

PARSONS
KANSAS



1869
to
1895

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GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



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1873 with 12 members
Chartered in June 12 - 1878

First charter members

1874 John Courtney
Peter ~~Smith~~ Shick

V. H. Watson

Judge P. Davis

Mr & Mrs J. F. Van Meter

Grandma Cherry and
son Samuel Cherry

Mr & Mrs S. P. Atchison

Amelia & Anna Wheat

Mrs. Farnell and daughter
Alice

W. M. Bailey & Mrs Bailey

Mrs. Smith - Mrs. Sadler

The Papp Family

older members
Mrs Mary Perkins, 1874
Dr. Gundry 21 - present

Parsons
Labette County
Kansas

Years from
1869 to 1895

Story of the
“The Benders”

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FROM THE YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED
COMES THE STORY OF PARSONS
GATHERED FROM OLD COPIES OF
THE "SUN," THE "ECLIPSE" AND THE
"REPUBLICAN"
FROM NELSON CASE'S
"LABETTE COUNTY"
MRS. AUGUSTUS WILSON'S
"MEMORIAL AND HISTORICAL
MAGAZINE."

A VOICE UNKNOWN IN THOSE DAYS
HAS TRIED TO GATHER AND WRITE A
CONSECUTIVE OUTLINE OF HISTORY
(WITH MANY EVENTS UNTOLD)
FOR OUR CITIZENS
—THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.



N June 19, 1869, W. K. Hayes located on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 19, North township, and in connection with Milton W. Eves, opened a small stock of general merchandise. Mr. Hayes was on September 25, 1869, appointed postmaster of a new post office established at that point and named Mendota—"the place of meeting." Whether it was the place of meeting of the two branches of the Labette, or two branches of the M. K. & T., neither of the latter of which was then located, or of the traveling public, perhaps it is too early to write with interest. When a hundred years of tradition and myth shall have gathered around it, the future historian can write a chapter upon the founding of the office which will be read with delight. But as a sober historical fact, and to somewhat curtail the

wings of mythology, it may be recorded that it was because of the proximity of the site to the confluence of the Big and Little Labette that the name Mendota was chosen. In the winter of 1869, Mr. Hayes took his goods to a house he had built farther south, near Steele's mill, at the junction of the two Labettes; but in the spring he moved back to his old stand. In 1870, J. J. Pierson succeeded Mr. Eves as a partner of Mr. Hayes, and the firm of Hayes and Pierson continued in business at this point until November, 1870, when, the town-site of Parsons having been located, they moved to a point on the east side of the railroad track, northeast of the depot, and just north of where the Belmont House now stands.

The Site

Sections 18 and 19 in North township, and 13 and 24 in Walton township, formed the body of land selected by the company on which to lay out the town of Parsons. Most of this land was already occupied by actual settlers, some of whom had acquired or could obtain title, and some of whom had only a squatter's right. John Leonard was on the southeast quarter of section 19, Abraham Fults on the northeast quarter, John Kendall on the northwest quarter, W. K. Hayes on the north half and Aaron Midkiff was on the south half of the southwest quarter, section 19; John Davis was on the northeast quarter of section 18, Abraham Cary on the northwest quarter, and Mr. Simpson on the southwest quarter of the same

section; Anson Kellogg was on the southwest quarter and S. Eves on the northeast quarter of section 24; Henry F. Baker was on the southeast quarter of section 13, and H. L. Partridge on the southwest quarter and George Briggs on the northwest quarter of the same section. Some of the remainder was claimed by non-residents. Several of these parties were unwilling to dispose of their interests, and negotiations to secure title were in progress for some time.

The Site Selected

The first intimation that the public generally had that a town was to be located at this point was on October 26, 1870, when L. F. Olney, a civil engineer, got off the train and inquired of some parties at work on the ground where the city of Parsons is now built, if they could tell him where Parsons was located, saying he had come to lay off a town.

Nothing was done by him for several days excepting to look over the ground and make observations. On Sunday, November 6, 1870, C. G. Wait, the railroad engineer, located the connection of the Sedalia and Junction City branches of the M. K. & T., and two days later Frye and Pierce, grade contractors, broke dirt at this junction. It was known that here was to be a railroad town, and, before the survey commenced, in addition to two or three business houses which preceded it, on November 11, 1870, John Austin had on the ground the first dwelling put thereon, aside

from those which were there at the time of the location. He put it upon what proved to be the northeast corner of Central and Crawford avenues, and at once occupied it for a dwelling, and also for keeping boarders.

N In front of this building the next spring he set out some maple trees, which were the first trees planted in the place. On these premises Dr. G. W. Gabriel has for many years had his home. It was about the middle of November when Mr. Olney commenced the survey of the townsite, and it was not completed until about the middle of January.

The Town Company

Isaac T. Goodnow, N. S. Goss, F. C. White, O. B. Gunn, Norman Eastman and Robert S. Stevens were the incorporators of the town company.

The charter was filed in the office of the Secretary of State October 24, 1870, and authorized the company to purchase lands and lay off a town at and adjacent to section 19, township 31, range 20.

The company was formed expressly for the purpose of laying off and building a railroad town. It was believed that the junction of the two branches of the M. K. & T. was the most feasible point for the location of a town, where would almost certainly be located the machine shops and offices. Of course these parties knew the point where this junction must be made before their incorporation, for not only was section 19 designated in the charter as the central point, but their surveyor was on the ground before the railroad engineer had actually designated the connecting point. The intention being to have a railroad town, of course no more appropriate name could have been selected than that of the president of the road, who would thereby, if for no other reason, be interested in its support and growth.

Difficulties

The town having been located, the company soon encountered difficulties in acquiring title to as large a body of land as they hoped to secure, and we may readily believe that it was for the purpose of influencing these parties to make terms that the action of the town company—an account of which is given below—was taken, rather than with any serious intention of carrying out the determination therein expressed, for no steps were taken looking to an abandonment of the site which had been selected and partly surveyed; but for some purpose, probably by the company's direction, certain resolutions by it adopted were published in several papers, and more or less was said through the press on "Parsons defunct." I will here refer to what appeared in but one paper, although the same was copied in the county papers and more or less commented on. Near the close of 1870 the following appeared in the Humboldt Union:

Neosho Falls, Kan., Dec. 22.

"Eds. Union: Inclosed you have resolutions passed by the directors of Parsons Town Company, and confirmed by the president of the M. K. & T. Co. You will see that the present townsite of Parsons is abandoned, as the orders are to erect not even a station house there. If you think these facts are of sufficient interest to your readers, you are at liberty to publish the accompanying resolutions.

"Very respectfully,

"I. T. Goodnow.

“At a meeting of the board of directors of the Parsons Town Company, held at Sedalia, Mo., on the 14th inst., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

“Whereas, The Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company having decided to locate its machine shops and other important buildings elsewhere than at the junction of its Sedalia and Neosho divisions, thus rendering the building up of any large town at the junction impracticable:

“Resolved, That the board of directors of the Parsons Town Company hereby abandon all idea of locating or building a town on sections 18 or 19, in town 31, of range 19 east, or anywhere in the vicinity, the decision of said railway company above referred to rendering such action necessary.

“Resolved, That the treasurer of said town company is hereby directed to sell all lands intended for townsite purposes at such price as he may deem fit and proper, at the earliest day practicable.

“R. S. Stevens, President.

“Jno. R. Wheat, Secretary.”

Sale of Lots

The difficulties encountered by the company in acquiring title having been overcome, and the plat having been surveyed and placed on record, the sale of lots commenced on March 8, 1871. Prior to this time all who had located had done so without any written permission or promise of obtaining title, but with the understanding that when the company had perfected its arrangements, that they would be entitled to procure their lots at a reasonable price.

There was quite a strife for the honor of being the purchaser of the first lot. Colonel Willard Davis was the agent of the town company, and Abraham Cary was successful in bringing enough influence to bear to get from him the first deed issued by the town company.

It was for lots 14, 15 and 16 in block 42, where the opera house now stands. The other parties on the ground obtained title as fast as deeds could be executed and terms agreed on, and from this time on the permanency of building and business was assured.

Business Houses

When so many were coming in about the same time, and no record of the names when locations were made having been kept, it is difficult to speak with certainty as to the precise order in which firms were established, and as to who is entitled to the honor of being the first one to open up his line of business in the new town, but the old settlers seem to agree substantially upon the following: Sipple Brothers, from Dayton, and Hayes and Pierson, from Mendota, were on the ground about the same time, and there is a difference of opinion as to which was there first. Aside from the houses that have been placed by the settlers prior to the location of the town, the first house to be put upon the townsite, probably, was a store building belonging to William H. and John I. Sipple which they had put up during the summer at Dayton, some five or six miles below Parsons, and which they moved on wagons and located upon what was afterwards laid off as lots 1, 2 and 3 in block 19, subsequently occupied by the Abbott House. They arrived with their building November 5, 1870, and were the first to open a stock of goods, which consisted principally of groceries and provisions. If I am right in assigning Sipple Brothers the first location, then the next store to be opened was by Hayes and Pier-

son, who almost immediately after the arrival of Sipple Brothers, if they did not precede them, removed their little frame building from where Mr. Hayes had at one time kept store, at Steel's mill at the forks of the Labette, as already described, and located it on the east side of the railroad track, just about where the Belmont House now stands, and opened therein a general stock of merchandise. The building afterwards formed a part of the Belmont premises. E. K. Currant brought his store building from Dayton and located it upon what became lot 1 of block 25, on Skiddy, now Washington avenue. He associated with him in business Messrs. Cook and Allen, and opened out the most extensive stock of general merchandise that was then kept in town. Adam Gebert and Abraham Cary located on lot 2, block 25, next to Mr. Currant, and opened the first hardware store in town. The first lumber yard to be started was put in by Mellville, Plato and Co.; and the first drugs were sold by T. R. Warren, who came from Leavenworth County, and before the close of the year had put up a small building on the northwest corner of Washington and Central avenues, and had placed therein a stock of drugs. The house from Dayton had only just arrived when those from Ladore, located about the same distance north as Dayton was south, began to make their appearance. It was said that from 50 to 75 houses were moved from Ladore during the winter.



Boarding Houses and Hotels

At the time of the location of the town, Henry F. Baker was living in a log house where the round-house now stands; and the town was scarcely located until John Austin moved his dwelling house down from Ladore and placed it on the northeast corner of Central and Crawford avenues. Both of them at once commenced keeping boarders. Mrs. Catherine Hurton soon after erected a respectable-looking building, which she opened up as a boarding house. W. P. Squires was on the ground about the same time; Finus Smith had a two-story 24 by 40 feet building at Ladore, which he tore down and brought to Parsons, and erected it on the northwest corner of Central and Johnson avenues. The proprietors of all of these houses, as well as several parties who only had tents, were furnishing board in November, 1870. It was not long until the Parsons House was opened up by Knapp, Noyes and Chamberlain. On March 8, 1871, E. B. Stevens and U. L. C. Beard commenced the erection of the Belmont House; the same month the Lockwood was commenced, and finished so as to be opened on the 8th of May. It was not until June 1, 1872, that J. C. Karr commenced the construction of the St. James, on the northwest corner of Central and

Forest avenues. This was a three-story brick—one of the finest buildings in the city. Of the numerous other houses which followed these I will not attempt to speak, only to mention that about 1880 the Abbott House became the principal hotel in the city, and thus remained until the Matthewson House was erected, in 1886.

Saloons

The saloon-keeper was not long behind anyone else who proposed to start business in the new town. John Austin, Wm. Dana, Z. T. Swigert, Chas. Hazard, and probably others whose names I have not learned, were all on the ground engaged in the sale of liquor in November, 1870. Mr. Hazard moved a two-story building from Ladore and located it on the north side of Johnson avenue next to Smith's hotel, which stood on the corner. This was the first building moved from Ladore.

Other Pioneer Houses

Conrad Hinkle and wife, Lena, were the first to furnish meat to the new comers. For a time they brought it in a wagon, but soon had a general meat shop opened. Dr. C. B. Kennedy removed a large livery stable from Ladore and located it on what became lot 110, where the Catholic church was later constructed. J. Moore had the first furniture store; Fred Walker had the first blacksmith shop; Walker and Thomas were the first real estate agents. B. Sandercook was the first shoemaker; W. G. Douglas was the first tailor; E. P. Flummer opened the first bakery; A. J. Peabody was the first harness-maker. Most of these houses were in operation before the close of 1870, and all of them when the sale of lots commenced, in March, 1871.

Professional Men

A. L. Hutchinson and T. R. Warren were the contestants for the honor of being the first physician in the town; and of attorney, J. G. Parkhurst, T. V. Thornton, and E. E. Hastings could hardly tell who was there first—but perhaps the race was won by Mr. Parkhurst.

The First Religious Services

The first religious services of a public nature upon what became the townsite were held in Abraham Cary's log house on the northwest quarter of section 18, in North township, in the summer of 1870, conducted by A. W. King, of Osage township. Mr. King preached here frequently during the Summer and Fall. John Leonard, who lived on the southeast quarter of 19, was a Christian preacher, and sometimes preached in Mr. Cary's house after King had commenced holding services. The first sermon preached in the town proper was over Mr. Hazard's saloon, on December 15, 1870, by A. W. King. Rev. H. H. Cambern was the next preacher on the ground. No religious services of any kind were held regularly during the winter of 1870 and 1871. There was no place provided for holding such services, and whenever they were held it was in some business

room temporarily fixed up for the purpose—probably in a saloon almost as frequently as in any other room. Of the organization and building of the various churches, I speak in another part of the work.

Government

On February 22, 1871, on the petition of Simon Saddler and others, the probate judge made an order incorporating the town of Parsons, and appointed Abraham Cary, E. K. Carrant, J. G. Parkhurst, John I. Sipple and John W. Rhodus as trustees. Thomas V. Thornton was the first clerk appointed by the trustees; H. L. Partridge was justice of the peace in Walton township at the time of the settlement of Parsons, and became the first justice of the peace in Parsons. From November 8, 1870, to March 8, 1871, he tried seven criminal and 26 civil cases. He also married the first couple in town, they being Z. T. Swigert and Josephine E. Parker.

The town was organized as a city of the third class and on April 17, 1871, the city election was held, at which the following officers were elected: Mayor, Willard Davis; police judge, H. L. Partridge; councilmen, Abraham Cary, Charles Watson, William Dana, S. B. Plato and John W. Rhodus. The first meeting of the new mayor and council was held April 28, 1871. On organizing, G. C. West was appointed city clerk. The city having attained a population of over 2000 inhabitants, the evidence of which was furnished by a census taken by order of the city council, the Gov-

ernor issued his proclamation, dated February 25, 1873, declaring Parsons a city of the second class.

