

Kansas City, Kansas:

ITS PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE!

By WILLIAM E. CONNELLEY,

Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society.

THIRD EDITION

The First and Second editions of Mr. Connelley's excellent address were exhausted so quickly, that it has herewith been published in pamphlet form to supply the unusual demand for them.

Copies can be had for distribution to friends at 5 cents each or 6 for 25 cents.

EXPLANATORY

It is the purpose of this pamphlet to, in part, supply "a long felt want" in this community, as to a better understanding of the part this community took when the "wells of the gold" commenced to gush early (over 344 in 1852) on that crisis of Democracy, which made Kansas a free state, and it is fondly hoped will envelop "all the kingdoms of the earth."

The joint meeting of the executives of the Wyandotte County Good Government club, and the Wyandotte County Historical Society, recently held in the High School auditorium, is attracting the attention of prominent men and women in many parts of the country.

Only a few days ago, a gentleman from Baldwin City, Kansas, who had been visiting a friend here, called to get half a dozen copies of Mr. Connelley's address. This gentleman is one of the faculty of Baker University, the oldest college in this state, and will give the courses to some of the students in the university. This gentleman, who does not want his name mentioned, because he does not want to be looked upon as a critic, finding fault with the work of the public schools, or higher educational institutions, yet he says that the people study of Kansas history is sadly neglected, and too often misinterpreted, thus causing a lack of state pride. He said, that Mr. Connelley is correct when he says: "The history of this city should be taught in the schools. Historic landmarks in direction, approved by the people, ought to become the basis for moral, social and political achievement. The history of the town should become one of its chief assets. You have here a great asset for civic pride, moral strength, and even commercial sake."

He further said: "I have a friend right here in this city, who at one time was one of the board of examiners for teachers applying for certificates, and he showed me some of the answers on Kansas state history. Many of these answers showed almost a complete lack of knowledge of the subject, although as most other branches this class of 45 or 50 applicants were reasonably well informed."

It will be sufficient to give only two of the questions and answers:

Question—"About what year was Kansas admitted into the Union?"

Answer—"At one time slavery existed in Kansas territory, but in 1853, WILLIAM WALKER, a free state Democrat, was elected provisional governor of the territory and soon thereafter President Pierce appointed ELMER the first governor of Kansas territory. The proslavery Southern Democrats soon drove him out of the territory. Later, in 1854, FRANKLIN PIERCE, governor of the Southern proslavery Democrats from the territory and elected CHARLES WALKER, a free state Democrat, governor, and about the commencement of the Civil War, Kansas was admitted as a free state."

It is evident that this applicant for a teacher's certificate had accepted a short-term of Kansas history, but the applicant's error was certainly corrected. That the answer to the following question had not was surely word of truth in it:

Question—"What was Quantrill's Raid?"

Answer—"Quantrill's Raid was a raid led by Jim Lane through Kansas, destroying property and killing people."

Could anything be further from the truth concerning the facts in the case? With these conceptions of Kansas, is it any wonder that there should be a lamentable lack of Kansas state pride abroad in the land? The dissemination of such a prejudiced as expressed by the above answer, is sure to be deplored more than that of the Kaiser's "Kultur."

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By WILLIAM E. CONNELLEY

Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society.

Read at the meeting of the Good Government Club and Wyandotte County Historical Society, at the High School Building, April 4, 1918.

(NOTE—The meeting was under the efficient management of the committee of the Good Government Club, with Mrs. Z. Nason chairman of the meeting. It was a notable fact that there was not an absentee from the published program.)

I trust you will not regard it as bad taste if I speak a word personal before I read my paper.

I became a resident of Wyandotte County in 1881. In the winter of that year I taught a school at Tithon—now Roster Springs. I was always interested in history. The best way in which to study the history of a State is to begin with the local annals of your county and town. That is how I began my study of Kansas history. I found little in the books of that date. In 1883 I was elected County Clerk of this county. In that office I found the key to the history of the old Wyandotte Nation. It had carried westward with it from Ohio some of the principal institutions of civilization, and these were planted here—the church, law, schools, social order. I searched through all the county offices. I read the old session laws. I interviewed the older settlers. I went through files of old newspapers. Those things I really wanted I did not find. Then I turned to the Indians. I went to see the other members of the tribe. I visited the reservation of the Southern Wyandottes. There I began to get results. I pursued this work for many years. I found the records of what had been done here. These records were in the process of destruction. No one seemed to know they had any value whatever. They were freely given to me. They are now a part of my private library. They form one of the most valuable private collections in the country.

When these papers and journals were assembled they made a complete record of one of the really important movements in American history. I made many efforts to get these published, but without result. I finally prevailed on the Nebraska Historical Society to publish a portion of them. The volume

which that institution brought out has been recognized by students as one of the source books of the history of our common country. I can say this in good taste, I think, as the edition of the book was long since exhausted. The work is out of print. It can now be found only in libraries.

The publication of my book was one of the surprises of the time. It was not known that I had any interest in historical matters. When the book appeared, D. W. Wilder, author of Wilder's Annals of Kansas, wrote me a letter of congratulation. He said it was odd that a manager should come here and gather the material and write a volume on a subject he had found only enough about for a single paragraph.

I shall always rejoice that I came to Kansas. I am proud of this magnificent commonwealth. Some of my children were born here. One of them rests in the soil of this city—where soon I shall myself go to the grave. And I shall go the more willingly for having the thought that I, in the humble capacity of student, did this city and county, and the State, a genuine service in the preservation of the history of the first effort in the West to establish freedom.

