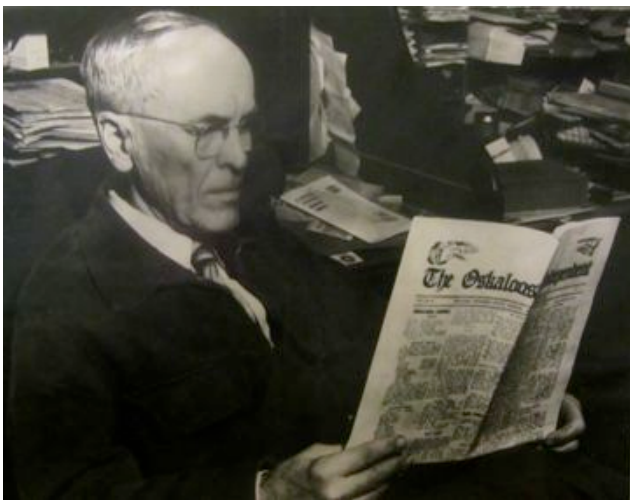
It was north half of town chiefly hit; apparently very little south of Square. School was dismissed, stores closed generally while proprietors did voluntary duty on the streets. Traffic officers stood on each corner of the Square, traffic worse than a city; everybody who could command a tractor began hauling in mangled shade trees. That corps began by 7:30 am and was still going toward dark; you've never seen the streets of our village so busy. Men spent most of the forenoon scooping debris off main streets with graders and power shovels. There were so many sightseers, traffic generally had to wait at every corner until a tree trunk or other traffic passed by.

Our preacher became a wood cutter today; power saws were called into action by parsonage as well as scores of other places. A volunteer labor headquarters was set up at Fred Thompson's office to direct workmen where most needed. It was necessary to get water pumps working down at the lake, then refrigerator pumps at the restaurants, groceries and drugstores.

Rufus reported three barns or sheds lost – said he was milking, when the roof disappeared from above the cows who escaped he didn't know where. Worst damage in northwest part of town; Howell was working at his new residence on North Columbia, that is, directly west from Municipal Park. He stepped outside to go home, looked back, and there was no house there.

Frank Burton has enjoyed living in a pre-fab house on Park Street, first of its kind in Oskaloosa and maybe the last; anyhow it began falling apart last night. Several other houses unroofed in part or whole.

We were out of communications; Johnny Hoskinson [managing editor of the *Oskaloosa Independent*] began calling other cities for help by way of mobile telephone service, got some response by mid-afternoon. He took pictures most of the day, says he has some good ones. Printing office came off pretty well, only a couple glass missing at Mabel's [hair salon below the *Independent* office], the "lid" to roof came off as usual, he had it "securely locked" but the tornado lifted it anyway. The Leaverton sisters lost most of their front porch; our alley is full of branches. Vange Sutton has damage at Charles' sleeping room above back porch.



John W. Roberts. Photo courtesy of Jefferson County Historical Society.

Most unique freak at our place: the littlest hard maple which has stood slightly west from our front "gate" was neatly twisted from its hole and laid flat exactly between our house and Mike's. I don't believe there was as much as a spadeful of dirt missing from the sides of the hole. The butt looked almost as if sawed off without roots. Our cherry tree was plum full of growing fruit, now it all lies flat.

There was a lot more minor damage, probably I may never hear of all of it. All in all it is the worst jolt to hit Oskaloosa in my lifetime.

Dad.

P.S. from Lena: Sat. a.m. I am still getting plaster out of my hair.

Spring Snows

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Apr. 26, 1918

Eleven years ago on May third we had a heavy snow with the temperature as low as 23.

April 20, 1909, quite a snow fell here and now on this April 20, 1918, and also 23 the snow king came back again.

Domestic Hints

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Jan. 12, 1889

What Cash Will Buy.
3 lb. can Tomatoes, 10 cents.
2 lb. can Corn, 10 cents.
2 lb. can Blackberries, 10 cents.
2 lb. can Raspberries, 10 cents.
2 lb. can Peas, 10 cents.
2 lb. can Strawberries, 10 cents.
All standard goods and of last
year's packing. At
HAMILTON & HUDDLESTON'S.