Since the organization of the city it has had the following mayors and clerks: Mayors—April 17 to November 22, 1871, Willard Davis; November 22, 1871, to April, 1874, E. B. Stevens; April, 1874 to April, 1875, Angell Matthewson; April, 1875, to April, 1877, G. W. Gabriel; April, 1877, to April, 1879, P. Y. Thomas; April, 1879, to April, 1881, J. W. Thompson; April, 1881, to April, 1885, G. W. Gabriel; April, 1885, to April, 1887, A. O. Brown; April, 1887, to April, 1889, G. W. Gabriel; April, 1889, to April, 1891, A. F. Neely; April, 1891, to April, 1895, J. M. Gregory; April, 1895, to April, 1897, E. B. Stevens; April, 1897, to April, 1899, C. K. Leinbach; April, 1899, to April, 1901, C. Rockhold. Clerks—April to November 22, 1871, G. C. West; November 22, 1871, to April, 1872, H. L. Partridge; April, 1872, to April, 1873, Edward Hastings; April, 1873, to April, 1875, G. W. Hawk; April, 1875, to April, 1876, A. M. Fellows; April, 1876, to March, 1877, Frank L. Gage; March 1877, to April, 1878, E. S. Stevens; April, 1878, to April, 1882, A. A. Osgood; April, 1882, to April, 1883, R. T. Halloway; April, 1883, to October, 1884, Ira F. Adams; October, 1884, to May, 1885, Will W. Frye; May, 1885, to April, 1887, N. F. Mills; April, 1887, to April, 1889, Mrs. Mary S. Outland; April, 1889, to April, 1891, R. D. Talbot; April, 1891, to April, 1895, A. H. Tyler; April, 1895 to April, 1897, Maurice Davis; April, 1897, to January 8, 1901, James T. Weaver; January 8, 1901, Maurice Davis was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Literary, Musical, Etc.

On November 2, 1871, a meeting was held which decided upon organizing a literary society and library association. On the 8th of the same month the organization was completed by electing W. K. Maxwell president and A. B. Truman secretary. During the winter, literary exercises were maintained, participated in by the leading men of the town. On December 29th, the library received its first donation of books, amounting to 22 volumes, and during the next few weeks several other donations were made of a like character. On October 26, 1872, the association held its first annual meeting, and re-elected W. K. Maxwell president, and elected E. B. Stevens vice-president, and James Wells, Jr., secretary. This seems to have ended the efforts at that time for the establishment and maintenance of a library.

In the summer of 1879, a new lyceum was organized, and Rev. P. M. Griffin was elected president. Literary exercises were conducted by it for some months.

Library Association

In 1877 Mrs. Ella B. Wilson, Mrs. Kate Grimes and Mrs. Polly L. Cory secured the formation of a library association. In this association they re-

mained, as I am informed, the controlling spirits, Mrs. Wilson taking the principal part in its management. She traveled over a large part of the United States, soliciting funds for the erection of a building, as well as books and works of art for the foundation of a library.

Large sums of money were contributed, and very fine donations of books, statuary and other articles of interest and value were gathered. Practically it was a gift of the country generally to Parsons at the earnest solicitation of one woman. With the funds thus contributed as a basis of operation, a site was secured on the southeast corner of Forest avenue and Nineteenth street, on lots 14, 15 and 16 in block 53, and the erection thereon of the building started. A loan of \$10,000 was procured, and the lots and building mortgaged to secure the payment of the same. A very fine three-story building was erected and finished, which, on December 25, 1883 was formally opened by appropriate exercises, among which was an address by Governor Glick. In the second story of this building were placed the books and works of art which had been contributed, and it was believed the hardest part of the work was then accomplished of securing a large, prosperous and permanent library. But times changed, contributions of money did not come in, and there was no means provided for paying the indebtedness contracted in the erection of the building; the mortgage was foreclosed, the property sold, and the seeming bright prospect for a great library vanished from sight.

Bar Association

On January 24, 1872, the attorneys in town established a bar association, and for some weeks thereafter had public lectures from its members on different phases of law.

The Pioneer Association

Was organized in the Sun office, March 8, 1872. Dr. Warren was the first president.

Alpha Literary Society

On November 17, 1880, a number of ladies met at the home of Mrs. T. P. Atchinson and organized a society under the name given above. The following officers were elected: Mrs. David Kelso, president; Mrs. M. F. Stevens, secretary; Mrs. W. H. Wagoner, treasurer. The society has maintained a continuous existence, and has done a great amount of literary work.

Macaulay Club

This society was organized December 8, 1881. Miss Phrone Emery was its first president and Mrs. Jennie Davis, secretary. It was at first called the Young Ladies' Reading Society, but in September, 1885, was named the Macaulay Club. Since then it has been an active factor in the literary work of Parsons.

Athenaeum Reading Circle

The existence of this circle dates from the spring of 1883, when five ladies began reading together without any formal organization. On October 24th of that year a number of new members were admitted to the circle, a formal organization was had, and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Wells H. Utley, president; Mrs. B. B. Brown, vice-president; and Miss Emma June, secretary and treasurer. The active membership is limited to sixteen. Its object is purely literary.

Banks

Banking house of Angell Matthewson. — On June 6, 1871, S. P. Crawford and Angell Matthewson, of Parsons, and W. P. Bishop, of Oswego, formed a partnership and on June 19th opened the bank of Crawford, Matthewson & Co.

The first depositor was Oliver Duck; the first draft was issued to Carrant, Cook & Allen. On July 31st, Mr. Matthewson purchased the interest of the other two partners, and the business continued under the name of the Banking House of Angell Matthewson.

First National Bank.—On April 8, 1872, Matthewson's Bank was succeeded by the First National Bank, of which A. D. Jaynes, of Sedalia, Mo., was president, and Angell Matthewson, cashier.

This bank had a paid-up capital of \$50,000, and started with over \$37,000 in deposits turned over to it by Matthewson's bank. On January 19, 1875, R. S. Stevens succeeded Mr. Jaynes as president. During January and February, 1877, while Mr. Matthewson was in the Senate, George W. Hawk, the teller, performed the duties of cashier. January 1, 1879, Lee Clark succeeded Mr. Matthewson as cashier, and held the position until October, 1890, when he became president, F. C. Stevens

having been president immediately preceding him. E. B. Stevens became cashier on July 1, 1890, and still retains the position.

The Parsons Savings Bank was organized in May, 1874, with Augustus Wilson president, and Joshua Hill, cashier; having a paid-up capital of \$50,000. The first draft was issued to A. W. Gifford. July 1, 1878, this bank was reorganized as

The Parsons Commercial Bank, with Joshua Hill president and George W. Hawk cashier. The latter has continued to fill the position ever since. For several years past E. H. Edwards has been president of the bank. It has long been one of the established institutions of the city.

City Bank of Angell Matthewson & Co.—This bank was organized May 1, 1879, with a capital of \$20,000; Angell Matthewson and Merrit Noyes being the owners. On October 1, 1880, F. H. Snyder was admitted to the partnership and made cashier. Mr. Noyes died in 1883, and in November, 1884, Wm. H. Taylor was admitted to the partnership and the capital stock made \$60,000, which was increased to \$100,000 on February 1, 1888. L. E. Weeks was appointed cashier September 1, 1891. The firm failed in 1893, and the bank went out of existence.

The State Bank of Parsons was organized in 1900 with a capital stock of \$25,000. O. H. Stewart is president and F. H. Foster is cashier.

Building and Loan Association

On July 14, 1879, the Parsons Building and Loan Association was organized, of which C. A. King was president, and J. C. Gray, secretary.

Investment Companies

There are several parties engaged in loaning money, among them being Angell Matthewson and George H. Ratliff.

Sanitary

During the early part of 1884 much complaint had been made about the condition in which the private and public premises, as well as many of the private alleys and yards were kept, and the Eclipse was especially vigilant in looking after and giving publicity to these grievances. In July of that year the mayor and council appointed J. B. Lamb health officer. It was thought by some that this appointment was made rather as a burlesque in retaliation for the frequent appeals to the authorities to do a general cleaning up; but whatever was the spirit that prompted the move, it turned out to be a very wise one. The Doctor went at the work vigorously, and did good work in securing the cleaning up of the filth which had been allowed to accumulate, and probably saved the place a great amount of sickness. The work thus commenced showed the advisability of having some permanent arrangement for removal of filth and the preservation of the public health.

Sewerage

In 1885 steps were taken to put in a system of sewerage, and this was pushed forward until the business part of the city was well supplied with the means for the removal of all filth and the carrying away of the waste matter. Later the system was made general for the city, so that now most of the inhabitants are favored with this convenience.

Water Works

During the summer of 1882 the matter of supplying the city with water was discussed, and a company was formed for the purpose of carrying out the contemplated project. On September 15th, by an almost unanimous vote of the electors, the city gave its assent and promised aid. During the following year the works were put in under the general direction of C. W. Hill, but it was not until July, 1884, that they were completed and accepted by the city.

Reservoirs were made upon the banks of the Labette some distance from the city, from which stream the water was procured. The city paid \$3,000 per year for fifty hydrants. Soon after the completion of the works, C. H. Kimball and E. H. Edwards became the principal owners of the stock of the company and had the general management of its business.

The operation of the works under the original construction never gave general satisfaction, and they were believed to be far inadequate to meet the city's needs. Early in 1892 steps were taken to secure a better supply by obtaining water from the Neosho instead of from the Labette. Mains were laid from the Neosho to the old reservoir on the Labette and into the city. A new stand-pipe, one of the largest in the State, was erected in the city, and under the present arrangements the water system is very complete.

Gas

On December 11, 1882, the city council passed an ordinance giving an exclusive franchise for twenty-one years to Angell Matthewson to construct and operate gas works. The franchise was assigned to the Parsons Light and Heat Company and in 1883 the works were completed, since which time those who desired it have been supplied with gas.

Natural Gas

Since 1898 the city has been supplied with natural gas piped from Neodesha, which gas is largely used for heating and lighting.

Electric Lights

On May 23, 1887, an ordinance was passed authorizing J. J. Everingham to erect electric works in the city of Parsons, and within a month thereafter this franchise was transferred to the Parsons Light and Heat Company, which was operating the gas plant. A system of arc lights was at once put in, and put in operation on September 25th. In the summer of 1892 the incandescent system of lights was added, and the capacity of the plant much enlarged.

Telephones

In 1882 a system of telephones was put in providing for communication in the various parts of the city, and also a line was built connecting the city with Oswego; and on July 20th of that year Mayors Gabriel and Condon exchanged congratulations. The line between Parsons and Oswego was not maintained for any great length of time, nor was the city system very largely used after a few months of trial. In 1896 the telephone communication with other towns was again inaugurated, since which time the system has become quite popular.

Street Improvements

One of the wisest investments made by the city in the way of improvement was that of building sidewalks and macadamizing its streets.

The work of macadamizing commenced in 1878, and was gradually pushed forward for the next two or three years, until the streets in the principal business part of town were all macadamized, and good sidewalks have been laid in nearly all of the streets that have any large amount of travel. During the past few years the macadamizing of streets has been very greatly extended, as well as the improvement and construction of new sidewalks.

Stone and Brick Buildings

The first building to be erected of material other than wood was put up early in 1871 on block 25, on the north side of Johnson Avenue, by Ed Foley. It was constructed of cut sandstone, and made a very creditable appearance. The first brick buildings in town were erected in 1872. They were the passenger depot, the First National Bank building, the St. James Hotel on the corner north from the First National Bank, and the second ward school house. The same year two or three brick business houses were put up—one by W. C. Calkins, on lots 13 and 14, block 33, and one by A. Royer, on lot 1, block 34. During this year T. C. Cory tore down his brick residence at Ladore and rebuilt it on the southeast quarter of section 24. This was the first brick residence in town.

The Home of the Friendless

Was incorporated January 15, 1896. A. A. Osgood served as president the first two years and Dr. C. Rockhold since then. The State has made an annual appropriation of \$700 for several years past to help support the institution. The building formerly used for the Hobson Institute was purchased for and is now occupied by the Home.

State Insane Asylum

In 1899, under provisions of an act of the Legislature, a commission located a new insane asylum at Parsons. Litigation ensued that delayed the commencement of the work, but under the new appropriation made by the Legislature in 1901 work on the institution will soon be begun.

Fires

On October 7, 1871, the Sun published an article advising the people to turn out the first still day and burn around the town to protect it from fires. I do not know whether or not this advice was heeded, but it seems that no damage resulted from fire from that quarter. During the history of the city there have been several quite extensive fires, but none that were at all destructive; in fact, most of them, in the business part of the city, while they may have damaged individuals, were a public benefit so far as the city was concerned, for it secured in the place of the buildings destroyed, others of a very much better quality.

One of the first, if not the first fire in town to do any large amount of damage was the burning of John Rhodus' boarding-house. On July 29, 1875, a fire occurred on Fourth Avenue which destroyed nine business houses. The loss by this fire was estimated to be from \$75,000 to \$100,000. On December 26, 1875, the Lockwood House was burned; and on May 23, 1883, the City Hotel, which was one of the original hotels. Among the losses that have occurred from fire have been several of mills and factories; one of the largest of which was on August 1, 1892, being the destruction of the National Mills.

A number of other quite extensive fires have taken place at various times, the particulars of which I have not learned.

Machine Shops

Of all the enterprises which have contributed to the prosperity of the city of Parsons, none has approached that of the railroad influence, and especially the machine shops thereof. Work on the machine shops commenced in October, 1871, and by the close of 1872, they were completed and ready for operation. The round house was not completed until May, 1873.

Educational

Parsons District No. 33

A petition dated February 23, 1869, made by R. T. Caldwell, Anson Kellogg, A. Midkiff, S. N. Fultz, Marie Hussey, George Brock, and several others was presented to the superintendent, on which he soon thereafter made an order for the organization of District No. 33, embracing, in addition to the territory now composed in that district, several additional sections.

The first meeting was held at the house of Aaron Midkiff, at which the following officers were elected: Anson Kellogg, director; George M. Wilson, clerk; Joseph Simpson, treasurer. September 10, 1869, George M. Wilson, clerk, reported 20 males and 14 females in the district on the 31st of August, 15 of whom—10 males and 5 females, with an average attendance of 10—were in school in progress at that time, taught by Marie Hussey, at a salary of \$16.66 2-3 a month.