This is not my first appearance in this room to speak of the history of this county. On the 15th day of November, 1901, I addressed the High School from this room. My subject on that occasion was "The First Indian Tribes of Wyandotte County." My object then was to arouse interest in the pre-Territorial history of this county. For if interest can be created, investigation will easily follow. There are many historical features connected with Wyandotte County which should be thoroughly studied. Few counties in Kansas are so rich in events which produce a lasting power on the State as is Wyandotte county. And as a field for the study of local history it is unsurpassed in Kansas. I found it so. The first work I ever published is now recognized with authority all over the land, and it deals with events which occurred largely inside the limits of this city. And as to the importance of those events it is enough to say that they were the prelude to the Civil War. Growing out of them came the Repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the organization of the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, the struggle for a free State, the triumph of Freedom, and the establishment of universal liberty in America. But I fear that few of the citizens of this growing metropolis of a great State have given these highly important matters enough consideration to realize their full import. Let me try to impress on you here this

evening that this city is a milestone in human progress. Residence in this city is a proud privilege. Historic importance of a community should begin pride of citizenship in that community. And this pride of citizenship should be the incentive to high achievement. What I have in mind this evening is to stir you to a study of your own local history. Study it and talk it and write and preach it until it shall become in your citizenship and especially in your children—the basis of pride and the boast of his true superiority.

I shall try at this time to emphasize some of the events of which I have spoken in order that it shall be no task for even those who have given the history of this county little or no attention to assimilate and utilize them.

In prehistoric times this land was the home of the Caddoan linguistic family of North American Indians. Some of the tribes of this great family are the Pawnees, the Arapahos, the Wichitas, the Warces and the Caddos. Their empire stretched from the Gulf to the Canadian border, and embraced that country known as the Great Plains, its greatest extent eastward was to the mouth of the Wabash. The time when this Indian family extended itself over the vast extent of the richest portion of America, the future students of history and archaeology must determine.

At that same time there was living in those mountains of the Appalachians

chain lying about the head waters of the Ohio, and over beyond toward the ocean, the Siouan linguistic Indian family of North America. This family was Siouan composed of various groups and tribes. Knowledge of the great numbers of the buffalo ranging the plains of the Caddoan possessions coming to them, the Siouans began a migration westward, intending to come into these vast meadows so overrun with the wild cattle. For the food quest has ever governed the movements of primitive tribes and nations. This migration was not such a movement as we should witness in our day. It was deliberate, an Indian march ever more. Perhaps they lagged at one point a century. And maybe they made one hundred miles in the next twelve months. They stepped long at the Falls of the Ohio. At the mouth of the Wabash they encountered the Iroquois Pawnees, who returned with them down the Ohio. At the mouth of that river, the Mississippi was crossed. It seems that the Dordick group of Siouans was the portion of the family coming to the Mississippi down the Ohio. On the western shore a division of opinion or inclination became manifest. A part of the group desired to descend the Mississippi. The others were bent on going up that stream. A separation occurred. These going down were called Quapaws—three going with the current. The group ascending the Mississippi were called Onasas—those passing against the current. These came up to the mouth of the Missouri, up which stream they ascended. A long stop was made at the mouth of the Osage. It may be that the Caddoans had to be crowded to the westward from that point. There the Onasas and Pawnees became separate tribes, crossed the Missouri and proceeded overland to the nations about the mouth of the Platte. The Osages began a slow ascent of the Osage, coming out on the prairies of Kansas, as what is now Barton County, about the time of Pike's Expedition. He found them in what is now Vernon County, Missouri. From the mouth of the Osage, the Kansas Indians came

up the Missouri and made camps of the country about the mouth of the Kansas river. It is quite probable that their principal town was on the William Mahall farm, near White Church, in Wyandotte County. They possessed this land until 1825, when they ceded it to the United States and went on a reservation. At the same time the Osages ceded all their lands to the United States and were assigned a reservation.

Up to this time the United States had extinguished Indian titles to secure land for white settlers, who were ever pushing into the wilderness. Two motives caused a reversal of this policy when Kansas was added to the public domain. One was that there were many small tribes and remnants of tribes dispossessed and waiting to be dispossessed of their diminished reservations out of the Mississippi. New homes for these Indians had to be provided. Then, slavery, with its eye ever on the public domain, had shut itself out from the west since of thirty-six by the Missouri Compromise. Kansas was north of that line, and by the Compromise dedicated to freedom. It was the hope of slavery that some means would be found to evade the terms of the Compromise. But so such means appearing, a temporary expedient was taken upon to prevent the settlement of Kansas. The Indian tribes east of the Mississippi were given reservations frothing on Missouri and occupying all the eastern portion of Kansas. This closed the country to white settlement. And slavery, working secretly through governmental channels felt that a free State to be formed of the land to become Kansas was permanently deferred.

In the execution of this plan the Delaware Indians were given the land in the fork of the Missouri and Kansas rivers. The Shawnees were given land on the north side of the Kansas river fronting on the State of Missouri. These tribes were wanted on their new lands before the year 1820.

The Wyandottes were among the last of the Kansas Indians to consent to

more to the West. In 1832 a delegation consisting of William Walker and other Wyandots, examined the Platte Purchase—all that part of Missouri west of a north and south line drawn through the mouth of the Kansas river—with a view to taking it for a West-
 —ers home. I have among my papers the letter written by Governor Walker respecting on that country, but this paper must be sent to him to permit its insertion here. The Wyandots were not satisfied with the "purchase" and it was eleven years before they finally abandoned their homes at Upper Sandusky for a reservation in the Kansas country. They had been guaranteed a reservation of 148,000 acres, but they found the tract allotted to them (on the Kansas) too far from civilization. And it had been selected, too, by another tribe. There was not then a full-blood Wyandot living—the last one having died in Canada in 1820. The Wyandots were both civilized and Christianized, and they wished to live near white settlements. They made an effort to buy a home adjoining Missouri from the Shawnees, but these finally refused to sell. They then turned to the Delawares, whom they had received and welcomed when those Indians were driven from Pennsylvania. The Wyandots had given them a large part of the present State of Ohio. They now agreed to sell the Wyandots thirty-six sections of land and to give them three sections—all in the immediate fork of the Missouri and Kansas rivers. For this cession the Wyandots paid the Delawares \$48,484. The line on the west side of the tract runs from river to river, beginning just west of Muncie. At the time of this purchase the Wyandots were encamped at Westport, Missouri, and they immediately began to move to their new home in what is now Wyandotte county. This was in the fall of 1843. Governor Walker took the old Delaware paymaster for his home. It stood on the north bank of Jersey Creek where the present Blitch street extended would strike its site. John M. Armstrong built a home just below him on the south side of the