What Cash will Buy.
Best flour, 50 lbs for \$1.65.
Good flour, 50 lbs, 1.45.
Granulated Sugar 12 lbs 1.00
Extra C, " 13 lbs 1.00
Golden C, " 15 " 1.00
Raisins, 10 lb for 1.00
Currants, 13 " " 1.00
At HAMILTON & HUDDLESTON'S.

From *The Oskaloosa Independent*, March 15, 1890

Home Hints and Helps

—After exercises of any kind, never ride in an open carriage or near the window of a car for a moment. It is dangerous to health or even life.

—The best parts of fish lie near the head. If there is any roe put a part on each plate. Be careful in sewing a fish not to break it. A fish knife or a knife with a broad blade is the best.—*Detroit Tribune.*

—Tea Bread.—Make a sponge of two eggs, two tablespoonfuls of butter, four tablespoonfuls of sugar, half a pint of yeast, one pint of flour, with as much milk as necessary for a thin batter. Bake when well risen.

—Suet Johnny Cake.—Add one cup suet to an ordinary corn cake batter, only the sour milk will not need to be as rich as at other times, when suet is not used. This is to be eaten hot.—*Ohio Farmer.*

—A pretty and useful article is a teapot holder. Take a small square of drab satin sheeting and line with chamois skin, placing a layer of perfumed wadding between the outside and the lining. Cut the edge of the chamois in tiny points.—*The Home.*

—A Coffee Desert.—Make a coffee cupful of clear strong coffee, place it in a saucepan with an ounce of soaked gelatin and add enough more water to make a quart in all; sweeten to taste and when it

reaches the boiling point pour into a buttered mold and set away to cool. It is very nice when served with whipped cream.—*Orange Judd Farmer.*

—Serving Bananas.—A favorite way of serving bananas in New Orleans is to cut them lengthwise in two pieces, dust them with powdered sugar, a little lemon juice and bits of butter, and to bake them in the oven for twenty-five minutes. They should be basted once or twice with the butter while baking, and served hot in the dish in which they are cooked.

—A Simple Pudding.—Roll three crackers finely; one pint of hot milk, the yolks of two eggs, a saltspoonful of salt, the same amount of nutmeg and one teaspoonful of butter. Bake half an hour in an earthen dish standing in water. When done beat the whites of the eggs with two teaspoonfuls of powdered sugar. Brown slowly in the oven, then dot with bits of jelly and serve.

—The extent to which warm water bags have come into use is amazing. They are now an almost essential adjunct of every lady's traveling outfit and are often given as presents. They are of flannel-covered rubber, the most popular being in plaid patterns. When filled with boiling water they retain heat the entire night. A hot water bag under the neck will settle a neuralgic headache more quickly than any remedy known.—*Selected.*

[Editor's note: There was apparently some confusion as to whether the Atchison baseball team was to play against Tonganoxie or Topeka. Despite the racially condescending attitude typical of the era, the reporter seems to have genuinely enjoyed this event.]

Big Celebration of Emancipation Day

**By the Colored People.
Jackson's Band of Topeka.**

From the *Valley Falls New Era*, Sept. 17, 1908

The colored people will have a big celebration here next Tuesday, the 22nd.

Jackson's Military Band of Topeka accompanied by an extra coach load or two of colored folks will arrive on the morning Santa Fe and remain until 9:30 at night.

There will be a big basket dinner in the city park; and after dinner speaking, singing and band music until 3:30 when the crowd will go to the ball park to see the Tonganoxie and Atchison colored nines have it out. Those who saw the game last year never have quit talking about it, and the losers last year will come prepared to show the champs how to play ball.

Everybody is invited to attend all these exercises.

PROGRAM.

Song	Choir
Invocation	Rev. Scouten
Music	Band
Address	E.K. Townsend
Adjournment until 1:30	

AFTERNOON SESSION

Music	Band
Song	Chorus
Address	Oscar Raines
Music	Band
Address	J.M. Brown
Music	Band
Ball game 3:30	

The Colored Folks' Big Day Big Crowd, Good Speaking, Fine Music, Exciting Ball Game and Excellent Order.