This school was taught in an out-house belonging to A. Midkiff, on the southwest quarter of section 19, North township. The next school was taught from September to December, 1870, by Miss Sophronia Emery, in a vacant log house belonging to Samuel Eves, on the northeast quarter of section 24, in Walton township.

Was Mr. Warren Mrs. Boardman
HISTORY OF PARSONS ¹⁸⁷⁰ 35

This was the first public school taught in the District. On March 31, 1870, the first annual meeting was held, at the house of Aaron Midkiff, and the following officers elected: Anson Kellogg, director; H. L. Partridge, clerk; George Brock, treasurer. The latter failing to qualify, W. K. Hayes was soon after appointed to fill the vacancy; and this same board was continued in office during two years. In March, 1872, they elected Dr. G. W. Gabriel director, T. C. Cory, clerk, and Dr. T. R. Warren, treasurer. At the meeting held March 31, 1870, the board were directed to take steps to build a school house. On September 17, of that year, bonds in the sum of \$1,000 were voted, and the board purchased lots 15 and 16 in block 72, and on this during the winter of 1870 and the spring of 1871, a one-story frame building was erected as the first school house in the district. It was not completed until June, and was accepted by the board August 1, 1871. On May 8, 1871, Miss Kate Squires and Miss Sophronia Emery began a subscription school in the new building, which was then enclosed but not fully completed. On August 10th, the board decided to enlarge the building by adding six feet on the west end, making two school rooms. This house was afterwards bought by the colored people to be used as a church. The house thus completed was built with the proceeds of the \$1,000 in bonds. In the fall of 1871 the school opened in the new school house, with E. H. Taylor and Miss Sophronia Emery as teachers. On October 3, 1871, on a vote to issue \$15,000 in bonds with which to

erect a new school house there were 108 votes in favor of the proposition and but 5 against it. The bonds were sold at 87½ cents on the dollar. In January, 1872, the contract for the erection of this building was let to T. B. Douglas, of Clinton, Missouri, for \$11,993. On his failure to give bond satisfactory to the board, they attempted to take the contract from him and give it to Martin Mason, also of Clinton, Missouri, at the agreed price of \$13,000; but the district assumed to overrule this action, and allowed Mr. Douglas to go on with the work. He failed to complete his contract, and the district had the loss to sustain. The building was completed and ready for the opening of school in the fall of 1872. In March, 1873, Parsons was incorporated as a city of the second class, whereupon the board of education was elected at the city election, in April.

Presidents of the board: 1873, George A. Reynolds; 1874, O. L. Hall, George W. Briggs; 1875, G. C. West; 1876-79, A. Wilson; 1880-81, R. H. Patrick; 1882, William Moir; 1883, S. W. Kniffin; 1884, J. M. Gregory; 1885, W. J. Quick; 1886, I. N. McCreery; 1887, J. M. Caldwell; 1888, R. D. Talbot; 1889-90, J. T. Tinder; 1891, A. H. Tyler; 1892, O. H. Stewart, G. H. L. Copeland; 1893, Ira F. Adams; 1894, R. M. Johnson; 1895-6, W. H. Martin; 1897, George S. Anderson; 1898, A. B. Manning; 1899, F. O. Boyd; 1900, Josiah Richmond.

Clerks: 1873, J. H. Metier and W. A. Gilliam; 1874, P. M. Griffin; 1875, M. Noyes; 1876, George Thornton; 1877-81, James Grimes; 1882-86, A. H. Tyler; 1887, C. W. Dugan, A. G. Thurman; 1888, A. H. Tyler, A. G. Thurman; 1889, Mary S. Out-

land, J. W. Iden; 1900, Arthur Cranston. Principals: 1872, J. H. Griffith; 1873, David Donavan; 1874, Mrs. E. J. Collins; 1875, Mrs. Jennie Arthur.

Up to 1876 the schools were superintended by citizens who were not teachers, and who were expected to do little more than have a general oversight, to know what the schools were doing. J. G. Parkhurst and M. W. Reynolds were two of the parties who filled this position. Commencing with 1876, the superintendents had charge of the school and did more or less teaching.

Superintendents: 1876, B. F. Hickey; 1877-79, M. Chidester; 1880, O. M. McPherson; 1881-87, L. Tomlin; 1888-90, C. H. Harris; 1891-94, H. C. Ford; 1894-98, S. D. Frazier; 1898-99, H. Winsor; 1899-1901, N. H. McDonald. The first graduate was Maude G. Keyser, who completed the course in 1881; there was no graduating class in 1882. There have been 71 males and 156 females, total 227, graduated from the high school. There are four ward school buildings, all brick, as follows: the first, built in 1872, in the Second Ward, on the west half of block 3, costing \$15,000; the second, erected in 1880, in the Third Ward, between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets, and between Belmont and Corning avenues, costing \$10,000; the third, erected in the First Ward, in 1881, on 111, cost \$6,000; the fourth, erected in 1884, in the Fourth Ward, situated west of block 160, cost \$12,000. A high school building, situated in the west part of the city, costing \$30,000, was completed in 1893. A new ward building for the Fourth Ward, costing \$10,000, was erected in 1899, in place of the original one, which was taken down.

Normal Institutes

In the winter of 1877 the Legislature provided for a four weeks' session, with paid instructors, and a charge to those who attended. Previous to this the institutes had only been from two to five or six days; the instruction had been free, generally given by the county superintendent and some of the leading teachers of the county.

On August 6, 1877, the first institute under this law opened in Oswego, with Prof. J. B. Holbrook as conductor, and over 100 teachers were in attendance.

With the exception of two years, all the normal institutes, commencing with 1877, have been held in Oswego.

Those for 1880 and 1892 were held in Parsons.

Private Schools

A number of parties at one time or another have started private schools in various parts of the county, some of which have run for quite a length of time, and others have been short lived. Several similar enterprises have also been had at Parsons.

County High School

Mrs. Lucy Best, the county superintendent, not being of the opinion that a proposition to establish a county high school could be carried, if submitted to a popular vote, as required by the general law, secured the passage of a private act

by the Legislature in 1893, establishing a high school at Altamont.

J. M. Birt of Parsons was appointed as a trustee from the Third district.

Public School Graduates

Years	Male	Female	Total	Years	Male	Female	Total
1881	0	1	1	1891	2	5	7
1882	0	0	0	1892	3	13	16
1883	1	1	2	1893	5	11	16
1884	1	9	10	1894	6	3	9
1885	2	8	10	1895	5	8	13
1886	2	3	5	1896	5	8	13
1887	1	10	11	1897	5	15	20
1888	0	0	0	1898	16	12	28
1889	1	12	13	1899	10	13	23
1890	0	9	9	1900	6	15	21
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					71	156	227

Hobson Normal Institute

The Friends Yearly Meeting of Iowa having decided to establish a school for colored children, a committee by them appointed to locate the same decided upon its location at Parsons, and on March 23, 1882, the school was opened. The basis of the fund for starting this school was \$1,000 from a legacy left by Mr. Hobson to be used for the benefit of colored people, and in his honor the school was named Hobson Normal Institute. Prof. D. W. Boles had charge of the school from the time of its organization until his death, July 8, 1890, since which time during the remaining life of the institution A. W. Hadley was principal. Both Messrs. Boles and Hadley were assisted by their wives, and also scholars in the higher grades taught some. The institute had a fine two-story frame building on the corner of Gandy Avenue and Twenty-fourth street. It was furnished with maps, charts, reference books, and other material adapted to the institution in the common branches and the natural sciences. A score or more graduated from the teacher's advanced course, and a larger number completed the teacher's elementary course. Many of these themselves became teachers in schools at other points. However, the parties having charge of this institution after an

experience of a few years, found the patronage was not sufficient to justify its continuance. When the Home for the Friendless was started in 1896, the building which had been erected for this school was sold to the home, and Hobson Normal Institute ceased to exist.

Sacred Heart Academy

This institution is located at Parsons and is under the control of the Catholic Church. From 1890 to 1896, the Sisters of Loretta had charge of it, with Mother Mary Bernard principal. Since then it has been under the care of the Sisters of Charity.

Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle

Among the organizations of literary character which have been formed in the county, there has probably been no other that has maintained such a permanent existence and done as much good work as have the several branches of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle which have been organized and carried on in the county. Small circles were organized at Chetopa and Mound Valley, and regular work was done by these for two or three years, but neither circle awakened as much interest as did those at Oswego and Parsons.

Grecian Circle

This circle was organized at Parsons, April 28, 1885, with a membership of 12. Its officers were as follows: President, W. J. Wirt; vice-

president, Minnie Merriman; secretary, E. G. Roberts. In October following the circle took up the regular course of study, and had an enrollment of 35 members; many of its members graduated, and for a number of years the circle quite regularly attended the Ottawa Assembly.

Carnation Circle

In the summer of 1889, a new circle with the above designation was organized, the number pursuing the course having become too great to do effective work in the Grecian Circle, as was thought.

This new circle had nearly as large a membership as its parent, the Grecian, and has done effective work.

Railroads

Before speaking of the railroads that have been constructed, it may be interesting to briefly consider some of the projects which were formed on paper but never proceeded far enough to materialize into a road composed of wood and iron. The following were a few on which some work of a preliminary character was done.

O. Ft. S. & S. R. R.

On December 19, 1868, J. F. Newlon and other citizens of the county obtained a charter for the Oswego, Fort Scott and Sedalia Railroad Company, the purpose of which was to build a road from Sedalia to Oswego. So far as I know this was the first railroad charter obtained by our people. The subsequent building of such a line of road to Parsons shows that this first attempt on the part of our citizens was not without some basis on which to rest.

O. P. & E. P. Ry.

On June 30, 1870, a charter was obtained by R. W. Wright, C. H. Brent, and others, for the construction of the Oswego, Parker and El Paso Railway. The intention was to secure a road from the northeast to Oswego, and thence southwest

to Parsons and through the Territory. A great many public meetings were held in the interest of this contemplated road, and in the fall of 1870, a preliminary survey was made from Cherokee through Oswego to Parsons. All that seemed lacking to secure the success of this enterprise was the necessary financial aid.

F. M. & C. R. Ry.

Among the visions of the eccentric Colonel Hartshorn was one of a railroad running from Florida to the Columbia River through Labette County. John Elston, R. D. Hartshorn, and others associated with them, procured a charter on October 27, 1870, for the construction of the Florida, Memphis and Columbia River Railway.

It was some time before the definite location of this road through the county was agreed upon, and such location was to depend upon the aid that could be secured, but it was finally decided to locate it from Columbus through Montana and Parsons.

During 1871, a number of townships voted bonds to aid in the construction of this road.

M. & N.-W. Ry.

My impression is that the Memphis and North-western Railway was a reorganization of the F. M. & C. R. Ry. Co., of which I have just spoken, or at any rate, the two were in some way covering the same territory.

This company did quite an amount of work in

the winter of 1872-73 on the line of road from Columbus to Parsons. Watson Bros. & Co., of Montana, were the contractors, and secured a large amount of grading to be done, and the abutments to be put in for a bridge across the Neosho at that point. This was as far as the work went, and the contractors lost what they expended in pushing it thus far.

S. Ft. S. & S. F. Ry.

The Sedalia, Fort Scott & Santa Fe Railway Company was organized, and a preliminary survey was made from Fort Scott to Labette, in September, 1870.

P. & S. F. Ry.

Parsons was never content with her railroad facilities. There are few points in any of the adjoining counties to which she has not at some time had a projected railroad. In 1872 the proposition was to build a road southwest to Independence, and a very large amount of the paper work was done to secure it, and some propositions for municipal aid were voted upon.

P. & M. Ry.

The preliminary work for this road was legally done in 1876. It was to run southeast from Parsons through Montana.

S. C. & S. E. Ry.

In 1886, the Salina, Colorado & Southeastern Railway Company was organized, with a view of

running a road through Parsons, Montana and Columbus, extended from these points both northwest and southeast. A right-of-way was secured, and some grading was done.

Municipal aid was voted along the line to quite an extent.

Railroads Constructed

From these ineffectual attempts at railroad building, I wish now to turn to those which resulted in securing the end sought. From the first settlement of the county, two lines were confidently expected; one from the north and the other from the east. What course they would pursue on entering the county was only a matter of conjecture. Both Oswego and Chetopa expected these two roads, and each took active steps toward securing them. While the first efforts of our people were made toward securing an eastern outlet, the road from the north was the one which their efforts seemed the most likely to secure first.

M. K. & T. Ry.

The Union Pacific, Southern Branch, had received a large railroad grant with the view of securing its construction down the Neosho valley, and it was now in process of building from Junction City in a southeasterly direction. R. S. Stevens was now the general manager, and had under him a corps of enthusiastic lieutenants. The chief, with one or more of his aides, was early on the field to see what could be secured from muni-

icipalities of this county through which it was proposed to construct the road.

Their expectations of aid were very large. There were no bounds to the promises they were ready to make as to what the road would do for the various communities through which it was to be built, and the demands made of these communities were proportionate to the benefits promised.

It seemed improbable to secure county bonds, nor was there much hope of obtaining aid from any township which did not have within it a town of some importance. The railroad officers had finally to look to Oswego and Chetopa, and the townships in which they were situated, as the chief if not the only points in this county, from which they could expect to receive any aid. These places were repeatedly visited, and the matter of railroad municipal bonds was very largely discussed.

Both places felt that they were unable to meet the demands which the officers were making upon them.

Where the railroad officials failed to win, through the promises of benefits to be derived, they were more successful in securing a compliance with their demands by the disaster which seemed likely to follow their threatened change of route. It being apparent that these municipalities were not likely to extend the road the amount of aid they had demanded the railroad officials proceeded to change the line which had been originally designated along the Neosho river, and a survey for a new route was made, commencing

near the north edges of the county and going west of the Labette river, and striking the state line several miles west of Chetopa. The citizens of Oswego and Chetopa became alarmed. It was evident, as they thought, that the construction of a road where thus located would build up towns on its lines which would compel the abandonment of the sites occupied by them. The result was what the railroad officials undoubtedly supposed it would be. These towns were now ready to meet all the demands the company might make upon them. Little opposition was had in either place to the voting of the required aid, and with the aid thus promised and secured, the building of the road was rapidly pushed forward. After reaching the north end of the county, 20 miles of road were laid in 11 days, and in one day four miles and 100 feet were put down. Having reached and passed through Oswego and Chetopa, on Monday, June 6th, the State line was reached, at which time appropriate ceremonies were had. The last spike on the Kansas line was driven by Col. R. S. Stevens, the general manager, and the first spike across the line in the Indian Territory by Col. E. C. Boudinot, the famous Cherokee who had always favored the building of this road. In the evening of June 6, 1870, the first passenger train which ever entered Labette county passed over this road, in charge of John C. Hall, conductor, and David Dunham, engineer. The Sedalia branch of this road was thereafter pushed forward to completion as rapidly as possible, and on February 3, 1871, the connecting rail was laid uniting

it with the Junction City branch at Parsons; and on the 5th of that month the first through passenger train from Sedalia to Chetopa passed over the road in charge of L. S. Hamilton, conductor.