stream. Charles B. Garrett, brother-in-law to the Walkers—built a home back from Jersey Creek, a little, and just east of Seventh street. Driver made his home on what is now Quindaro Boulevard, about Seventh street. Mat-
 —the W. Walker built a home on the high land overlooking the Missouri and not far from where George Posler afterwards erected his mansion. Spillig built a cabin on the height overlooking the Kansas river near the east end of Spillig avenue. Silas Armstrong made his home near the south end of what was Warpole street, and Matthew Macdoner lived in the same vicinity. Isaac Walker and Joel W. Garrett took that fine tract of Kansas river bottom at Muncie so long owned by Mr. Sanford Hall, George I. Clark, Heat Chief, White Wing, Mrs. Micks, the Zanes, Kitchellites, and the Browns, settled along what is now Quindaro boulevard. When Abner Guthrie came from Dayton, Ohio, to marry the beautiful Quindaro Brown, south of what was later the town lot of Quindaro, and the town perhaps included some of the land of his wife and was named for her. Thus did the Wyandots settle themselves here in this fine land. They soon erected in Councilhouse—a seat of government. It stood in the present intersection of Fourth street and Nebraska avenue.

While it is important to know where the principal men of the Wyandot Nation set up their homes here, there are far more important matters to be considered. What had they carried into this wilderness waste, so soon to blossom and to break into a beacon to light up the way of liberty? They were Indians of that dominating fungus stock which had spread itself by conquest until it was supreme in Eastern America. But they were reinforced by the intermixture of white blood. This America, the way of the best in Irish from the Shenandoah Valley, as were the Browns. The Zanes were Pennsylvanians—men of affairs—and their sons founded Whelling, Zanesville and other towns. The Ar-

strongs were also from Pennsylvania. These families and others, were founded by captives taken from the frontier settlements who intermarried with the Wyandot women. There was already a large infusion of French blood in the Wyandot people. When the Wyandots came to Kansas no member of the tribe was more than one-quarter Indian. The tribe was Indian—the people three-fourths white. They brought with them their church, code of laws for their government. They set up their institutions here. They enforced law. They executed one of their number for murder—perhaps the first legal execution in what is now Kansas. The execution was carried out on the banks of the Missouri just above the mouth of Jersey Creek, and I have the death warrant and the confession of the murderer in my library.

The church which the Wyandots brought with them was the first Mission ever founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the world. It was founded at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, by John Stewart in 1818, and was the Wyandot Nation in 1818. It flourished and became famous as one of the outposts of Zion. James B. Finley, Russell Bigelow, and other founders of Western Methodism, presided over it. It was both school and church, and most of the children of the Wyandots were educated there, and those Wyandots men and women who composed the Nation in 1843 had been through its educational, its civilizing, and its Christianizing courses. It was the light of the Nation, its central point and force. The buildings where it had performed its functions were indeed left behind, but the Church—the light, the life—was transported to Kansas and set up here. And it grew. The division of the M. E. Church, in 1844, shook this mission to its foundation here in its new location. But it withstood abuse, misrepresentation, temptation, governmental interference, arson, slander, arson and violence, for its feet were on the rock of ages, and it is today the Washington Avenue M. E. Church of your city, a power for

good as it has always been. I am sure that many of its members do not know its glorious history. It should now be called The Mission, and its achievement of a century should become the inspiration to move it to extraordinary efforts in these days of doubt and materialism.

The Wyandots had been political leaders in the councils of the Red Nations for more than a century before the settlement of Ohio. The fugitives had made request of the land from the shores of the present New England to the Mississippi. Their seat was in what is now New York. The Nations had themselves been destroyed as nations by their hatred, the In-
 —guels. In wandering, starvation, and travail they had united the fragments of their tribes and had grown to be a nation known as the Wyandots. They came to be in accord with their conquering kindred because of the onerous advance of the white man. The Wyandots were set by the fugitives to be overmasters of the Western holdings—the country from Pennsylvania to the Mississippi. In the wars to prevent the advance of the white man into the country of the Great Lakes and the Valley of the Ohio the tribes formed the North-western Confederacy. At the head of this league of Indian nations stood the Wyandots. They were the keepers of the council fires.

When the Wyandots seated themselves in the fork of the Kansas and Missouri rivers, slavery seemed more secure in its position than at any other time in the history of America. While that institution deplored the existence of the Missouri Compromise, the limitations and disadvantages of that measure had seemingly been overcome by the Indian policy of the Government, then in the coils of the intrigues of the Democratic party, by the placing of the Esquimaux tribes on the public lands fronting on the west line of Missouri. But of the Democrats are danger in this expedient—especially in permitting the Wyandots to settle in the key and commanding position of the border. William C.

Price of Missouri protested against this in the councils of his party, as he has often told me. They were more civilized and better educated than the other tribes, and they were from Northern Ohio—a country opposed to slavery. They were good business men and had abandoned the hunter life of the Indian. They would want their property to increase in value. They would desire commercial development. All their weight and influence would be toward organized government—from which they were deprived only by the western line of Missouri. So argued Judge Price and the Pro-Slavery wing of the Missouri Democracy.