From the *Farmer's Vindicator*, Valley Falls, Sept. 25, 1908

The local Lodge of the Knights and Ladies of the Orient are feeling proud of their success . . .

in pulling off one of the most successful Emancipation day celebrations ever held in this part of the state, which they did "to a frazzle" last Tuesday.

The morning trains brought crowds—including Jackson's band and a special coach load from Topeka, all of whom were piloted to the park where refreshments, including a big picnic dinner, were served.

After dinner the exercises were opened by music from the band, invocation by Rev. Scott, of Topeka, and reading of the emancipation proclamation by Miss Edna Anderson.

Hon. E.K. Townsend made an interesting and instructive speech on the history, condition and future of the colored race which was well received and appreciated.

To hear the colored folks tell it though it was Oscar Raines, of Oskaloosa, who "surprised the natives" in a speech which was the feature of the occasion. According to our reporter Mr. Raines gave them advice which if followed would be of great benefit to the race.

After more music Rev. Scott, who is the state organizer of the Knights and Ladies of the Orient made an address principally on the benefits of fraternal insurance, which was well received. A speech by Matt Martin, a colored lawyer of Holton closed the exercises at the park, and headed by the band nearly the entire crowd went to the ball game which was between Atchison and Topeka.

This game was not nearly so much to the grand stand as the one last year, the teams being fairly evenly matched, the score standing 4 to 3 in favor of Atchison. Of course each side roasted the umpire and in fact put one out of the game, and the second started to quit in the last half of the ninth, but was persuaded to go back. "Chalk" Lewis caught for Atchison and did himself proud.

At night those who so desired had a dance in the Overholser building and some stayed until the small hours of the morning, but all were good humored and well behaved.

Mrs. Eliza Roberts wants to thank her friends for the assistance given which enabled her to win the prize offered to the lady collecting the most money for the occasion, and John Roberts, as Officer of the Day wishes to publicly thank the white folks who assisted in making of the day an occasion long to be remembered.

From Thompsonville.

Contributed by Leanne Chapman
From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Aug. 22, 1885

Farmers are busy plowing for wheat, and some are nearly done.—Notwithstanding the short crop of the last two years, they seem to have faith in the country and a large acreage will be put in this fall. Glad to see it, and if we are not mistaken wheat will command a good price next year. The corn prospect is grand. M.N. Brown was elected clerk of the school board at the annual meeting on Thursday of last week.

A photographer's tent has been pitched in the village for the past two weeks, and many are availing themselves of the opportunity thus offered to secure pictures. Mr. Thompson has had the mill photographed and Mr. Wheeler his house.

M.N. Brown's little son Elmer has been quite sick for the past two or three weeks, has suffered one relapse, but is again improving.

The mill is running night and day this week.

Mr. Robt. Richey made his debut this morning as meat peddler. Success to you, Rob.

Mr. Val. Brown took a trip to Kansas City on Monday.

Mr. Jake Miller of Medina and Miss Sadie Moore of this place were married on Friday of last week, at the residence of the bride's mother, Rev. Brooks of Grantville officiating.

Start a Saloon

Contributed by Leanne Chapman
From the *Kansas Fraternal Citizen*, Valley Falls, July 1, 1915

Start a saloon in your own house. Be the only customer. You will have no license to pay. Go to your wife and give her \$2 to buy a gallon of whisky, and remember there are 69 drinks in one gallon. Buy your drinks of no one but your wife, and by the time the first gallon is gone she will have \$8 to put into the bank and \$2 to start business again. Should you live ten years and continue to buy booze from her, and then die, she will have money enough to bury you decently, educate your children, buy a house and lot, marry a decent man and quit thinking about you.—*Atchison Globe*.



Thompsonville Mill, built 1865.
Photo courtesy of Jefferson County Historical Society.

Early Recollections of Kansas.

By J.H. Bennet.