Machine Shops *shops*

It was the general understanding, when Parsons was designated as the point where the two branches would unite, that shops would be located at that place. In October, 1871, George W. Chess, contractor, broke ground for the roundhouse and machine shops, under the supervision of George Thornton, civil engineer. In December following, Proctor and Pardee, contractors, commenced the mason work, and by the close of 1872, the machine shops were so far completed as to be ready to commence operation, and in May, 1873, the roundhouse was ready to receive engines. These shops have been added to from time to time, and have been made very complete in their construction and furnishing. A large force is kept constantly at work in the various departments, making and repairing the rolling stock of the road.

General Offices

Theoretically, the general offices of the company were at Parsons almost from the first building of the road, but, practically, it was not until 1892 that the offices were located at that point. During the time they were in Parsons, negotiations were going on and efforts were being made for an evasion of the law requiring the general offices to be kept within the State. Finally, the

parties most directly interested consented that, in consideration of the company's making certain additional improvements in Parsons, they would not insist on the general offices remaining with them. When this arrangement was effected, the general offices were moved back to St. Louis in 1896.

New Depot and Office Building

The office room for the company offices located at Parsons had become entirely inadequate. To meet the needs, a new building was planned, and April 1, 1895, work was commenced thereon. It was pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. It is a very fine structure, furnishing accommodations for the office force and a commodious depot.

Spur Road.—In 1894, a spur was projected on which work commenced late in the fall of that year, starting from the main line at Labette and running in an easterly direction to Mineral in Cherokee county. This was completed in the spring of 1895. Its main use is for the transportation of coal from the Cherokee county mines to the company's lines in Parsons.

M. K. & C. Ry.

The Memphis, Kansas and Colorado Railway Company was organized for the purpose of securing a road from Cherokee, on the Fort Scott & Gulf Road, to Parsons, with a view of its extension both ways. The company was formed early in 1877. Parsons first voted \$10,000 to aid this

enterprise, and subsequently, after a protracted discussion, some favoring the project and others opposing any donation, it was voted to take stock to the amount of \$30,000, the bonds to be delivered upon the completion of the road into Parsons. Neosho township voted \$5,000 in bonds. In April, 1878, the track-laying commenced from Cherokee west, and on July 1, 1878, at 10 o'clock at night, the first train arrived in Parsons. The officers of Parsons refused to deliver the bonds, on the ground that the road was not completed by the time specified in the contract. Litigation ensued, which was carried to the supreme court where it was finally determined that the city was not liable and the bonds were never delivered. In February, 1880, this road was sold to the Kansas City, Ft. Scott and Gulf Railway Company and steps were at once taken to extend it from Parsons to Cherryvale. No municipal aid was voted along the line but the people of Cherryvale secured the right-of-way as an inducement to its construction. The road thus built from Cherokee to Cherryvale was narrow-gauge; some two or three years after its completion to Cherryvale it was made into a standard-gauge road.

P. & P. Ry.

In December, 1885, the Parsons & Pacific Railway Company was chartered to build a road from Parsons to Coffeyville. C. H. Kimball and Lee Clark were the leading spirits in the movement, and with the aid of eastern capitalists whom they enlisted in the enterprise the road was con-

structed in 1886. On September 20, 1886, the first train ran from Mound Valley to Parsons. The company received municipal aid—from Parsons, \$40,000; from Mound Valley township, \$20,000; Canada township, \$20,000, and some from Montgomery County.

K. C. & P. Ry.

During the building of the Parsons & Pacific road to Coffeyville, a company, in which the same parties were interested, was formed for the purpose of extending it from Parsons north to Kansas City. In aid of this construction Parsons voted an additional \$20,000, and the municipalities in the counties north, through which the road ran, extended liberal aid. The road was pushed quite rapidly along, and a connection formed with the Kansas City, Ft. Scott and Gulf at Paola.

Strikes

There have been at least three strikes upon the M. K. & T. Ry., which have more or less affected the people of this county. In July, 1877, the workmen at other points on the road struck; the men engaged in the shops at Parsons did not formally strike, but appointed a committee to confer with the strikers; work was suspended for some time, but matters were finally adjusted between the company and its employees, so that no strike was made in this county.

In March, 1885, the workmen in the shops at Parsons, as well as the trainmen generally, went out on a strike. For a number of days, freight trains were completely blocked, but passenger trains continued to be operated. The differences between the company and its hands were satisfactorily settled, and they all, or nearly all, were taken back into the company's employ.

The most serious of all strikes was in March, 1886. It extended all along the line of the road. On March 6th, the machine shop whistle at Parsons sounded at 10 o'clock A. M., and the entire force of railroad employees ceased work and marched out. An effort was made by the governors of Kansas and Missouri to effect a settlement of the matters of difference between the

company and its hands but were unsuccessful. New men were employed by the company, but were not allowed to work, the old employees being of sufficient force to prevent their performing their duties. The strikers placed a guard around the company's property to prevent its being injured, but would not allow anyone to assist in moving trains. Adjutant General Campbell came down from Topeka and conferred with the strikers, but could not prevail on them to come to any terms. Toward the end of March, many of the strikers became more desperate and more defiant than they had been at first. Not only was force used to prevent freight trains from running, and to "kill" the engines on all trains that attempted to pull out but some went so far as to interfere with passenger travel. The track just north of Bachelor creek bridge was loosened, and the northbound passenger train ditched. Had the train been going south instead of north it would have been plunged into the creek, and the result would necessarily have been fatal to many persons. Attempts were also made to burn some of the bridges.

The citizens of Parsons organized for the purpose of assisting the company in running its trains, but the striking force was so strong that they were not able to accomplish their object.

On the evening of April 2d, seven carloads of the State militia came into Parsons over the Neosho division, and about the same time several more carloads over the Sedalia division, and soon thereafter several more carloads over the Gulf

road. The arrival of the soldiers was a complete surprise to the strikers, as they had not learned that the militia had been called out. The soldiers at once took control of the entire railroad property and prevented anyone from entering the premises, placed those who had been employed by the company in charge, and at once things began to move. The strike was over. The soldiers remained several days, until everything was quiet and the citizens' organization felt itself strong enough to preserve the peace. The leaders among the strikers were arrested on a criminal charge, and a number of them were tried and convicted. They were punished by fine and imprisonment in the county jail. The great body of those who participated in the strike permanently lost their places in the railroad employ, and many of them were practically financially ruined.

Political

Greenback Organizations.

The introduction of greenbacks into the politics of this county dates from 1877. During the spring of 1878, a number of clubs were organized and a more perfect county organization was effected in a convention held at Parsons in April. After 1883 there was little life manifested by this party under its organization as then existing.

Political parties following were: The Farmers' and Laborers' Union; Farmers' Alliance.

Political Conventions

The Republican party in this county was organized in 1866.

Most of the county conventions have been held at Oswego. Republican conventions have been held at Parsons—August 31, 1889, August 16, 1892 and July 29, 1896.

Republican Representative Conventions

Forty-third District, October 12, 1872, Parsons: J. J. Woods, chairman; S. O. Fletcher, secretary. W. W. Harper nominated on first ballot over J. H. Tibbetts. 1874, Parsons: J. J. Woods. October 9, 1875. Parsons; A. North, chairman, R.

E. Holloway, secretary. M. W. Reynolds, by acclamation.

Forty-fourth District, October 7, 1876, Parsons; S. Mayginnis, chairman; W. L. Winter, secretary. M. W. Reynolds on first ballot over W. A. Starr. September 28, 1878, Parsons; A. H. Ayers, chairman; Wm. Horsfall, secretary. M. W. Reynolds on first ballot over Frank Webb. September 27, 1880, J. B. Swartz on first ballot.

Thirty-third District, September 9, 1882, Parsons; S. Mayginnis, chairman; Lee Clark, secretary. W. L. Simons nominated on first ballot (informal) but declined; on second ballot J. W. Fee nominated over J. B. Swartz and S. L. Obenchains. September 23, 1884, Parsons, David Kelso on first ballot.

Twenty-eighth District, September 26, 1886, Parsons. F. R. Morton. September 2, 1888, Parsons. J. H. Beatty, chairman, V. J. Knapp, secretary. W. W. Cranston nominated on first ballot. August 30, 1890, Parsons. W. H. Thorne, chairman, M. Byrne, secretary. A. H. Tyler, on second ballot over J. M. Birt and C. J. Darling. October 4, 1890, a second convention was held to act on the matter of Mr. Tyler's withdrawal, he having signified to the central committee his willingness to withdraw. His action was accepted, and J. M. Birt was nominated in his place.

Twenty-sixth District, September 3, 1892, Parsons. J. W. Fee, chairman; J. D. Lusk, secretary. D. M. Bender, on first ballot over Arch Wade. August 25, 1894, Parsons. F. M. Webb, chairman; J. D. Lusk, secretary. D. M. Bender by acclama-

tion. July 29, 1896, Parsons. George K. Ratliff, chairman; J. D. Lusk, secretary. D. M. Bender by acclamation.

Twenty-seventh District, June 4, 1898, Parsons. J. W. Iden, chairman; J. D. Lusk, secretary. Arthur Cranston, over Charles F. Turner. September 27, 1900, Parsons. M. L. Morgan, chairman; H. C. Sourbeer, secretary. J. B. McDonald over Fred H. Brown and J. M. Gregory.

Democratic County Conventions

The Democratic party was organized in the county in October, 1866.

Most of the county conventions were held at Oswego. The following conventions were held at Parsons: August 30, 1890. J. M. Kleiser, chairman; J. J. Rambo, secretary. Clerk district court, Isaac M. Hinds; county attorney, George S. King.

August 17, 1894, J. O. McKee, chairman; Alf D. Carpenter, secretary. Probate judge, Harry Levi; county attorney, D. Highleyman; clerk district court, John W. Rickart; superintendent public instruction, Mrs. Kate Southwick. G. W. Gabriel, chairman central committee; J. D. H. Reed, secretary.

July 16, 1898. C. S. Leimbach, chairman; Geo. S. King, secretary. County attorney, J. D. Highleyman; probate judge, George S. King; clerk district court, A. R. Bradfield; superintendent public instruction, Mrs. Kate Southwick; coroner (to fill vacancy) Josiah Richmond; high school trustees, Walter Phillips and W. H. Cook for full term, James E. Rice to fill vacancy; commissioner third district, W. H. Swartsell. W. P. Eddy, chairman central committee; A. H. McCarty, secretary.

September 12, 1899. W. P. Eddy, chairman;

B. F. Goudy, secretary. Convention endorsed the whole Populist ticket. W. P. Eddy, chairman central committee, A. H. McCarty, secretary.

June 6, 1900. A. H. McCarty, chairman; James Wilson, secretary. Senator, G. W. Gabriel, by acclamation; superintendent public instruction, Mrs. Kate Southwick, by acclamation; high school trustees, George S. Kingsolver and C. H. Bowman; commissioner second district, Philip Gears, by acclamation; Endorsed the remainder of the Populist ticket. P. F. Smith, chairman central committee; A. H. McCarty, secretary.

Democratic Representative District Conventions

Twenty-fourth District—October 4, 1876, Parsons. Dr. G. W. Gabriel nominated on the second ballot.

September 25, 1880, Parsons. W. H. Morris.

Twenty-eighth District—August 30, 1890, Parsons. S. C. Rickett, chairman; James Tanner endorsed.

Twenty-seventh District—July 23, 1898. C. K. Leinbach, chairman; James Wilson, secretary. G. W. Gabriel, by acclamation. September 29, 1900, Parsons. J. L. Wilson, chairman; S. S. Huffman, secretary. Grant Hume, the Populist candidate, was endorsed by acclamation.

Greenback County Conventions

October 23, 1877, city hall, Parsons; A. N. Sourbeer, chairman; A. H. McCleary, secretary.

April 6, 1878, delegates from various Greenback clubs met at Parsons for permanent organization, and elected an executive committee, of which J. W. Briggs was chairman and S. M. Bailey, secretary.

August 14, 1880, Parsons. D. Doyle, chairman; W. H. Potter, secretary.

October 27, 1884, Parsons; representative.

Thirty-third District, W. H. Porter.

Greenback District Conventions

Forty-fourth District, Parsons. James H. Martin nominated.

September 25, 1880, Parsons. James H. Martin representative and A. H. McCormick, commissioner.

Temperance Conventions

August 15, 1876, Parsons. M. G. Brown, chairman; C. T. Smith, secretary.

Prohibition Conventions

September 30, 1891, Parsons. W. S. Newlon, chairman; G. W. Marley, secretary.

August 6, 1892, Parsons. W. S. Newlon, chairman; G. W. Marley, secretary.

Union Labor County Conventions

September 15, 1887, Parsons. W. H. Utley, chairman.

September 7, 1889, Parsons. J. W. Breidenthal, chairman; L. F. Dich, secretary.

Union Labor Representative District Conventions

Twenty-eighth District—September 8, 1888 at Parsons. A. J. Hixon nominated by acclamation. June 11, 1890, James Turner nominated by acclamation.

Thirtieth District—July 29, 1890, in connection with People's county convention at Parsons.

People's Party County Conventions

Parsons, July 29, 1890; September 3, 1891; August 9, 1892; August 26, 1893; August 18, 1896; July 16, 1898; September 2, 1899; April 26, 1900.

People's Party District Conventions

Twenty-sixth District, Parsons, June 20, 1892. Dr. E. Tanner, chairman; H. C. Sourbeer, secretary. J. L. Humphrey on first ballot.

August 11, 1894, Parsons. J. I. Tanner nominated. Mr. Tanner declined the nomination and a new convention was held at Parsons. September 8, 1894, Arch Piper nominated. Mr. Piper declined the nomination and a third convention was held at Parsons, September 22, 1894. A. H. McCormick nominated. August 18, 1896, Parsons, Benjamin Johnson nominated.

Twenty-seventh District—July 23, 1898, Par-

sons. G. W. Gabriel (Democratic nominee) was endorsed. September 29, 1900, Parsons, Grant Hume nominated.