Political conditions in Missouri at the time of the settlement of the Wyandots here on her western border justified the anxiety of the slavery extremists of that State. Senator Benton was drifting into Free-soilism. The party was becoming—had become—the slave party. He saw that he was to be thrown down from the high place he had held for more than a quarter of a century. His opponents realized that to depose him would require such a contest as might destroy the Democratic party in Missouri. This was getting under way in 1844, and it increased in fury for the next ten years. Benton advocated the settlement of the public lands west of the Emigrant Tribes—the lands of Central Kansas. The violent absorption on the strip and in the press were bound to have some reaction or influence on the Indian tribes along the border. And this culminated in the year 1852. I have believed that the action taken here resulted from the efforts of Senator Benton to accomplish his political purpose. The evidence justifies that belief. But I confess that I am becoming more of the mind to accept the word of Abner Guthrie when he says he acted alone.

What was done here?

In the winter of 1851-52, and in the spring of 1852, the Emigrant Indian Tribes petitioned Congress to establish a territorial Government over the Indian Country. This movement be-

gan as far back as 1848, when a great Council of all these tribes was convoked at Fort Leavenworth to consider the condition in which they found themselves. At that Council the old league known as the Northwestern Confederacy was revived among the Indians. The Wyandots were confirmed in their ancient capacity of keepers of the Council Fire. Henceforth any movement for the future modification of conditions in their country would be likely to originate in the Wyandot Nation.

When it was seen that little or no attention was given to the petitions lodged with Congress, some of the Wyandots believed a more energetic course should be taken. In a communication to the Wyandotte Gazette, October 4, 1852, Abner Guthrie said:

"Eighteen years ago I became a resident of what is now the State of Kansas. Ten years ago, military and also I propose to the people of the then Territory to make an effort to secure a 'Jeffersonian Government.'"

In a statement made in writing at a later date concerning this matter, Governor William Walker said:

"The first movement looking to an organization of this Territory was made in 1848. Senator Douglas, then Chairman of Territories, reported a Bill for that purpose; but the measure met meeting with much favor with the Senate, was laid aside and but little more said about the measure till the summer of 1852, when a few daring and resolute spirits in the Wyandot nation determined on making a demonstration in favor of its organization, by concerting measures for holding an election for a delegate to Congress. But a serious question at home had to be solved: Who would go, if elected, and run the risk of having to pay his own expenses to, at and from Washington, as it was extremely doubtful whether the delegate so elected would be admitted to a seat. Mr. A. C. (Abner) Guthrie, a man of talents and some experience in public life, having done the state some service, in other responsible positions, offered his services and was duly elected amidst the

opposition of Government officials, the military, especially."

Whether Abner Guthrie acted "solitary and alone" in the initiation of this movement is not of so much consequence as the fact that aggressive action was taken. He had the hearty support of the Wyandot Nation, especially at Governor William Walker. And it is unnecessary to inquire here into the influence which may have been exerted on this matter by political conditions in Missouri. Nor need we concern ourselves for the purposes of this paper with the agitation for the construction of a railroad from the Missouri river to the Pacific Ocean. It is sufficient to say that both these matters were of interest to the Emigrant Tribes, and are among the events responsible for the organization of the Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory.

The Wyandot Nation acted first, as was expected. On the 12th day of October, 1852, an election was held in the Council House of the Wyandot Nation for the selection of a delegate to Congress. There were thirty-five votes cast—every vote for Abner Guthrie. This action could not be permitted to pass without a protest from the slave power, then closely watching the Indian country. In Missouri, Senator David R. Atchison, William C. Price, and other intense Pro-Slavery men had in hand and keeping not only the slavery interest of Missouri but of the South at large in those things affecting this Indian country. The Government of the United States was in the hands of the Democratic party, which had been seized on and made the party of slavery. So, the slave power could command the services of the military. At the instance of Senator Atchison, Mr. Guthrie was threatened with arrest by the officers at Fort Leavenworth for an attempt at "rebellion." This threat being disregarded, feeling that Guthrie was not to be intimidated, it was determined a new election for delegate to Congress, to be held at the Fort. Guthrie stood for delegate in this election, and he de-

feated the military candidates by a vote of 54 to 16. Opposition to Guthrie at Leavenworth ceased, but it was revived at Washington when he appeared there. He was not admitted to a seat in the House, but he did effective work nevertheless. He caused William F. Hall, member of Congress from Missouri, to introduce a bill for the organization of the Territory of the Platte. This bill was referred to the Committee on Territories, but it was never reported. William R. Nicholson of Nebraska, on the 24 of February, 1853, brought a bill for the organization of Nebraska Territory. The basis of this proposed territory were the same as those in the Hall bill; on the south, the thirty-sixth degree and thirty minutes; on the north, the fortieth degree; on the eastern summit of the Rocky Mountains; on the east by Missouri. The South opposed the Richardson bill, but it passed the House on the 16th of February, 1853, by a vote of 92 to 41. It failed in the Senate. This the matter stood at the adjournment of Congress, in March, 1853. But the question was up. The country was aroused. The challenge to slavery had been made by this Kansas man. The issue fraught with such mighty consequences, had been made by a small tribe of Indians—the Wyandot Nation, whose seat of government was in what became this city.

Both sides, exerted themselves during the Congressional recess. There is fame of organizing the new Territory took radical and effective measures which would go to Washington with the prestige of this government back of him.

In the summer of 1852 the question of the organization of Nebraska agitated the Wyandot Nation more than at any previous period. The principal men felt that they were committed to the movement and that it would prove of great benefit to the people. The Government sent officers to confer the movement in the spring of the Emigrant Tribes. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs was sent out from Washington to visit the

various reservations and try to hold the ground for slavery. This made it an uphill fight, for the Indians were directly under the influence, and even the control, of the Commissioner—then the Wyandots.