[published p. 1, Oskaloosa Independent, May 11, 1878]

Original Sketch

[Written for the Independent.]

It was in the dark portion of the rebellion. Close to the time when the southern army held possession of the Hannibal & St. Joe Railroad; when a Rebel paper at the city of Atchison Rejoiced at the Union defeat at the battle of Wilson's Creek; when the Jayhawkers held high carnival at Oskaloosa; when herds of rebel cattle pastured on the borders of Cedar Creek; when horse flesh as well as white man was "mighty unsartin." I decline to give the actual date; I am a little afraid of Mr. Patrick. It was after the time that Jefferson County militia took possession of Atchison one bright sunny morning. Those were wild times for our boys, and those boys were wild. Uncle Jesse Newell commanded the Oskaloosa company. Sim Hull the Crooked Creekers. Ed. Hutchins the Grasshoppers. Did Hiram Webb have a company? S.S. Cooper was a Major of the Jefferson Rangers. Ed. Lynde was commander of the Post at Atchison.

It was after this time. There was a fellow at Grasshopper Falls, and I guess he is there yet, who had a judgment against Gid. Thompson for about ninety dollars. Gid was a captain in the rebel army, and had been at the battle of Wilson's Creek. He had some farms up on Cedar, and among his tenants there were scattered round a good many horses and mules, and cows, and steers. This fellow, whom I shall call George, put an execution in the hands of John Ratz, who was then constable at the Falls, and Ratz levied on three colts and a mule. This stock was left in a lot or corral on one of Thompson's farms, awaiting the day of sale. Before that day George came to me with the story that the Oskaloosa Jayhawkers were going through Gid's stock the next night sure. We investigated. The reputation of these boys for sudden and swift thoroughness was good. David Hannah betrayed them in George's interest, and assured us that they would not respect George's claim. We afterward succeeded in pumping John Owens, a little, wirey, black-eyed, swift-spoken man, without his mistrusting anything. He corroborated Dave as to the time of the raid and the certainty that George would lose his levy. We soon skulked away from Dave, both with the same object in view, and in a short time, had moved the stock. It was then dark and we were both hungry. We got some supper, and in consideration of the extreme darkness, and the prospect of an all night ride, tried for a couple of hours sleep. I wonder if George will remember that two hours in the loft of that log cabin, his mother and Hattie and Will, poking fun at us for swearing at the bugs? We then retreated in good order. George mounted the mule, I my white pony, and Will walked to help us get the colts used to the business. We went to the timber line of the Grasshopper, crossing Jeff's Creek near to Jack Frakes' old place, and continued up to the Half Mound crossing; we got over somehow, but the darkness came down on us so deep and dense just there that we had to call a halt. John P. Philip and a young man named Bishop were baching there, in the house where I heard my first Kansas sermon. We roused them up, claiming their *horse-pitality*, secured our beasts as best we might, built up a roaring fire, and laid down on the ground floor. I slept. I think George listened for the Oskaloosa escort. A profound and unhealthy kick in my ribs brought my hand to my pistol belt with a suddenness that might have cost that kicker his life, only that there was no pistol there. "Get up, mullet head," was all the sound I heard. The sky was clear. The moon filled that little room "with a flood of mellow light."

George had stolen my pistol, had saddled the riding animals, tied the heads of two colts together, was mounted and leading the other before I was awake. I knew the country perfectly, and we started in tolerably good spirits. Will. went back home. Neither Philp nor Bishop ever squealed on us, that I ever heard of.

The night's ride was wearisome and tedious, its dreariness broken only by a single incident. The morning was cold and foggy, and after we left that little bottom just west of Muscotah, we lost the trail and wandered round a good spell in rather an objectless manner. We did not deliberate when we saw an Indian farm, but rode right up and inquired the way. I don't remember whether we learned it or not, but I remember what that Indian said.

"Rebels, eh?" I shook my head. He laughed a little and came back at us with: "Jayhawkers, mebber!" George's face got red as fire, but we neither of us ever mentioned the interview.