Judicial Conventions

In 1874 a "Reform" convened at Parsons September 23. J. H. Waterman, chairman; C. O. Stockslager, secretary.

September 12, 1878, a Greenback convention assembled at Parsons, and nominated J. F. Broadhead.

A Republican convention was held in Parsons on September 11, 1890. George W. Wheatley was chairman; W. H. Coulter, secretary. A. B. Clark nominated by acclamation.

Political Conventions of Miscellaneous Character

“Laboring Men’s Conventions”

One was held at Parsons, on September 20, 1875; B. D. Roberts was chairman part and Isaac Butterworth, a part. A full ticket was nominated.

“Farmers’ and Laborers’ Convention”

October 9, 1886, a “Farmers’ and Laborers’ Convention” met at Parsons and nominated W. H. Utley as representative for the twenty-eighth district.

Legislative Apportionment

In the apportionment of the state into representative districts, in 1892, the townships of Mound Valley, Osage, Walnut, Labette, Liberty, North, Neosho and the city of Parsons were made to constitute the Twenty-seventh representative district.

County Officers

Many Parsons people have served the county in an official capacity—their work has been commendable and a credit to the city.

County Depository

The Parsons Banks, as well as those in Oswego, are depositories for the county funds.

Official Papers

The Parsons Independent was the official county paper from January 8, 1894, to January 14, 1896, and the Parsons Eclipse served in that capacity from January 14, 1896, to February 3, 1897.

The Crusade Spirit

The spring and summer of 1874 was one of the most exciting times upon the temperance question that had ever been known in the county. The spirit of the "crusaders" which in many places in the East had led the women to make raids on the saloons and pour the liquor into the gutter, manifested itself in this county in a milder but scarcely less determined form. Rousing temperance meetings were held weekly in Parsons, and were addressed by leading and influential citizens, as well as the clergy. The temperance people were intent on preventing the issuance of license in the cities unless the same were petitioned for by a majority of the residents of the ward.

Murphy Meetings

Murphy meetings commenced in Labette County about October 1st, 1877, at Oswego, and about the same time similar meetings were conducted at Parsons, by Miss Amanda Way, at which about 800 persons took the pledge. Steps were taken at the close of these meetings looking to the opening of a free reading-room.

Dispensing With Petition

On May 28, 1877, the city council of Parsons by unanimous vote passed an ordinance requiring the presentation of a petition of a majority of the residents of a ward in order to obtain a license. The mayor, however, vetoed this ordinance, and the council declined to pass it over his veto. The strong argument against the passage of the ordinance seemed to be that thereby some of the nine saloons then running in the city would not be able to procure the necessary petition and the city would thereby be deprived of the \$200 fee charged therefor. A public meeting was held, at which a vote of thanks was tendered the three councilmen who voted for the passage of the ordinance notwithstanding the mayor's veto.

Temperance Organizations

I. O. G. T.

Parsons. On November 12, 1874, through the instrumentality of Rev. J. P. Hight, a lodge was formed with M. G. Brown as W. C. T.; Mrs. M. M. Hill as W. V. T.; James Grimes, W. S.; M. Johnson, W. T. With slight interruptions the lodge maintained its organization until the adoption of the prohibitory amendment, after which it was allowed to die. Mr. Grimes, who was the first secretary of the lodge, afterward became quite prominent in the order, being at one time secretary and afterward G. W. C. T. of the grand lodge of the state.

W. C. T. U.

About July 28, 1880, a union was formed at Parsons, with Mrs. A. Nealy as secretary.

County Union

In March, 1886, delegates from the several unions in the county met and organized a county union, electing Mrs. Z. L. Janes of Parsons as president.

Organizations for Enforcing the Law

It was not long until the friends of prohibition in the county were satisfied that its enforcement meant a long and hard struggle. Those who had been accustomed to reap the enormous profits which are incident to the sale of liquor, and whose disposition was to furnish all means possible for man's downfall, were not disposed to surrender the privilege they had for such a length of time enjoyed, so long as they could find any means by which they could successfully defy the law. The number of those engaged in the traffic being so much larger at Parsons than at any other point in the county, they, having more capital invested in the undertaking made that the headquarters for the liquor men of the county. E. R. Marvin, the proprietor of the Belmont House, was the leader of this law-defying class. As good attorneys as could be found in the county were employed in the defense of Marvin, and those arrested with him, for the violation of the law. A protracted legal contest ensued, in which for a time it looked as though the defiers of the law were to be triumphant because of the inability to secure a jury who would render a verdict of conviction even when the most positive and convincing testimony was presented to them. Occa-

sionally, however, a jury of honest men could be secured, and witnesses who knew something of the obligations of an oath could be put upon the stand, in which case verdicts of guilt were to be found. To aid the officers in the enforcement of this law, various local organizations were formed from time to time, as necessity seemed to require, and the wisdom of the temperance judged advisable. The first of these, which was at all prominent and effective, was the Labette County Law Enforcement Society which was organized at Oswego January 27, 1883; Rev. John Elliott was elected president; W. L. Simons, vice president; A. A. Osgood, secretary; J. M. Bowman, treasurer. Prior to this, however, local organizations had been formed in Oswego, Chetopa and Parsons.

“Original Package” Houses

In April, 1890, the Supreme Court of the United States, in a cause brought there by writ of error from the Supreme Court of Iowa, decided that a liquor seller in one State might send his liquors into another, there to be sold in the original packages as they are shipped, notwithstanding the laws of the latter State absolutely prohibited the sale of liquor within its boundaries. The saloon-men hailed this decision with delight, and they were not long in making their arrangements to open saloons under the designation of “original package houses” in nearly every town where public sentiment would at all tolerate them. In both Parsons and Chetopa these “original

package houses" were opened, several in both places running until after the passage of the Wilson bill.

Post Offices and Postmasters

Mendota. — Established September 25, 1869. Postmasters appointed: William K. Hayes, Sept. 25, 1869. Name changed to Parsons, Dec. 9, 1870.

Parsons.—Name changed from Mendota, Dec. 9, 1870. Postmasters appointed were: William K. Hayes, Dec. 1870; Samuel O. Fletcher, March 22, 1878; Frank W. Frye, Aug. 7, 1885; Harry H. Lusk, April 23, 1889; Frank W. Frye, Feb. 27, 1894; Harry H. Lusk, June 7, 1897.

The Press

Parsons Papers

The Anti-Monopolist. On January 5, 1871, the first issue of this paper appeared, purporting to be issued from Parsons, but being printed in fact at the Monitor office in Fort Scott. Perry D. Martin was its editor and proprietor. After the issuance of a few numbers its publication was suspended, but it was again resurrected about the middle of the year, appearing at this time as issued at Osage Mission. But two issues, however, appeared from its new home; and a disagreement between Martin and his associates arising, Martin was forced to retire, and the paper was succeeded by the People's Advocate.

The Parsons Sun,

Shed its light through No. 1, volume 1, on June 17, 1871, M. W. Reynolds and Leslie J. Perry, editors and proprietors. It was started as an eight-column all home print. On August 12th of that year Mr. Perry sold his interest to Angell Matthewson, who continued with Reynolds as publisher until February 13, 1872, when he sold to G. C. West, from which time Reynolds and West conducted the paper until November, 1873, at which time West retired as associate editor and was suc-

ceeded by Harry L. Gosling. In May, 1874, Reynolds having theretofore been appointed receiver of the U. S. Land Office, retired from the management of the Sun, and G. C. West assumed full control, which he continued until April, 1875, when the Sun again passed under the control of Reynolds. Gifford and Winter, who up to about this time had been publishing the Parsons Surprise, soon thereafter consolidated with the Sun, the management of which was now under the control of Reynolds, Gifford & Winter, who continued its publication until November 11, 1876, when its publication as a weekly was discontinued, appearing occasionally thereafter, more as an advertising medium than anything else. On May 12, 1877, its publication was renewed by Reynolds, and by him continued until December 14, 1878, when the entire outfit was sold to H. H. Lusk, who has continued its publication since.

Daily Sun.—On the morning of September 5, 1880, the Daily Sun made its appearance, and has continued regularly to appear since that time as the only morning daily paper published in the county, with the exception of once or twice, when one of the other papers appeared as a morning issue for a short time.

The Western Enterprise

Was conducted at Parsons by T. C. Cory and V. J. Knapp. It was started in September, 1872, and published monthly thereafter until January, 1873. It was a five-column, eight-page paper,

nicely gotten up, carefully edited, with a large amount of reading matter intended to give a good idea of the great West to all persons seeking information in respect thereto.

Parsons Weekly Herald

On Thursday, May 22, 1873, this paper was started by O. Edwards, A. W. Gifford and A. C. Covell, and its publication continued for a year, when it failed for want of support.

Parsons Eclipse

About the 1st of April, 1874, the Parsons Weekly Herald was sold on chattel mortgage and bought by J. B. Lamb, with which outfit the Parsons Eclipse was started by J. B. Lamb and J. B. Taylor as editors and proprietors. The first number appeared April 9, 1874. On March 29, 1877, at the end of the third volume, Taylor withdrew, from which time its publication was regularly conducted by J. B. Lamb & Sons until the death of Dr. Lamb, December 26, 1890, since which time his sons have conducted it. For several years past Celsus Lamb has been sole manager and editor.

The Daily Eclipse was started May 9, 1881, and is spoken of under the head of dailies.

The Surprise

About the middle of April, 1873, A. W. Gifford started the Surprise, which suspended after a few weeks' existence, and the force united with the Herald outfit. The latter having finished its career about the last of February, 1874, the Sur-

prise was resurrected, being published by A. W. Gifford and W. L. Winters, and continued until January 26, 1875, when it surrendered to the inevitable.

The Parsons Sunday Leader

Was started in October, 1882, by G. F. Kimball as editor and proprietor; it continued but a short time.

Southeastern Kansas Advertiser

In July, 1879, Copeland and Brewster, of Parsons, issued a real estate sheet under the above title.

The Journal

The Daily Journal having been discontinued in January, H. C. Sourbeer, on May 1, 1891, commenced the publication of the Journal as a weekly which was continued by him until November 13, 1891, when it was merged into the Mills Weekly World, and its publication under the title of the Journal ceased.

Parsons Palladium

Frank W. Frye and Will W. Frye were the founders of this paper—the first issue appeared February 24, 1883. From August, 1883, to February, 1885, E. S. Steyens had charge of the job department of the paper. From February to October, 1886, George S. King had charge of the editorial department. Will W. Frye then did the editorial work for some time. On June 1, 1889,

Frank W. Frye purchased the interest of his brother in the establishment, since which time he has been sole editor and proprietor.

The Clarion

Was started in the summer of 1888 by Sheward & Gregg. After a few months Mr. Gregg sold his interest, and L. S. Sheward became the sole proprietor and editor. In January following, A. H. Tyler became editor, in which position he continued until the close of the year, at which time Mr. Sheward again became its editor as well as publisher. Its publication was continued, with few interruptions, until near the close of 1890, when it altogether ceased.

Settlers Advocate

About the 1st of August, 1872, Bancroft and Cory issued the first number of the Settlers Advocate, at Parsons, and continued the publication as a monthly until the spring of 1873, when they issued a weekly edition.

The Neosho Valley Land Guide

In September, 1871, Walter & Thomas, real estate agents at Parsons, started the publication of a real estate paper under the above title, to advertise their land business, the publication of which continued for some two or three years.

Parsons Advocate

Matthewson & Biggs issued this paper as a medium for advertising their real estate and loan business, from December 1, 1884.

Kansas Banner

This paper was started as an organ to enable religious and educational associations to meet the public. It was more especially under the direction of the Y. M. C. A. Each organization was expected to prepare the material ready for publication that it desired to have appear; thereby little editorial work was required. The first issue was dated July 15, 1886, and but six monthly numbers were issued.

A Word for You

Was a publication of a religious character, started in 1891 by Rev. P. M. Griffin. After a few issues, other parties became associated with him, and the name of the paper was changed to

The Home Visitor

Under this designation it lasted till the summer of 1892, when it ceased for want of support.

Mills' Weekly World

Was removed from Altamont to Parsons in the middle of November, 1891, and on the 17th of that month the first issue of the paper from the Parsons office appeared; it was conducted by H. C. Sourbeer and Harry Mills. At the end of about three months Mr. Mills' connection with it terminated, after which time it was conducted by Mr. Sourbeer until he changed its name to the Western World.

Kansas Progress

From June to August, 1883, H. C. Sourbeer published this paper almost exclusively as an advertising medium. The profits were supposed to be derived from advertising though a little revenue came in through subscriptions.

Kansas State Alliance

This paper was published at Parsons; it was started July 1, 1890, and, with some interruptions, continued until near the close of 1891. W. T. Utley was its business manager at the start, but he sold out in the course of a few months, and it was conducted by several members of the County Alliance. George Campbell was its first editor; afterwards H. A. White edited it for a time; then A. H. McCormick and still later other parties.

The Arbitrator

J. M. Jones, James Tisdale, and perhaps others were members of the firm of Jones & Co., who were the publishers of this paper. M. Byrne was secured as its editor. It was started in the summer of 1886, and its publication was continued for perhaps two months, when the arrest of its publishers and editor on the charge of criminal libel forced it to suspend. A part of the defendants escaped punishment on the ground that the evidence did not directly connect them with the publication of the libelous matter.

The Western World

The name of the paper published by Mr. Sourbeer was changed from Mills' Weekly World to

Western World, under which name its publication was conducted until September, 1893, when it ceased altogether. However, some two years later than this one or two issues of a paper under this name were sent out; the thought being that perhaps the paper might be revived.

The New Time

Was the title of a paper edited by H. C. Sourbeer for something more than a year, commencing in January, 1895.

The Business College Journal

Was started in October, 1892, by C. E. Ball, as an irregular publication through which he could advertise his business.

The Parsons Independent

In October, 1893, P. T. Foley purchased the name of the paper then published in Edna, and transferred it to a paper he was starting in Parsons. This was done for the purpose of nominally complying with the law requiring a paper to have been regularly issued for at least one year before legal notices could be published therein; and the intention of the publisher in starting this paper was to secure the county printing the ensuing year. The first issue of the Parsons Independent was on October 28, 1893. D. H. Martin was its editor and so remained until he secured a position in the State penitentiary sometime in 1894. In July, 1894, A. G. Stacy became editor, and continued to fill that position until about the

last of May, 1895. On March 1, 1897, R. J. Elliott took editorial charge of the paper, and remained in that position until the middle of April, 1899, when he was succeeded by Miss Louise Duley, who held the position some three months. I have not secured the names of the persons who have prepared editorial work on the paper since that time.