But the Wyandot Nation did not falter. These Indians supported Guthrie. They set faith in their Provisional Government plan. The convention to organize this movement was appointed for a certain day. This day is not now certainly known, but it was probably about the time in August in which elections were formerly held. This was also the time for the Green Corn Feast. The date selected was probably August 31st. The movement for constructing a railroad from the Missouri river to the Pacific was carried to the Indian country. A meeting for this road was appointed to be held in the Council House on the 26th of July, 1853. It was decided to combine the two meetings. Delegates were requested and the Delaware, Potawatamies, Shawnees and Miami were represented. Perhaps other tribes sent delegates. Friends of Senator Benton of Missouri, were present. Indeed, William Gilpin of Gilpin-town in Jackson county, prepared a series of resolutions which were found as satisfactory that they were adopted as a basic declaration on which a Territorial organization should be projected. They were accepted for this purpose after their examination by the principal Wyandots and some addresses had been made by Governor Walker.

Thus, on the 26th day of July, 1853, there was formed here the Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory. William Walker was elected Governor, and George L. Clark was elected Territorial Secretary. The Council was composed of H. C. Miller, Isaac Mandy and M. H. Walker. Abolard Guthrie was nominated for delegate to Congress.

The new Government acted at once and with vigor. The election for congressional delegate was called for the second Tuesday in October. The Com-

missioner of Indian affairs became active in the slavery interest. It was known that Guthrie would have a free State. It was necessary to find a candidate who would stand for slavery. The choice fell upon Hor. Thomas Johnson, then in charge of the Shawnee Manual Labor School, a short distance from Westport. Some of the politicians of this remarkable election are now part of my private library. They show that the work of the Indian Commissioner was effective. In the Miami precinct (now Pooka) Johnson received 50 votes—Guthrie none. The Wyandots stood by Guthrie. The vote there stood, Guthrie, 23; Johnson, 18. In Governor Walker's Journal, Monday, October 22, 1853, this entry appears:

"I suppose we may safely set down Thomas Johnson's election for delegate as certain. It is not at all surprising when we look at the fearful odds between the opposing candidates. Mr. Guthrie had only his personal friends to support him with their votes and influence, while the former had the whole power of the Federal Government, the presence and active support of his Commissioner in Indian affairs, the Military, the Indian Agent, Missionaries, Indian Traders, etc. A contestation that is irresistible."

Hadley D. Johnson, of Iowa, led over an invasion of illegal voters from his state and had them for him at what is now Nebraska City. Guthrie and the two Johnsons knocked for admission to the floor of the House. Neither of these gained the seat. But the organization of the Nebraska Country—the old Nebraska-into Territories was accomplished at that session of Congress. Abolard Guthrie had accomplished his purpose—had accomplished all he had hoped to do. Although he was never admitted to a seat in Congress, he had moved that body to do his will.

Now, what did the movement started here by Abolard Guthrie and supported by the Wyandot Nation do?

It forced the hand of the slave-

power.

It deadly held on Kansas-free territory by the Missouri Compromise.

It forced the repeal of the Missouri Compromise.

It forced the organization of Kansas and Nebraska Territories.

It precipitated the final conflict between freedom and slavery.

It caused the defeat of slavery in the new territory of Kansas. Its defeat here caused its overthrow in America.

It caused the formation of the Republican party.

In fact, the movement started here in Old Kansas—Kansas City, Kansas—changed the destiny of this Nation.

In 1853 Mr. Guthrie filed with Congress a claim for his expenses and per diem as delegate to Congress in this movement. He wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Committee having the consideration of his claim. In which he said:

"Allow me also, if you please, to submit the following proposition:

If your committee have any sufficient evidence, or can obtain any, that it was the intention of the party then in power, or any other party, to organize this Territory within any reasonable or definite period, I will abandon my claim.

If the committee have any sufficient evidence, or can procure any, that there was any other course as likely to succeed in securing an organization as that of sending to Congress a man acquainted with the condition, wants, soil, climate, and resources of the Territory, I will give up my claim.

If the committee have any sufficient evidence, or can get any, that it was not the desire of the slave power to secure this Territory, by quiet and sneaking legislation and colonization, for the benefit of its favorable institution, I will abandon my claim. But here I wish you to examine the law of 20th June, 1854, annexing this territory to the State of Missouri for political purposes, and the law of 1853, annexing to the same State forever and for all purposes the very large and fertile portion of this Territory lying between the Iowa State line and the Missouri

river, cutting as off entirely from contiguous free Territory, the effects of which were disastrously felt during our civil troubles, and to the present day, and also to the several abortive attempts of the late Mr. Douglas to organize this Territory.

If the committee have any sufficient evidence, or can obtain any, that this Territory would not eventually have been received into the Union as a slave state under the skillful management and well matured plans of southern statesmen and their northern friends, I will abandon my claim.

If the committee have any evidence, or can get any, that my movement for a government for Nebraska did not frustrate this design, I will abandon my claim.

If your committee have any sufficient evidence, or can obtain any, that the Republican party, would have been in existence but for this very act of mine in forcing upon the consideration of Congress the policy of erecting a territorial government over this magnificent region (which the slave power had already practically grasped, and was guarding with jealous care), I will abandon all claim to per diem and mileage.