About ten o'clock we were going boldly through a little town called Kennekuk (Brown County) and stopped at Jonathan Hunt's for breakfast and fodder. We told our story truthfully to Mr. Hunt, to an Indian agent whose name I have forgotten, and to a Mr. Willis. I believe also that George Storch was there. They all sympathized with us, advised us, and sent us on our way rejoicing.

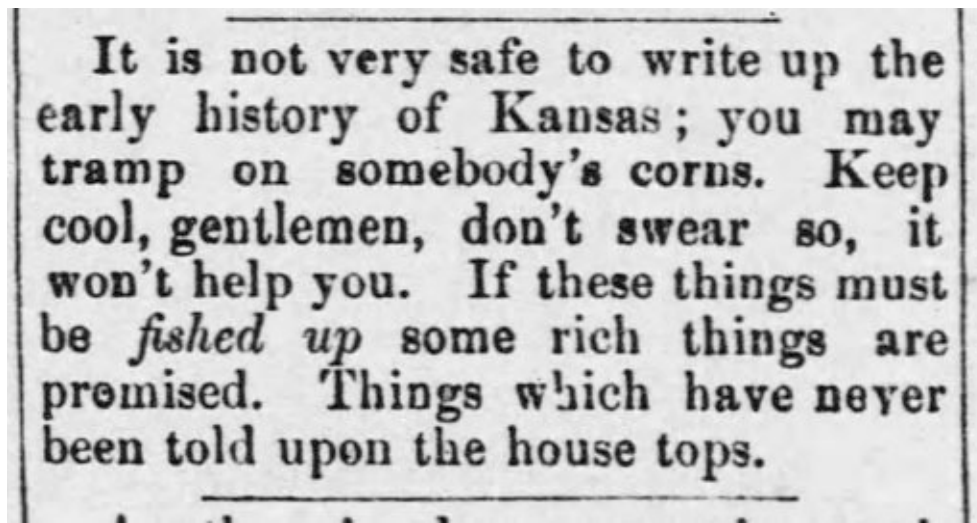
At that time there was in northeastern Kansas quite a company of Jayhawkers headed by one Capt. Sharp; of this company more anon, only remember now they were loyal [to the Union] to the backbone, every man of them. Between this time, and the time I shall again introduce them, this same Jonathan Hunt had the funny following experience:

He was a loyal man, and a straight Republican, but everlastingly opposed to jayhawking in all its forms. Some of his milk and water neighbors came to him to get help to recover some horses stolen by a couple of Capt. Sharp's men. Quick to execute anything, Mr. Hunt organized a pursuit, leading it himself, and with a following of two milk and water men, and three professed rebel sympathizers. The pursuit was hot. The thieves, both strangers to Hunt's squad, got demoralized, left their horses, took to the brush, were driven into a *cul de sac* on the side of a steep bluff, and gobbled up. They were not maltreated.

The stock was all gathered together, and they went into camp. Just as they were posting guards for the night, Capt. Sharp and half his company bounced their camp and tied every mother's son of them hand and foot, without drawing blood. When torches were produced the howl commenced. Here were a dozen of Mr. Hunt's most intimate friends. Men who had sat at his table, and who had worshipped with him at the same altar. Men who had loaned him money and help put him in office. They had caught him with arms in his hands leading a pack of rebels against the free soldiers of Kansas, and had ignominiously bundled him down in the brush with that rebel herd. Cut to the very heart with shame, he was the coolest man in the crowd. Cries of astonishment, execration, credulity, and doubt were mingled with eager, and furious, and sorrowful demands for explanation. He acknowledged afterwards that he comprehended the political situation better in the two minutes he was there tied than ever before in his life. They released him promptly. They accepted his apologies and regrets graciously. They received his promise that he wouldn't do so any more, with good natured laughter; and even went so far as to unbind his proslavery comrades, give them all their horses, and send them back to Kennekuk with the two thieves as an escort.

MORAL.—It is a very wise man who can steer clear of a conflict with himself if he attempts to judge of all the details of right in a conflict as tremendous as the war of the rebellion.

[The sequel to George's adventures next week.]