Parsons Globe ^{Miss Duley}

In the spring of 1898 E. S. Stevens and Charles Husband started the Daily Globe. Its publication was suspended during the summer. In the fall of that year Charles Husband and H. A. Bird revived the daily and with it issued a weekly. The daily, ceased publication in the fall of 1899, but the weekly was issued until the spring of 1900.

The Parsons Dailies

The Daily Record

This was the first daily paper published in Parsons, and it was started in the fall of 1876, in September or October, by J. P. Coffin. It was a very diminutive sheet, but served as a means of giving local news. Mr. Coffin continued its publication till May 5, 1877, when he suspended for the purpose of becoming traveling agent for the Sun.

The Daily Outlook

On August 20, 1877, the first number of this sheet appeared as the successor of the Daily Record, and, as the latter had been, under the management of J. P. Coffin. On January 31, 1878, he wrote his valedictory, the substance of which was, "Died for want of support."

The Infant Wonder

Was started December 24, 1878, by McCarter Brothers, who conducted it as a daily until August 12, 1879, from which time to September 4 it appeared as a tri-weekly on which last date it again resumed its daily issue, and continued as such till the last of April, 1880.

The Daily Republican

Frank H. McCarter, proprietor of the *Infant Wonder*, which had just suspended publication, associated himself with William Higgins in the publication of the *Republican*. The first issue appeared on May 10, 1880, with William Higgins editor. On March 22, 1881, Mr. Higgins retired from the paper and Mr. McCarter assumed full control. It was merged in the *Eclipse*, and its publication suspended May 9, 1881.

The Daily Eclipse

Was started May 9, 1891, by J. B. Lamb and F. H. McCarter, the latter doing most of the work thereon for some time. The management of the daily was entirely separate from that of the weekly *Eclipse* for some months. For a number of years it has been conducted by the Lambs alone and has been a well established daily with a liberal support.

The Daily Wonder

As a continuation of the *Infant Wonder*, was resurrected about November, 1881, by F. H. McCarter and E. R. Marvin, after the former had become disconnected with the *Eclipse*. In January, 1882, E. C. Burnett bought out Mr. Marvin, and in connection with Mr. McCarter continued to conduct the *Wonder* until September of that year, when its publication was again suspended.

The Daily Independent

Was started in Parsons in October, 1882, by

E. C. Burnett, who continued its publication until January, 1883.

The Daily Sun

Was started September 5, 1880, and is spoken of in connection with the Weekly Sun.

The Evening Star

Was first seen a little before sunset on Wednesday, April 6, 1881. It was published by M. W. Reynolds and George Higgins for gratuitous distribution. On September 2, 1881, Mr. Higgins retired, and moved to Paola to engage in the newspaper business at that place. The Star continued to give out more or less light till about the time of the fall election in 1881.

The Daily Journal

W. H. Martin was the founder of this paper, and conducted it from November 10, 1889, to September 10, 1890, when he sold the plant to H. C. Sourbeer & Sons, who continued its publication until January 15, 1891, at which time it was discontinued.

The Daily Eli

Was started in the fall of 1890 and continued to appear for several months, perhaps nearly a year. It was under the same general management as the State Alliance. A. J. Miller was its editor a part and perhaps all the time it ran.

The Daily Globe

Was published a part of 1898 and 1899, as stated above as the Parsons Globe.

The Daily News

Was started April 3, 1900, and appeared regularly until publications were suspended March 7, 1901. J. M. Cunningham was its editor and publisher at the time.

The Bench and Bar

The first term of district court was formally opened, at Oswego, in the afternoon of Monday, October 7, 1867, and adjourned sine die on Friday, the 11th, although no business was transacted after Thursday.

J. G. Parkhurst was the first attorney to settle in Parsons. He came here at the close of 1870 before the town was well laid out, and at once secured a fairly good business. In a few years he returned to Michigan.

T. W. Thornton came to Parsons about the same time as Mr. Parkhurst but did not stay long.

E. E. Hastings came to Parsons from Oswego, in 1870, but he remained only a few months.

William Davis came to Parsons in the early spring of 1871 as the general attorney of the M. K. & T. Ry. Co. He was elected county attorney and later was attorney general.

G. C. West located in Parsons in 1871, and became associated with Col. Davis in business. When Col. Davis was elected attorney general, he went to Topeka with him and never returned.

R.M. Donnelly was admitted to the bar in June, 1871. After a time he went to Texas.

E. C. Ward came from Chicago to Parsons in April, 1871.

✕ Thomas C. Cory was the first county attorney in Neosho County. He came to Parsons from Ladore in 1871. He was a member of the firm of Cory & Kimball and later of Cory & Simons. Mr. Cory was elected county attorney and died while holding that office.

✕ Walter L. Simons came from Neosho County to Parsons in 1879, and entered into partnership with Mr. Cory. Later he went to Fort Scott.

Charles H. Kimball came to Parsons in the latter part of 1872. A few months thereafter he became a partner of Mr. Cory. Later the firm of Kimball & Ayers was formed, and in 1879 the firm of Kimball and Osgood was started. He served two years as State Senator.

—W. P. Talbot became a resident of Parsons in 1873. He was assistant county attorney when Col. True was county attorney.

✕ W. G. Webb lived first in Oswego and then in Parsons—retired from the bench in 1873.

A. A. Osgood was admitted to the bar in 1877. In 1879 he became a member of the firm of Kimball and Osgood. On Mr. Cory's death, Mr. Osgood was appointed to fill out his term as county attorney.

Other lawyers: F. H. Foster, J. W. Iden, Arthur F. Cranston, E. O. Ellis, F. F. Lamb, A. H. Tyler, T. C. Sears, general attorney M. K. T.; J. F. McDonald, E. L. Burton, T. N. Sedgewick, general attorney M. K. T.; W. D. Atkinson, Fannie Cooper Atkinson, C. E. Kennedy, M. P. Gillin, D. N. Matthews, J. D. Peters, Willard Reynolds, A. H. Noyes, C. L. McGuire, W. A. Dish, T. M. Brady, W. S. Hyatt and Catherine Swope Hyatt. The latter was at one time county attorney and his wife was his assistant.

The Y. M. C. A.

The Parsons Y. M. C. A. was organized December 5, 1885, with C. F. Hodgman, president; Cyrus G. Emerson, vice-president; W. H. Martin and Thomas Clark, secretaries; and F. H. Foster, treasurer. The following year it was incorporated and the following officers elected: M. E. Crowell, president; E. C. Read, vice-president; A. H. Whitmarsh, secretary; and F. H. Foster, treasurer. A ladies' auxiliary was organized early in the history of the association and rendered valuable aid in furnishing rooms and giving entertainments. The most of the time during its life, the association maintained a paid general secretary. The following persons served in that capacity: Chas. L. Helmick was the first and served from August, 1887, to February, 1889; James R. Smith succeeded him and served to July, 1889; T. R. Breece, B. C. McQuestion, J. W. Shingley, W. Russell and — Hopper since then successively held the office. A reading room, bath rooms, as well as reception and parlor rooms, were provided and much good work was accomplished. On account of the large number of railroad men at Parsons, the needs of an association were more apparent than at any other place on the line. But the expense of maintaining it were greater than the

receipts would cover and a debt was the result. The dissolution of the association followed almost as a matter of course. Charles Husband was the general secretary for some time before the association disbanded.

Sunday Schools

M.E. The first Sunday school in Parsons was organized in April, 1871, by the joint efforts of Rev. G. W. Pye and Rev. H. H. Cambern. It was started and for some time maintained as a union school. It had a hard time to maintain an existence. With no permanent place of meeting, driven from vacant store buildings, offices and shops, as they were needed for other purposes, it finally found a somewhat permanent and comfortable home in Cary's Hall. T. C. Cory was its first superintendent. After a few months of service he resigned, and J. E. Wilkes succeeded him. In January, 1872, E. B. Stevens was elected superintendent; M. G. Brown was elected in 1873, and M. Wallace in 1874. During a part of this time some schools which were started as denominational schools were merged with the union. On the organization of denominational schools this school ceased.

Colored Schools

African Methodist Episcopal. Soon after the organization of the A. M. E. Church in Parsons, the pastor, Rev. J. H. Daniels, also secured the organization of the Sunday School.

The school dates from May, 1876. Among its

superintendents have been: S. O. Clayton, J. L. Crow and Charles A. Morris.

Second, or New Hope, Baptist (colored), May 28, 1876. Rev. Thomas Wilson secured the organization of a Sunday school in connection with this church. Superintendents: James Griffin, James Walker, E. W. Dorsey and J. E. Johnson.

Mount Pleasant Baptist (colored). Superintendents: George Harts, G. R. Westbrooks, James Griffin and J. T. Hayes.

Mount Zion Baptist (colored). This Sunday school is held irregularly.

Denominational Schools

Baptists. This school was organized in the city hall in 1874, with J. B. Stilwell superintendent and an attendance of about ten scholars. During the year it disbanded and was reorganized in about 1878, when J. W. Fee was elected superintendent. The school at this time numbered about fifty.

W. W. Neighbor succeeded Mr. Fee and was succeeded by C. F. Hodgman, and he by I. J. Uzzel. W. C. Main served from September, 1886, until 1893, being succeeded by F. W. Flitton, who held the office until 1896, when I. J. Uzzel was again elected. Mrs. T. N. Kidd was superintendent in 1897, and E. S. Ellis, who took her place, is the superintendent at present. The average attendance is about 140.

German Baptists or Dunkards

A Sunday school was organized here in 1895. Clay Newton is superintendent.

Christians

Organized in 1879. Superintendents: C. R. Millard, Fred Evans, Dr. John Tinder, T. L. Trotter and J. S. Vance.

Congregational

Organized July 20, 1873. Superintendents: P. M. Griffin, A. H. Ayers, I. Dickson, A. P. Wilson, E. C. Ward, J. H. Mosaic, G. W. Ragland, E. C. Reed and Arthur Reed.

Protestant Episcopal

The rector of the church is also superintendent of the Sunday school.

United Brethren

Organized in 1876 with Abraham Cary as superintendent. Since then the following persons have served in that capacity: W. F. Grierson, — Butler, A. B. Hacker, Mrs. Sandercook, Joseph Ross, Mrs. M. Portram, James Terrell and T. M. Mathis.

Methodist Episcopal

In the summer of 1873 a Methodist Sunday school was organized with the pastor, Rev. C. R. Rice, superintendent. Owing to the straitened circumstances and unorganized condition of the work, the school did not maintain a continuous existence, but part of the time united with other workers in carrying on a union school. Besides Rev. C. R. Rice the early superintendents were: M. Wallace, M. G. Brown and J. W. Cowles. In

January, 1876, T. H. Cunningham was elected as superintendent, and continued to act as such until the close of 1890. In January, 1891, J. L. Kennerer was elected superintendent, and in January, 1892, Dr. M. E. Wolf was elected, his term concluding with the close of 1893. Elmer C. Mendell served during 1894, 1895 and 1896, and since then O. F. Pennywitt has been superintendent with the exception of a few weeks when George H. Olds held that position.

Presbyterian

Organized in December, 1872, with Harry L. Gosling superintendent. Succeeding him there have been the following superintendents: M. B. Park, I. N. McCreery, G. C. Hitchcock, S. M. Cambern, Frank Mulford, S. A. Scott, F. L. Schaub, W. H. Martin, J. L. Morrison, W. Aikenhead, M. J. McKnight, and E. H. McCreery. M. J. McKnight is the present incumbent.

Church Organizations

Seventh Day Adventists

The Adventists have been holding services in Parsons since 1893. Not having any house of worship of their own, they rent a hall where services are held. Elder D. H. Oberholtzer has been one of their principal evangelists in late years.

Catholic

St. Patrick's congregation was organized by Father Philip G. Calloten in the summer of 1872, and lots 1 and 2 in block 122 were secured on which to commence the erection of a frame church. In December, 1876, he was succeeded by Father Joseph Dreason, who served until August, 1881, when Father Rose took charge. Under his direction the property at the head of Central avenue was secured and converted into a convent. Five sisters from St. Agnes convent at Osage Mission were secured to conduct the school. Changes were also made in the church building and the grounds. Fathers Hodghen, Reil and Ward succeed Father Rose.

Father John Ward served until 1895, when he was succeeded by Father Nicola Neusius who is now in charge. Work was commenced on the new church under Father John Ward in 1891. The

basement was completed and services were held therein until 1900 when the church was pushed to completion. It is a fine structure 58 by 145 feet, with a 75-foot transept; a tower 165 feet high contains a 2000-pound bell. The church is decorated in Roman style, and has stained glass windows. It is furnished with a pipe organ costing \$2,000. The entire cost of the church and furnishings is said to be \$32,000. It has a seating capacity of 800. The Sacred Heart Academy was started in 1890 under the direction of the Sisters of Loretto; since 1896 it has been directed by the Sisters of Charity.

Protestant Episcopal

St John's Memorial Church was organized in June, 1874, as a memorial to Ezra Williams Howard, of Providence, R. I., whose widow, through Bishop Vail, gave \$2,000 toward its erection. The first board of trustees consisted of Angell Matthewson, W. C. Holmes, J. R. Brown, James Barton, George Thornton, S. O. Fletcher, and William Horsefall. Dr. J. B. Lamb was the first senior warden. Rev. Benjamin Mower was at once secured as the first rector, and he continued to act as such for something over a year. He immediately commenced raising money for the erection of a church. On Sunday, September 27, 1874, the cornerstone was laid under the direction of the Masons and Odd Fellows, and on April 5, 1875, the church was opened by Bishop Vail. Prior to the completion of their own church they had held services in the Methodist tabernacle. Mr. Gay,

D. W. Cox, Mr. Talbot, W. T. Bowen, C. W. Harris and J. J. Purcell are among those who have served as rectors.

Rev. J. J. Purcell, the last named, has been the rector since 1894, and has contributed by his efficient labors in keeping the church abreast of the growth of the city.