If a community is to be rated in historical importance by the origin in it of vital and momentous forces for good, Kansas City, Kansas, is the first city in Kansas in this regard. Lawrence, Topeka, Leavenworth, and all the towns which figured so extensively and fought so well in the Border Wars, were but consequences of the movement which started in Old Wyandotte. Historic importance in directions approved by the people ought to become the source of pride. It ought to become the basis for moral, social and political achievement. The history of this town should become one of its chief assets. The history of this city should be taught in your schools. You have here a grand scene for civic pride, moral strength, and even commercial value, things which had their origin here. You should teach them. You should erect monuments. One of Abolard Guthrie, and one of William Walker,

each of teenage and of heroic size, should stand in Huron Place. One of these to the Wyandotte Nation should be given. I think you have not realized its worth. Perhaps your citizens do not know of the great rise in the old Huron Cemetery. One of granite a hundred feet high should be built in the crossing of Fourth street and Nebraska avenue. On it should be this inscription: "Here began the Final Battle in America Against Slavery and for Freedom."

In conclusion I will say that in Kansas there are a number of towns and communities which stand as beacons along the way of human progress. There is one glory of Topeka, another glory of Lawrence and another glory of the Marías des Cygnos. The glory of one differs from the glory of another. And above them all shines the glory of Old Wyandotte—this town—Kansas City, Kansas. She struck the first effective blow in this Western Land for Liberty.

Our Historical Society.

Pursuant to notice given in the local papers, a number of the members of the Wyandotte County Historical Society met at the Grand Hotel, Wednesday evening, June 21, 1914, and reorganized by the election of the following officers:

E. F. Heisler was elected president, to succeed the late Vincent J. Lane, who died August 11, 1914; Mrs. D. R. Colwell was chosen secretary, to succeed the late Edward Haron, who died November 1, 1915; Henry McGraw was elected treasurer, to succeed the late A. N. Meyer, who died in August, 1910.

Directors: Samuel Beattie, Earl W. Morgan, Henry McGraw, E. R. Lane, Mrs. Sara Judd Greenman and E. F. Heisler of Kansas City, Kas., and W. E. Connelley of Topeka, Kas.

After the election of officers the members present adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, E. F. Heisler, a member of this society, announced the discovery of the site of the first mission established in Kansas, by the Rev. Thomas Johnson in 1820, in the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24, Tp. 11, Range 24, E. Wyandotte County, Kansas, and

Whereas, certain interested parties of the Methodist Episcopal Church, viz., the Rev. Bishop E. K. Heisler, Rev. C. K. Barrett, son of Rev. Nathan Barrett, principal of the high school of the Shawnee Methodist Mission, and Rev. Josh Spencer of Glilot, Mo., an early missionary among the Shawnee Indians, went to the town of Turner, Kas., in 1912, to seek the location of this site and surroundings of the said site, but failed to find anyone in that vicinity to tell them anything about it, and

Whereas, afterwards Edward Haron, secretary of the Wyandotte County Historical Society; Wm. M. Johnson, treasurer, son of Rev. Thomas Johnson; Luke Babcock, and E. F. Heisler, editor of the Kansas City Sun, all members

of this Historical Society, afterwards went to the spot, uncovered a part of the foundation rocks, found there (after this about two parcels of these rocks were taken out), took a photograph of these rocks, and sent it to the above named interested gentlemen, and

Whereas, Members of this society have placed temporary markers at various historical points, including the Baptist, the Quaker and the Methodist missions, the grave of Walpole and the grave of the Shawnee Prophet, the site of the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention, Chouteau's Trading Post, and various other points of interest; and

Whereas, We believe these points are of sufficient public importance to call for permanent markers or monuments;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, That steps should be taken to place suitable permanent markers or monuments at these and other places of historical interest in this locality as early as practicable.

In view of the fact that many of the earlier settlements were made in this part of the territory, it is important that the data of these settlements should be correctly recorded and their location correctly determined.

Charles Blackstock, one of the early members of this society, who made his home in this county on what is now a part of Section 21, Township 11, Range 25, east, about the year 1835 or 1836, before Ft. Leavenworth was established further up the Missouri River, said that the final resting place of such men as Walpole, known in history as the "friend of the white man," and the Shawnee Prophet, the brother of Tecumseh, should be properly marked.

At a meeting of the directors of this society, the following resolution was offered by A. N. Meyer, and seconded by E. F. Heisler:

"Whereas, the city of Kansas City, Kansas, recently built a large retaining wall on the north side of the Huron Cemetery to assist in protecting the cemetery, and

"Whereas, the government of the United States, by solemn treaty ceded this cemetery to the Wyandotte tribe of Indians, as a burying ground, to have and to hold forever, as long as water shall run and grass shall grow,

"Therefore, we believe the government of the United States should appropriate not less than \$100,000 to properly protect the grounds, shrubbery and sacred monuments against destruction, and thus make it a respectable and sacred resting place for such distinguished members of this tribe as Walpole, known in history as the "friend of the white man," and Silar Armstrong, for many years the distinguished chief of this tribe of Indians."

Afterwards, viz., on the 30th day of June, 1915, the Historical Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Kansas dedicated a suitable granite monument on the site of the first mission established in Kansas, and efforts are being made by members of the Wyandotte County Historical Society to secure the erection of permanent monuments at other points of interest, as the people in the different localities may take interest in such matters.

Members of this Society have brightened out more "links" in the history of this state than the members of any other county society in the state.

And at this time this society has a larger list of members, which include now prominent citizens than any other county historical society in Kansas, and it is desirable that the Wyandotte County Historical Society should continue in the front rank.

Any person who has lived in the state six months is eligible to become a member.

209. Thomas J. White, Kansas City, Kas.
 210. Mrs. Lou Bradberry, Seattle, Wash.
 211. N. J. Manning, Kansas City, Kas.
 212. George T. Bruns, Eadsdale, Kan.
 213. J. W. Galtburg, Kansas City, Kas.
 214. Mrs. Emma Arnold Baker, Kansas City,
 215. Dr. T. C. Benson, Kansas City, Kas.
 216. F. A. Carlson, Kansas City, Kas.
 217. Mrs. Sarah Howard, Kansas City, Kas.
 218. Hattie M. Jacobson, Kansas City, Kas.