It is not very safe to write up the early history of Kansas; you may tramp on somebody's corns. Keep cool, gentlemen, don't swear so, it won't help you. If these things must be *fished* up some rich things are promised. Things which have never been told upon the house tops.

From the *Winchester Press* section of the *Oskaloosa Independent*, May 25, 1878

[Editor's note: Mr. Bennet wrote his piece for an audience that would remember Civil War events of about 15 years before. The Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad was the first railroad to cross Missouri. It moved the mail back and forth and brought supplies to the west. Confederate guerillas weakened the Platte Bridge support structure, and on Sept. 3, 1861, a train crashed

off the bridge into the shallow water. Up to 20 people were killed, and 100 injured, men, women and children. Mail and freight was disrupted. And bushwhackers damaged other rail property.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek was the first major battle west of the Mississippi and was a Union loss. Kansas troops were among the Union soldiers at the battle, near Springfield, Mo.

Cedar Creek is near Valley Falls. It is true that Gideon Thompson, a Confederate officer from Missouri, owned land in Jefferson County. It's hard to know what legal process was taking place in this instance, but the U.S. government did confiscate the property of the traitors who took up arms against the United States. Such property was sometimes extra-legally confiscated by Union Jayhawkers, who might take the rebel property to Union forces in need of supplies, or use the property for their own profit.]

Winchester Academy Class of 1878

From the *Winchester Press* section of the *Oskaloosa Independent*, May 25, 1878

The first annual commencement of Winchester Academy will be held at the close of the present term. The academy has been in existence nearly four years, and the first class are almost ready to go from her care to try the "sterner realities" of life. The class of '78 will number six. The commencement exercises will consist of a salutatory by Miss Anna Keaton, a valedictory by D.A. Curry, and an oration or essay by each of the other members of the class, these exercises to be interspersed with music, and followed by the presentation of certificates of graduation to the class by principal of the academy.

These exercises will not take the place of the regular academy entertainment, but will be given on a separate evening.

Whose Daily Sugar Ration Should Be Cut?

Contributed by Leanne Chapman

From the *Winchester Star*, Oct. 25, 1918



Schoolmaster—Prior to the time of the rules restricting use of sugar, how much did we have for each person in the United States?

Pupil—Three and a half ounces daily per person.

Schoolmaster—How much did the English have?

Pupil—Seven-eighths of an ounce daily per person.

Schoolmaster—What was the daily sugar allowance per person for the French?

Pupil—One-half ounce.

Schoolmaster—Does that mean each person was given that much sugar for use on the table?

Pupil—No. That was the entire per capita national consumption, including use of sugar for the table, for bakeries, for candy, pop and other purposes.

Schoolmaster—How much sugar did submarines sink in their raids on our Coast?

Pupil—Twenty-six thousand tons. Twenty-six thousand tons equals fifty-two million pounds, or enough to give every person in Kansas one ounce per day for fifteen months.

Schoolmaster—There is not as much sugar now as formerly, I take it?

Pupil—No. Various causes have reduced the supply. One of these is the transfer of ships from the sugar-carrying trade to transporting food to our million and a half men in France.

Schoolmaster—Then we must take some sugar away from one of the three persons represented in the picture. Shall we take it away from the French?

Pupil—By no means. Take it away from the spoon which is full and running over. Let us reduce the American table allowance to two pounds per person per month, or one ounce daily. We will still have two times more than the French, and, besides, there will be sugar for home canning and baking and other needful food products.

Schoolmaster—Can the Germans defeat the United States by depriving us of sugar?

Pupil—Never! We are so glad for a chance to help win the war that all the children I know of are going without candy to make the Kaiser mad. My mother is canning mostly without sugar and father has quit using sugar in his coffee. I have just one spoonful of sugar on my cereal, when formerly I used to have two.

Schoolmaster—Very good. You have answered all questions correctly.

Little Difference

Contributed by Leanne Chapman

From the *Meriden Advocate*, Nov. 23, 1945

Harry Hampton, Oskaloosa's popular undertaker, came to Jefferson county from a Swedish community in the Central Part of the State. He states that he observes one difference between Oskaloosa and his former home. In the Swedish neighborhood, a guest is always offered a drink of liquor of some sort by the man of the house. This tendency does not seem to be followed in Jefferson County.