Christian

The First Christian Church was first organized in 1873, with 12 members and was reorganized in 1875 with 35 members. A brick building was completed in 1879. Its first elders Phineas Davis, and John Leonard; its first deacons, J. F. Van Meter and W. L. Daley. The first pastor was J. B. Graves, who was followed by C. C. Cline, C. O. McKinney, O. E. Ebert, ~~W. L. Daley~~ Thomas, J. P. Witt, J. T. Tucker, and J. H. Love. In May, 1890, J. P. Witt, who had been preaching for the First church, organized the Central Christian Church, with a membership of about 40 and became its pastor. He was succeeded by D. M. Harris and he by ~~W. L. Daley~~ Brown. In 1894, the First and the Central Christian Churches, who had maintained separate organizations since their separation in 1890, concluded to unite, and to be thereafter known as the Central Christian Church. This union took place under the leadership of W. E. Harlow, who had a very successful pastorate extending from January 1, 1894, to June, 1897, during which time the membership of the church was very largely increased. W. W. Burks held the position of pastor from July 1, 1897, to November, 1900, since which time C. E. Pile has served.

Brook - James Smith
Survey - Charles - Pile - all mentioned
1873

Brook - Stone

Ex. P. Watson

Brook

Congregational

Early in 1872 several citizens of Parsons who leaned toward Congregationalism, after consulting some of the officers of the Home Missionary Society, decided to organize, and secured the incorporation of "The First Congregational Church Society of Parsons" with E. C. Ward, E. S. Stevens and C. L. Whitney as trustees. Hewes' Hall was rented, and Rev. Mr. Storrs and other ministers promised to preach until the arrival of the Rev. P. M. Griffin, who was to be sent out by the Home Missionary Society as soon as he finished his course at Andover. As the Methodists and Presbyterians were occupying this hall on alternate Sabbaths the Congregationalists could only hold services occasionally. This hastened their action in building a church.

The townsite donated lots 1 and 2 in block 49, and the church purchased 3 and 4 adjoining. Mr. Griffin arrived on the ground and commenced work September 1, 1872. A brick building 27 by 65 was constructed as rapidly as could be done and was completed the following July. On July 12, 1873, Edmund S. Stevens, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, Mrs. Emily Fellows, Rev. Presley M. Griffin and Mrs. E. J. Griffin formed themselves into and organized the First Congregational Church of Parsons. On the following Sunday, July 13, 1873, the church building was dedicated by Dr. P. McVicar; the church was reorganized and the pastor was ordained and installed by an ecclesiastical council. Mr. Griffin remained pastor until Aug-

ust 19, 1879, when he resigned and was duly dismissed by the council.

During Mr. Griffin's pastorate the church membership was increased from 5 to 62 and the entire church indebtedness was canceled. Mr. Griffin was succeeded by Rev. H. M. Burr, who came in November and continued till May, 1880, when he was compelled by ill health to resign.

From this time till September 1, 1881, the church was without a pastor; at that time Rev. C. Hartley came and stayed until June, 1882, when he resigned. In December, 1882, Rev. W. H. Utley became pastor and continued till February 1, 1886. In May of that year Rev. C. L. McKeeson accepted a call, and remained some two years.

The church was then closed till the summer of 1890, during which time it seemed that the life of the church had entirely fled; but the membership again rallied, repaired their church, and extended a call to their first pastor, P. M. Griffin, who accepted, and began work September 1, 1890, and continued until sometime in 1892. During his last pastorate a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was formed and new vitality was put into the church in many ways. Since 1892 the pastors have been: T. B. Jones, three years; A. W. Bishop, four years; I. G. Ruge, one year, and the present pastor, T. B. Coachman. In 1894 a new small brick church replaced the original structure, which was torn down.

Baptist

First Baptist Church. In the summer of 1871 Rev. F. L. Walker, of Oswego, visited Parsons and held some meetings. Perhaps other ministers may also have rendered them some services. A few Baptists in that vicinity got together, and even went so far as to commence the foundation for a church, but they were so few in number and so scattered that the enterprise was for a time abandoned. On March 2, 1873, Rev. Robert Atkinson preached in the Methodist Church and took the first steps toward organizing a church. The organization was perfected March 30, 1873, with a membership of 12, composed of George, Susan and Emma Everhart, Letitia Rockhold, Isaac Neptune, Benjamin F., Martin W., Mary B. and Lizzie Elliott, Ella Hall, Alice Scholl, and R. M. Donelly. The following officers were then elected: Rev. Robert Atkinson, pastor and moderator; R. M. Donelly, clerk; Mrs. Letitia Rockhold, treasurer; W. P. Scholl, J. B. Stilwell, J. R. Bennett and Mrs. Letitia Rockhold, trustees; J. W. Fee, W. P. Scholl and J. B. Stilwell, deacons. F. L. Walker and Thomas W. Green served as pastors until 1874; during that year Elihu Gunn preached for them awhile after which the church was inactive till September 1, 1877, when it was reorganized by Rev. Mr. Garrison, and a room secured on Forest Avenue, in which meetings were held till the church was erected.

In October, 1879, the foundation for the new church was laid, and on January 31, 1880, the

building was occupied. In 1887 the building was enlarged and improved, at a cost of over \$3,000, and on February 5, 1888, was dedicated by Rev. Robert Atkinson. The church has had two quite marked revivals, one in 1884 and the other in 1887. The following have served as pastors: F. M. Iams, H. M. Carr, W. H. Irwin, L. J. Dyke, A. J. Essex, W. C. Harvey, J. T. Haye, H. M. Carr, C. H. DeWolfe, H. G. Fraser and J. T. Crawford. The last named gentleman has served since 1897 to the present date. A number of years ago, a Young People's Society of Christian Workers was organized in this church, of which H. F. Hixon was elected president; Rev. J. T. Haye, G. H. L. Copeland and F. W. Flitton also served as presidents. The name was later changed to that of the Baptist Young People's Union.

Second (or New Hope) Baptist Church. This church was organized by the colored people April 29, 1876, with 13 members. Rev. Thomas Wilson, of Ottawa, and Rev. David Payne, of Humboldt, were the ministers who effected the organization, and Mr. Payne became the first pastor. A building was erected during the summer of 1876, which structure was replaced in 1893 by a new brick edifice, costing \$3,000. Rev. A. Fairfax has been the pastor since 1885.

Mount Pleasant Baptist (colored) was organized May 27, 1886, Rev. G. W. Parks, of Oswego, acting as moderator, and J. W. Brown, as secretary. W. A. Walton was the first pastor. The congregation still occupies the frame church that

was erected in 1891, at a cost of \$1,500. Rev. D. D. Payne has been pastor since 1890.

Mount Zion Baptist Church is a small organization of colored members; it has no church building and holds services irregularly.

German Baptists

An organization was formed in Parsons about 1890 which has had a steady growth and now numbers about 60 members. In 1898 they erected a church edifice at a cost of \$1,500.

Presbyterian

While a Methodist preacher who came of his own accord preceded them, the Presbyterians claim to have sent the first preacher to hold services in Parsons. Rev. H. H. Cambern, under the direction of the Board of Home Missions, came to Parsons in February, 1871, and commenced preaching in a saloon. Mr. Cambern held services frequently during the spring and summer.

The First Presbyterian Church of Parsons was organized September 24, 1871, by Rev. H. H. Cambern as moderator. J. V. Thornton, J. E. Wilkins and J. J. Blause were elected elders. The membership at organization was 16. In December, 1871, they commenced to take subscriptions for a church building, but ground was not broken till August, 1872. The church was completed and dedicated August 2, 1874, by Rev. C. H. McCreery. In the meantime Rev. S. F. Farmer was installed as pastor. An addition was made to the church in 1882, another one in 1883, and a third in 1891. In

May, 1872, Rev. J. H. Metier was employed to succeed Mr. Cambern as pastor. Since then the following have supplied the pulpit, some as sup-
plys, others as pastors: Joel Kelsey, S. F. Farmer,
H. G. Miller, F. R. Morton, W. S. Keyes, J. K.
Fowler, — Shields, W. S. Davis, Edward F.
Walker, J. M. Wright, and E. O. Hart. Mr.
Wright's pastorate closed in 1893, and he was suc-
ceeded by the present pastor, E. O. Hart. Under
Mr. Hart's pastorate the church building has been
enlarged and improved at a cost of about \$3,000.
At present they are building a manse which is to
be commodious and well finished.

At present the church has a membership of
400. In 1882 a Young People's Society was organ-
ized for the purpose of holding devotional meet-
ings. At different times it had for its president:
Miss Montgomery, E. H. McCreery, F. H. Schaub,
W. H. Martin, Lena Venable, W. J. McKnight and
George B. Comings. On September 8, 1892, a
reorganization of the Young People's Society was
had, and formed into the Y. P. S. C. E., with
George B. Comings as president.

United Brethren

In February, 1868, a class of about ten mem-
bers was formed at the house of James Beaver,
some few miles from the present site of Parsons,
by J. Buckmaster as pastor, James Beaver, as
class leader, Reason Tippie, steward, and P. M.
Grant, elder. Those composing this class were
Reason Tippie, Rachel Tippie, N. M. Portrum, C.
Portrum, J. Beaver, J. L. Beaver, A. Pringle,

G. Schekell, G. Botsford and C. Billings. This class was maintained in that part of the country with more or less cohesiveness for several years, and formed the basis for the class at Parsons, which was organized in February, 1875, with a membership of 15, including Abraham Cary and wife, James Beaver and wife, N. M. Portrum and wife, Seth Fisher and wife, Lizzie Kellogg, and having G. W. Gossett for pastor. January 3, 1877, the church provided a lot and moved thereon the tabernacle which they had purchased from the M. E. Church. They used it as a house of worship until 1894, when they disposed of the building and secured a site at the corner of Twenty-fourth and Crawford avenue, on which they erected a commodious church edifice, and a parsonage on adjoining lots, all at a cost of about \$2,500. The church was impeded in its progress for quite a number of years by the great division of the church throughout the country that took place in 1885. Among the pastors who have served this church are: G. W. Gossett, A. B. McGrew, J. W. Baughman, William Theope, C. H. Jones, R. C. Hamil, D. Richardson, W. M. Griffin, and G. H. Hinton. The church has a good Young People's Society, both Senior and Junior branches.

African Methodist Episcopal

Rev. A. H. Daniels, of the A. M. E. Church, came to Labette County in the spring of 1876, and organized a class in Parsons. In June of that year he commenced to raise funds with which to build a church in Parsons. Lot 17 in block 17 was

secured as a site in July, 1876, and soon thereafter a building was commenced. Messrs. French, Cavanaugh and Miller were the first trustees.

Commencing with 1891, the pastors have been: 1891, J. Allen; 1892, M. Wooten; 1893-1895, J. R. Ransom; 1896, E. Harrison; 1897-1898, A. C. Terrill; 1899-1900, M. Collins. This and the Oswego Church were jointly served by the same pastors for several years. About 1895 they erected a good brick church building at a cost of about \$2,600.

First Methodist Episcopal Church

Methodism in Parsons does not know the date of its birth. The first religious services on the townsite of Parsons were held in the summer of 1870, in Abraham Cary's log house on the northwest quarter of section 18, by A. W. King, a local preacher from Osage township. Mr. King continued to preach there every two or three weeks during th summer and fall.

The town having been started in November, a number of buildings were on the ground by December. Among these was a two-story frame building standing on lot 32, block 25, next to the southeast corner of the block, the lower part of which was occupied by Charles Hazzard with a saloon. In the room over this saloon, on the evening of December 15, 1870, Mr. King preached the first Methodist sermon that was delivered in the town of Parsons; it was also the first sermon preached in Parsons by any minister. In March, 1871, Rev. G. W. Pye was appointed to the New Chicago (now Chanute) work, with the under-

standing that he should also visit Parsons and preach occasionally. During the Spring he visited Parsons, preached, organized a class, and commenced the first regular Methodist work done at this point. During the year he came about every two weeks. Services were held in what was known as Hewes' Hall, on Forest Avenue. During the spring Cary's Hall, on the northeast corner of block 42, where the opera house now stands, was built, and the upper story seated by the Methodists, and Presbyterians, in which to hold services. In this room, in May, 1871, the Methodist class was organized. Adam Gebert was the first to give his name and his hand to the pastor, Rev. G. W. Pye, and Adam Cary was the second. At the conference in March, 1872, Rev. J. W. Fox was sent to the Parsons circuit, which included besides Parsons, Montana, Spring Valley and Labette City appointments. His salary was estimated at \$800, and he was paid \$600. At the first quarterly conference, on April 6, 1872, a building committee was appointed; which committee, on April 27 adopted plans and specifications for a church building, and at once advertised for bids. On May 8th, the bids were opened, and the contract awarded at \$4,753. But owing to the pressing needs of the settlers and the financial distress generally prevailing, a meeting of the committee was held June 10th, and it was decided to indefinitely postpone the project of building. In the fall of 1872, a small building denominated a "tabernacle" was erected on the site of the present

church, at a cost of \$700. These lots were donated to the church by the town company.

The tabernacle was dedicated November 3, 1872, by Rev. H. D. Fisher. In this building the church services were conducted until the fall of 1876, when it was sold to the United Brethren and removed from the lots on which it was built. In March, 1873, Rev. C. R. Rice was sent to the work, and early in the year built a small parsonage in block 47, at the cost of about \$300. Services were held quite irregularly on account of the inability of the church to support a pastor, and in December he removed his family to Emporia and supported them with his own labors, having received less than \$200 from the church during the year.

Notwithstanding all this, Mr. Rice did very efficient work. Rev. Peter De Clark was the next pastor. He arrived from the East in April, 1874. Smallpox, grasshoppers and hard times were too much for him, and in July he resigned his work. He was followed in November by Rev. Boyd Lowe, who was returned to the work in 1875, and for his services received all that was promised, viz. \$500, the first experience of the kind the church had had. In 1876 Rev. J. F. Boone was in charge of the work, and in March, 1877, Rev. C. A. King came, and remained three years. The tabernacle having been sold the previous fall, services had to be held in halls, vacant store rooms and such places as could be secured. This made the church see the importance of building a house and the pastor proceeded at once to take steps for its accomplishment. On November 5, 1877, the

cornerstone of the present church edifice, on the southeast corner of block 42, was laid by the Masons. The foundation was completed and covered during the winter, and work resumed during the spring. In the fall of 1878 the church was enclosed and opened for services by Bishop Bowman. An extensive revival followed. In March, 1880, Rev. M. H. Wilson was appointed to the work. His ways were not congenial to the membership, and after six months' trial he was allowed to depart, and was followed for the balance of the year by Rev. C. E. McClintock. In 1881, Rev. G. W. Pye was returned to the work, and in March, 1882, Rev. H. W. Chaffee came. The church and pastor were mutually satisfied with each other and he remained till 1885, when, under the limitation, a change was required. During his pastorate the church, which since its erection had been occupied in an unfurnished condition, was completed and furnished, and on February 22, 1885, dedicated by Rev. E. C. Boaz. In March, 1885, Rev. H. A. Tucker became pastor, and continued as such for three years. The following three years, commencing with March, 1888, Rev. J. E. Brant was pastor. Rev. R. P. Hammons was appointed to the charge in March, 1891, and continued two years, being succeeded in March, 1893, by Rev. John H. Price, who remained three years, being followed by Rev. Hugh McBirney who stayed until the conference of 1901. During the last year of Mr. Hammon's pastorate, the church was enlarged and improved at a cost of about \$4,500. The debt against the church, amounting

to \$2,000, was paid under Mr. McBirney's administration, and, in addition to this, some \$1,500 was expended in enlarging the grounds and in improving the property. The membership of the church is about 500. In the fall of 1881, the young people of the church organized the Aftermath Society, and elected as its officers Mrs. Frank Curtis, president; Bell Letton, secretary, and Thomas Clark, treasurer. Under its management the first young people's prayer meeting of the church was organized. It did much toward encouraging the social life of the church, and was also of material assistance in its financial management. This society was succeeded by the Delphian Society, which was organized March 1, 1887, with W. J. Wirt as president; Frankie Reed and Miss Bertha Kaysing, vice-presidents; Mertie Shannon, secretary, and Charles Nordyke, treasurer. This society did much toward helping in literary and normal work. In the spring of 1889 it reorganized as the Young People's M. E. Union, with Maggie Elliott, president; P. W. Blake, vice-president; Jennie Martin, secretary, and A. D. Lucas, treasurer.