Already eight new members of the Historical Society have been received since. Mr. Connelley's address was sub-

(E) These Certificates of Membership are highly prized by all who have received them, as a souvenir of early Kansas days, and usually are framed by the owners, and the longer they are kept, the more valuable they will become.)

Mr. Connelley's Address

The address of the Secretary of the State Historical Society appears in this issue of the Kansas City Sun, by request of four persons not members of the society who came and joined the society the next day requesting that the whole address be published this week.

CONNELLEY'S ABLE ADDRESS.

(From the Kansas City Globe.)
 An evening for old-timers, with Wyandotte settlers of fifty and sixty years ago seated in the place of honor, and songs and tales of Civil War days and entertaining features, was the nature of the joint session last night of the County Historical society and the Good Government club.

The audience was not limited to old-time settlers, but a representative gathering, of old and young people these who have lived in the city on Kaw point long enough to feel an in-

terested in its history, came out in force. As had been announced, W. E. Connelley, secretary of the State Historical society, gave an able and interesting address on the history of old Wyandotte and later happenings. The different Indian tribes and their descendants, their share in the making of our city, and a general historical and genealogical survey of the subject proved to be the substance of his talk. He told of the old trading posts too, and traced the marking of many places within the county boundaries of interest from an historical point. Sketches from his manuscript related to the strife in pre-slavery times and later developments.

Mr. Henry McGrew, who came to settle here in the fall of '37, another speaker, paid tribute to E. F. Heider, who has lived here 46 years, the first teacher in Wyandotte. It is said of him that the people learned the states and their capitals by singing them.

Mr. McGrew related several interesting reminiscences which was listened to with much interest. In fact there was marked attention paid by the entire audience during the meeting.

Mr. Henry Daniels, of the Chamber of Commerce, uttered unlimited support of the next Liberty Loan drive.

Among the musical features were the scholastic numbers by the Pres-

ent school children, directed by Prof. Koontz. Mrs. D. E. Cornell, who has made the city her home for the last half a century, appeared on the stage in a charming costume of the olden days, to sing "They Drafted Him into the Army" and other once popular airs. Mrs. Hildins, of Kansas City University, and Mrs. Clyde Haidger were other soloists on the program, and Mrs. J. H. Lucas played instrumental numbers.

Compare the foregoing with the following from the Kansas City Journal:

Tells Wyandotte's History.

W. E. Connelley, secretary of the Kansas State Historical society, gave a history of the Wyandotte Indians in a talk last night at a historical and patriotic meeting held in the Ninth street high school auditorium. A number of the city's old settlers, who settled in the old town of Wyandotte, were present.

While we did not see any mention made of the meeting in the other Kansas City daily newspapers.

The boys of the Wyandotte Cigarret club have won another star for their crown. Not content with winning the prize of one hundred dollars offered any club of youngsters in the state making the best showing for last year, the boys made even a better showing this year. Today Mrs. George J. Stine, club organizer, is in receipt of a second check for one hundred dollars. The check was signed by John A. Edwards, live stock dealer of Eureka, Kas., who, as member of the anti-cigarret law, continues to sponsor the fight against the cigarret.

311 E. Santa Fe Street,
 Marquette, Mo., April 12.

E. F. Heider, Editor,
 Kansas City Sun.

Dear Sir: Mrs. L. W. Barnard has just sent me the Kansas City Sun of April 6th, with the very, very interesting account of the Wyandotte His-

torical Society meeting. William E. Connelley's address is wonderfully interesting, and while much of it I had heard before, yet I have never been so filled with pride as I have been since reading this address. That Kansas City, Kansas, or Wyandotte, as it has always been to me, has been my home for so many years. You know Father Joseph Townsend moved to Wyandotte before the opening of the Civil War, and many of these old Indian names are quite familiar to me. I think Wyandotte, even you, Mr. Heider, a remnant of unlimited circulation for your paper, for the week you have done for Wyandotte county, and I am sending a check as my small part in building up the monument of circulation. Am adding 25 cents, would be glad to have you send this issue, April 6th, to the following persons:

Miss Amy Westbrook, N. Sixth St.,
 Lyons, Iowa.

Leo Michelson, Manager Clinton
 Herald, Clinton, Iowa.

Mrs. Roy Yantis, 5735 Trust Ave.,
 Kansas City, Mo.

The Weekly please send to Mrs.
 Frankie T. Westbrook, 311 E. Santa
 Fe St., Marquette, Mo.

Would like to begin my paper with
 April 6th issue.

I would also be glad to join the
 Historical Society and whatever the
 cost it will be pleased to pay it and
 consider myself honored, too.

EXTRA COPIES CALLED FOR.

Many letters have already been received concerning Mr. Connelley's address as published in the Kansas City Sun last week. We will only have space this week for two of these letters; one from Marquette, Mo., and the other from a student in the State University;

Lawrence, Kansas, April 10, 1918.
 Editor Kansas City Sun:

Enclosed please find 25 cents in postage stamps for which please send

has extra copies of your paper containing the address of Wm. E. Connelly, in your city last Thursday, on the subject, "The Place of Wyandotte County in the History of Kansas."

Yesterday there was created quite an interest among a number of students of the University and one of the professors, when Mr. Connelly's address was read before a small group of students.

Naturally, the students from different localities are interested in any thing concerning Kansas History and the professor, in our small group yesterday, said: "I believe the time is coming when the curriculum of our University will be more modernized, that less attention will be given to the 'dead languages,' Latin and Greek; the reading of Virgil and

Cæsar; as well as much of ancient history; and modern history will be given more attention."