A Pretty Double Wedding

From the *Perry Mirror*, June 20, 1907

The Presbyterian church was the scene of a pretty wedding, Wednesday evening, June 12, at 8 o'clock, when the marriage of the Misses Marie and Sadie Lott, daughters of the Rev. and Mrs. N.J. Lott, to Messrs. Harry E. Sheffer and Edgar E. Tolle of Roxbury, Kansas, was solemnized.

The Rev. Lott, assisted by Dr. Gragg of Lawrence, officiated, the ring service being used. During the ceremony Miss Edna Raines played Annie Laurie very softly.

To the beautiful wedding march from Lohengrin rendered by Miss Edna Raines, who was dressed in light blue silk mull trimmed in embroidered chiffon, the bridal party entered the church. The Misses Ethel Spurlock, Bertha Hauser, Maggie Ploughe and Rebecca Wilkerson carried the daisy chains which marked the bridal path.

The bridal party was led by the ushers, Messrs. Ralph Ambrose, Archie Sheffer, William Tolle and J.A. Lott, and bridesmaids, Misses Anna Lott, Alta Lott, Jeannette Robinson and Mrs. J.A. Lott, the flower girls, Marvel Raines and Madaline Fowler, and the ring bearers, little Grace Hess and Vernon Lott.

The brides entered leaning of the arm of their father and were met at the altar by the grooms and their best men, Messrs. Worthy Neal and Glick Frisbie.

The church was decorated with masses of green foliage, intermingled with white daisies.

The brides made an attractive picture dressed in cream Point Desprit over cream silk, with long tulle veils, which were caught in their hair by rosettes of tulle. They wore gloves and slippers to match and carried beautiful brides' roses. The bridesmaids were dressed in white swiss trimmed in val lace, and carried carnations. The little flower girls and ring bearers were daintily dressed in white.

Immediately after the ceremony a reception, at which an elegant repast was served, was given at the manse to the bridal party and a few invited friends. The tables were prettily decorated with carnations and ferns.

The newly wedded couples went to Lecompton immediately after the reception and took the train for Roxbury, their future home, and will go to housekeeping at once.

The brides have resided in our city only about a year, but have won the admiration and high esteem of a large circle of friends. The grooms are popular young men of Roxbury, Kan., Mr. Tolle being a well-to-do young farmer and Mr. Sheffer a popular young clerk in one of the large stores there.

The out of town guests were Dr. Gragg, Lawrence; Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Tolle, Mr. and Mrs. C.G. Sheffer, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Spillman, Messrs. Archie Sheffer, and Melville Frisbie, Roxbury; Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Lott and Miss Ethel Spurlock, Topeka; Mrs. H.M. Course, Idana; Mrs. A.H. Mann, Kansas City; Messrs. Ralph Ambrose, Toronto; Leroy Tolle, Sherman, Cal.; Worthy and Will Neel, Highland; Henry Hidecker, Belvue.

Many pretty and valuable presents were received, as follows:

Table linen, bed linen, etc., brides' mother; silver sugar and creamer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hess; silver cream ladle and butter knife, Messrs. R.W. and W.T. Neal, Roxbury; set silver teaspoons, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Tolle, Roxbury; hand painted sugar and creamer, berry set, with cake plates to match, punch bowl and one dozen sherbet cups, Misses Alta and Anna Lott; hand painted letter holder, pin tray and paper knife of orange wood, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tolle, Cal.; Cuba-shell salad set, Miss Jeannette Robinson, Long Beach, Cal.; hand-painted cake plate, Mrs. Carson and Miss Mary Carson; Haviland china cake plates, Mrs. A.M. Mann, Kansas City; silver meat forks, Miss Edna Raines; silver meat fork, Miss Maggie Ploughe; Haviland china cake plates,