Haven Chapter of Epworth League was organized December 10, 1889, with Rev. J. E. Brant president; T. R. Breese, W. J. Wirt, Miss Jennie S. Martin, J. T. Tendrum, vice-presidents; Maggie S. Elliott, secretary; John W. Sleigley, treasurer; and a membership of 17, which in three years increased to 140. All departments of the work are well in hand, and it has been a great help in the general work of the church.

Parsons was placed in the Fort Scott Conference District March, 1875.

The Sheppards
Heart Sould
Carl Vrooman

Reception of President Hayes

In the evening of September 24, 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes and wife, General W. T. Sherman, George St. John and wife, and other dignitaries arrived in Parsons on their way to Neosho Falls, where they were to attend the district fair. People from all parts of Labette County came to Parsons where a reception was tendered the Presidential party. An address of welcome was made by T. C. Cory, which was responded to by President Hayes and General Sherman. In the evening the whole assemblage was presented to the party.

Parsons Fair and Driving Park Association

Early in 1882 steps were taken by some of the citizens of Parsons to form an organization for the purpose of holding a fair. The Parsons Fair and Driving Park Association was formed, with a board of directors composed of the leading business men, of which Dr. G. W. Gabriel was president and J. R. Brown, secretary. Good grounds were secured and improved, and from 1882 to 1886, inclusive, successful fairs were held. After that no fair was held till 1892, when another effort was made, with a good result.

Convention

On February 5, 1874, a cotton convention was held in Parsons which resulted in awakening quite an interest in connection with the raising of this product.

Mishaps

In July, 1886, the boiler of the National Mills exploded and caused a great destruction of property.

Criminal Matters

On November 16, 1885, George W. Gregson shot and killed W. A. Collins in the Grand Central Hotel at Parsons. On February 19, 1886, he was convicted of murder of the first degree.

In September, 1886, Wilf. Cooper got upon a freight train at Parsons to ride to his home at Labette City. There were three or four tramps in the car, and before arriving at Labette City they attacked Cooper and threw him out of the car. He recovered himself sufficiently to get to Labette City and telegraph to Oswego for the arrest of the parties, who were tried, convicted and sent to the penitentiary.

Colored People

In the fall of 1879 there was an "exodus" of colored people from Texas and Tennessee and hundreds of them came to Parsons, Oswego and Chetopa. Their coming was unexpected, and no provision for their care and comfort had been made. Buildings for shelter could not be procured. They were mostly without means, destitute of everything like comfortable clothing, and in a condition to appeal strongly to the sympathies of charitable people. Rough board sheds were erected and made as comfortable as could be, in which large numbers were housed for that winter. During the next year or two others came in until the number of colored people formed quite a large percentage of the population of the cities named.

Storms

1871.—July 10th, hard wind followed by rain at Parsons.

1878.—March 1st, cyclone between Labette and Parsons.

1900.—June 7th, a tornado swept over a large part of the county. Trees were blown down and a large number of buildings were damaged in Parsons.

G. A. R.

Antietam Post, No. 64, is located at Parsons, and was organized June 2, 1882; it has been incorporated under the laws of Kansas. There are 400 names on its roll. The city of Parsons conveyed to the Post, for a nominal consideration, a tract in Oakwood Cemetery in which all old soldiers are buried free of expense to their friends, if they so desire; eighty-four old soldiers have already been buried in these grounds. Two eight-inch Columbiads, weighing 9,240 pounds each, a gift of the War Department, mounted on cut stone supports with concrete foundations, point over the graves of those buried there. These grounds are substantially and beautifully enclosed with cut sandstone coping and cap-stones, and the graves are marked with Government headstones. Nearly \$5,000 has been expended on this burying place. Post Commanders: W. H. Morris, Luther Gilmore, H. L. Partridge, T. D. Ganer, W. P. Scholl, W. H. Porter, R. D. Talbot, J. D. Scott, A. M. Sourbeer, O. E. Peters, W. C. King, George W. Gould, Mills Voris, R. E. Holloway, W. C. Weaver, Augustus Martin, and John H. Lyles.

In 1895 was held the first reunion at Parsons, under the impulse given by this Post. These reunions have been held annually since, under the direction of a committee and officers elected by those who participate therein.

Representative Citizens and When They Came to Parsons

William Busby, 1889; Jeremiah B. Boyd, 1878; W. H. Brehm, 1884; J. R. Brown, 1871; E. B. Stevens, 1871; Hon. Charles H. Kimball, 1872; Edwin H. Edwards, 1875; E. S. Ellis, 1897; Harry H. Lusk, 1878; Edward L. Skelton, Dr. Charles Rockhold, 1872; Charles Briggs Martin, 1884; Hon. Henry G. Webb, 1889; William Gillies, 1877; Michial Carr Gaffey, 1886; Lewis Hudson, 1881; James W. Terrell, 1882; Ard H. Ellis, 1877; James Emery, John J. Pierson, 1869; Robert D. Talbot, 1872; R. A. Weir, 1876; Mrs. Pauline Feess, 1876; Charles Feese, 1876; Dr. E. W. Boardman, 1888; C. H. Howlett, 1871; W. F. Grierson, 1876; Hon. J. B. Morris, 1875; Prof. J. C. Olson, Luther W. Welch, Charles A. Lambert, 1878; J. P. Hindenach, 1870; B. F. Dienst, 1893; Dr. James Heacock, Ebenezer H. McCreery, 1880; George W. Hawk, about 1870; E. H. Wells, Hezekiah A. Wade, 1890; Thomas N. Sedgewick, 1896; Dr. J. Stanley Tinder, Dr. John W. Tinder, 1889; George K. Ratliff, 1878; Dr. J. M. Kleiser, Jan. 9, 1872; Perry S. White, 1881; W. N. Barrows, 1878; O. H. Stewart, 1886; Henry Bashelier, 1891; Dr. Albert Smith, C. W. Ryan, 1891; Asa Smith, 1871; David V. Reed, Irwin Smith, 1871; Fred H. Brown,

George W. Hall, 1871; Wm. Sullivan, 1879; Ed. Bero Jr., 1872; Millard F. Smith, 1871; J. Christian Appich, 1871; Don Carlos Welch, 1896; Dr. Andrew Ten Brook, 1884; J. M. Birt, 1893; James C. Gillies, 1887; E. J. ^{Brown} Bouchard, W. H. Lewis, 1880; L. R. Roter, 1897; Charles B. Fessenden Jr., 1871; T. R. Clark, July 4, 1877; James Shone, ~~about 1877 or 1878~~; Ambrose McElroy Sourbeer, July 24, 1873; F. C. Cowden, Martin V. Davis, 1868; Milton M. Rouch, 1880; Nelson E. Allen, 1882; Saunders S. Biggs, June, 1876; W. S. Hoke, 1874; A. C. Hoke, William O'Herin, 1896; J. F. Russell, January, 1872; William Widmer, 1875; G. S. Anderson, about 1868; B. F. Briggs, 1876; Charles W. Maier, 1894; E. O. Ellis, J. B. Hotchkiss, 1878; C. E. Welch, William G. Kock, 1887; Mrs. Hettie Reed, C. M. Johnson, 1883; H. W. Raber, 1881; Dr. G. W. Gabriel, 1870; Nicholas Anderson, 1872; M. G. Ewing, 1877; C. F. Gehring, 1891; Henry Schmitz, 1873; William H. Maddocks, 1889; James A. Wilson, 1886; C. L. Anderson, 1873; Mrs. S. E. Thurber, 1873.

The Bender Slaughter-Pen

About the last of 1870 a family of Hollanders, or Germans, consisting of four persons—a man, his wife, son and daughter—moved on the north-east quarter of section 13, township 31, range 17, Osage township. The man was known as William Bender, the son and daughter as John and Kate.

They erected a small frame house, 16 by 24 feet, which was divided into two parts by studding, on which hung an old wagon sheet for a partition. In the front part they had a few articles for sale, such as tobacco, crackers, sardines, candy, powder and shot. Just outside the door was a plain sign, "Groceries." In the front room were also two beds. They also pretended to furnish lunch and entertainment for travelers. In the back room, almost up against the partition studding, a hole just large enough to let a man down had been cut in the floor, the door to which raised with a leather strap. Under this an excavation had been made in the ground, leaving a hole some six or seven feet in diameter and about the same depth. It was supposed that when a victim was killed in the daytime he was thrown into this hole until night, when he would be taken out and buried. Little was known of the family generally. They repelled rather than invited communication with their neighbors. Kate traveled

over the country somewhat, giving spiritualistic lectures, and like entertainments, but created very little stir or comment. The two young people occasionally went to church or singing-school, and the men frequently attended public meetings in the township.

The place was on the road, as then traveled, from Osage Mission to Independence. During 1871 and 1872 several parties had traveled the road, making inquiries for persons who were missing, who had last been heard from at Fort Scott or Independence. About March 10, 1873, a public meeting was held at Harmony Grove school house in district 30, to discuss the herd law. The matter of so many people being missing, and the fact that suspicion rested upon the people of Osage township, were spoken of. It was said a vigorous search should be made, under the sanction of a search warrant. Both of the Benders were present. Father Dick said, "Commence the search at my house" and Father Dienst said, "Yes, and go directly from there to my house." Old man Bender, who sat between them made no reply. About the 1st of March, 1873, Dr. William York had left his home on Onion Creek, in Montgomery County, in search of a man and child by the name of Loucher, who had left Independence for Iowa during the previous winter and had never thereafter been heard of by their friends. Dr. York reached Fort Scott, and started to return March 8th, but never reached home. In the fore part of April, Col. A. M. York, with some fifty citizens from Montgomery County, started

from Independence to make a search for his brother. They went as far as Fort Scott but could get no clue to the missing man. On their return they visited the Bender place and tried to induce Kate, who professed to be a clairvoyant, to make an effort to help discover the Doctor. But Kate was able to successfully elude their efforts without throwing any suspicion on herself. That night the Bender family left their place, went to Thayer where they purchased tickets to Humboldt, and took the northbound train at 5 o'clock on the following morning. A day or two thereafter their team was found hitched a short distance from Thayer, and apparently nearly starved. It was about the 1st of May that a party passing the Bender place noticed the stock wandering around as though wanting care. On going to the stable he found the team gone, and a calf half dead in a pen, evidently starving to death. He then went to the house, but found no one there. He notified the township trustee, who, with other parties, went to the premises and broke into the house, where they found nearly everything in usual order, little if anything aside from clothing and bed clothing having been taken. A sickening stench almost drove them from the house. The trap door in the back room was raised, and it was discovered that in the hole beneath was clotted blood which produced the stench. The house was removed from where it stood, but nothing further was found under it. In a garden nearby a depression was noticed, and upon digging down the body of Dr. York was found buried, head downward,

his feet being scarcely covered. His skull was smashed in, and his throat cut from ear to ear. On farther search seven more bodies were found, all of whom, except one, were identified by their friends, viz., Loucher and his little girl, seven or eight years old, buried in one hole; William Boyle, McCratty, Brown, and McKenzie. The other body was never identified. It is altogether probable that other parties were murdered, whose bodies were never found. From the victims the Benders seemed to have procured, as far as was afterwards ascertained, about the following money and property: From Boyle, \$1,900; from McCratty, \$2,600; from Brown, \$37, a team of horses and a wagon; from McKenzie, forty cents; from Dr. York, \$10, a pony and saddle. A part of the property which they had disposed of was afterwards recognized and restored to the friends of the murdered men.

Those who attempted to follow the Benders became satisfied of the following facts: They took the train at Thayer and all went as far as Chanute, where John and Kate got off, and took the M. K. & T. train south, on which they went to Red River, in the Indian Territory, which was then the terminus of the road. Here they were subsequently joined by the old folks who seemed to have gone to St. Louis after John and Kate left them at Chanute. Detectives thought they were able to trace their wanderings through Texas and New Mexico. Parties supposed to be the Benders were apprehended in several parts of the country, and several were brought back to

this country for identification, who proved to have little, if any, resemblance to this butcher gang. Two women supposed to be the old woman and Kate, were arrested in Michigan, in 1890, and brought to this county on requisition. On habeas corpus proceedings they were released, the court being satisfied they were not the Benders. However, some parties who were well acquainted with the Bender family still assert that these were the real Bender women.

Several parties who lived near the Benders were supposed to be implicated with them in their crimes, and some of them were arrested, but upon examination they were discharged, there not being sufficient evidence to hold them for trial. One or two of those thus arrested brought suit for false imprisonment, and obtained a verdict for a small amount of damages.

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Notes

The Grecian and Carnation Circles (pages 41 and 42) were rival circles. W. J. Wirt and wife were prominent in the Grecian, while Judge and Mrs. Atkinson were active members of the Carnation Circle.

At the time of the Bender excitement, people living in the immediate vicinity were afraid to kill a chicken for fear the blood would be taken for human blood, and cause them to be suspected of participation in the murders.

The following churches should be added: West Side Methodist, Christian Science, and West Side Catholic.

And also: Oakwood Cemetery, Y. W. C. A.

BELL BOOKCRAFT SHOP
Parsons, Kansas