Mr. and Mrs. Byrn; linen lunch cloth, Mr. and Mrs. Redden, Roxbury; linen drawn work center pieces, Mrs. Sechrest; set silver colonial teaspoons, Mr. B.T. Tolle, Deering, Mo.; set linen napkins, Mr. and Mrs. C.G. Elvin, Topeka; two drawn work center pieces, Miss Ruth McClure, Emporia; drawn work dresser scarfs, Mrs. J.M. Johnson, Genesee, Kan.; bed spreads, Mrs. Gleason; hand painted bon-bon dishes, Miss Rebecca Wilkerson; sugar and creamer, Miss Ethel Spurlock, Topeka; linen table cloth, Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Sheffer, Roxbury; lace curtains, Mr. and Mrs. James Muir, Roxbury; linen table cloth, Misses Gil Stark and Ella Rivers; silver sugar shell and butter knife, Henry Hidecker, Belvue; set silver knives and forks, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Spillman, Roxbury; silver meat fork, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Lott, Topeka; fruit dishes, Rev. and Mrs. H.M. Course, Idana; brush set, Dr. and Mrs. Kerr; cake plates, Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Raines; salad dish, Miss Vida and Ralph Ambrose, Toronto; hand painted cake plates, Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Harvey, Fondulac, Minn.; set linen napkins, Mrs. Sleeper; set silver teaspoons, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Neal, Highland; set silver teaspoons, club girls, Ben Avon, Penn. (to Mr. and Mrs. Tolle); linen dresser scarf, Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Larimer, Lecompton; oil painted pictures; Mr. and Mrs. James M. May, Minneapolis, Kan.; silver souvenir spoons, Miss Pearl Harding, Roxbury.

A Reception at Roxbury.

The newly married couples were given a reception last Friday night, at Roxbury, by the grooms' parents. It was largely attended. Each couple received the following list of presents from Roxbury friends:

Set silver knives and forks, Mr. Anderson; glass berry set, Sampson & Sanberg; silver spoon tray, Mr. Frisby; hand painted cracker jars, Mr. Mammel; glass cake stand, Walter Tolle and wife; berry spoons, Oliver Bishop; china tea set, Brust brothers; berry spoons, S.

Tolle and Harry Bartz; china pitcher, R.T. Burch; china salad dish, Mrs. Brown and Elsie Brown; hand painted chocolate dish, O.E. Burch; carving set, R.T. Burch; cake plate, Misses Ona and Blanche Nirider; loving cups, Harry Mason; set silver teaspoons, J.A. Tolle and wife; linen tablecloth, J.H. Kinney; linen tablecloth, Geo. Stein; hand painted cake plate; E. Arnold; china cake plate, Miss Opal Writer; set china sugar and creamer, Mr. and Mrs. Mason; dresser scarf, Geo. Bishop and wife; Brussel rug, Mr. and Mrs. Coons (Co. Supt.); linen tablecloth, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Lilley; pair linen towels, Mr. and Mrs. Nichols; drawn work lunch cloth, Rev. and Mrs. Wilkes; dining room picture, Mr. and Mrs. Burch; silver pickle fork, Mrs. Craig and Mr. and Mrs. Huston; silver sugar shell, Mr. Tolle; tablecloth, Mrs. F.A. Tolle; dresser scarf and two doilies, Mrs. Malinda Hayer; dresser scarf, Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Lott; Jersey cow, N.J. Lott.

New to the Shelves in the Genealogy Library

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Union Pacific, West From Leavenworth Roberts, Myers, Pierce, Glidden Families (Jefferson County related)

One Adams Family of Virginia, Carolina, KY, AL and MO (Jefferson County related)

Legion Airs: Songs...in World Wars 1 and 2

JF CO Military Honor Roll Memorial List, Civil War & WWII

JF CO Military Honor Roll Memorial Lists, WWII and others

1st Annual Counties of JF/LV/JA Kansas Calendar, 1995-96

1st Annual JCHS Commemorative Calendar, 1995

2nd Annual JCHS Commemorative Calendar, 1996

3rd Annual JCHS Commemorative Calendar, 1997

JCHS Commemorative Calendar, 2000