We think Mr. Connelly is eminently correct when he says: "That in Kansas there are numbers of towns and communities which stand as beacons along the way of human progress. There is one glory of Topeka, another glory of Lawrence and another glory of the Marais des Cygnes. The glory of one differeth from the glory of another. And above them all shines the glory of Old Wyandotte—this town—Kansas City, Kansas. She struck the first effective blow in the Western Land for liberty."

But read us the extra copies, and you will hear from us again, after the further discussion of the subject. KANSAS UNIVERSITY STUDENT.

More About The Wyandotte County Historical Society

The Kansas City Sun, in the twenty-nine years of its existence, has published many unusually interesting articles and special editions, many of which have elicited favorable comment, and the endorsement of many prominent citizens. However, few of these articles have been read with as much interest as the address of W. E. Connelly, secretary of the State Historical Society, published two weeks ago. Almost every day since, there have been calls for extra copies. Many of these calls have come from outside of this county. Letters of inquiry and endorsement, have come from five different states, and most of these writers have shown considerable interest in the success of the Wyandotte County Historical Society. One writer asks: "What does the society propose to do?" Another asks: "Why not build a fire-proof building to preserve the records and the valuable relics?" Still another wants to know

"Why such prominent men as Bishop Hendrix, ex-Congressman O. L. Miller, Judge E. L. Fletcher, Prof. M. E. Pearson; Rev. Father Kubik; Mrs. Julia A. Stinson; Gov. Arthur Capper; Col. Theodore Roosevelt, and scores of other prominent men and women have become members?"

There are the best of reasons why these men as well as hundreds of other men and women in this community, should encourage such a worthy enterprise. It is generally conceded that Kansas, and especially Wyandotte County, has a history of remarkable interest and of great value. Not only the old settlers, no well as the children; but all classes of people should know of its greatness, and be inspired by the deeds of the heroes who bided even better than they knew. And people realize that the more attention there is given to the history and growth of local affairs, the greater the prosperity

of the rising generation. While there are some who have not given this subject the proper consideration, we give these explanations, to show the purpose of this, and all other historical societies. Historical societies have been organized in most of the counties in this state, as well as the most enterprising counties in the older states. In several counties in the older states, fire-proof rooms have been provided in the court houses for storing relics and records, and it was the purpose of this society to urge the building of a fire-proof room in the court house, whenever built, and if we can have from three hundred to five hundred new members recently acquired, any one must realize that the chances for a suitable fire-proof room for the society, in the new court house, will be wonderfully enhanced. Besides, we have it from good authority, that this Society has a larger membership than any other County Society in Kansas. It is evident that if we keep in the lead, it will add much to the prestige of this community.

Thus it will be seen that it is quite important that we continue to increase our membership.

Again, some have wondered why such non-residents as Mrs. Stinson of Tecumseh, Kansas; Governor Capper of Topeka; Mrs. Rankin and Bishop Hendrix of Kansas City, Mo.; and Col. Roosevelt, of New York, should be interested to the extent, of becoming members of this society.

There are very good reasons why every one of these should be members of this society:

Mrs. Stinson was born in this county 34 years ago, within one-half a mile of the first mission built in Kansas. Bishop Hendrix, less than a year ago, assisted in dedicating a granite monument, to mark the place where his church built the first mission in Kansas.

Mrs. Rankin owns forty acres of ground where the first newspaper was printed in Kansas, from 1836 to

1842; and Col. Roosevelt's grandfather, Maj. Bullock, on his mother's side, served in the Chatham regiment, of North Carolina, in the war of 1812, along with Col. Richard Dennis, grandfather of Mrs. H. E. Connelley, or her mother's side, in the same regiment during the war of 1812, and Mrs. Connelley now has the flag of this regiment, with the name "Chatham Regiment" deftly stitched into the blue silk flag, which bears fifteen stars, (the number of states in the Union at that time), and there is a bullet hole through one of the stars. Mrs. Connelley's brother, H. D. (Richard Dennis) Speck, is named after his grandfather, and Mrs. Connelley owns the flag, which she prizes very highly. The camp of the Daughters of the War of 1812, in this city, is named after Col. Richard Dennis. Thus it will be seen that Col. Roosevelt's naturally would feel an interest in the success of this society, whose secretary has such a valuable relic, associated, as it was, with a relative of his. And these facts should be an impelling incentive to induce every well-wisher of this community to help the good work along, by becoming a member, and encourage this worthy enterprise.

It is now proposed to print Mr. Connelly's historical address in pamphlet form, and this, with a valuable relic, will be given to every new member (as long as these relics last.)

Since the historical address of W. E. Connelly, secretary of the Kansas State Society at the High School Auditorium, two weeks ago, many of our citizens have taken a lively interest, which has developed in the suggestions of Mr. Connelly on that occasion. Frequent comments and suggestions have been made, since renewed attention has been called to the rich field, here-abounds, for fruitful historical research and development.

Two of the most valuable men in this city, said he would give \$100 towards erecting a monument in Hays com-

tery, in memory of Hiram Northrup, as suggested by Mr. Connelly. This gentleman does not wish his name be made public, but he is a man of his word, and always was an admirer of Mr. Northrup. And should the matter be taken up during his lifetime, his \$100 will be forthcoming. Another well-to-do citizen, who, financially, is not worth half as much as the above named citizen, says if this movement is taken up soon, he will agree to give \$100, to be paid at the close of the present European war.

Another gentleman says he thinks he could name several gentlemen who would give liberally towards erecting a bronze statue to the memory of Governor Walker, on the site of the old Wyandotte council house in this city. And an estimable lady, a member of the Mary Tenny Gray's Travelers' Club, is in favor of starting a movement to commemorate the memory of Mrs. C. I. H. Nichols, in consideration of her valuable services at the time of the Wyandotte Constitutional convention in this city. These and other movements have been suggested that should be started now, by members of this Historical Society, the money to be paid at the close of the present European war. This awakening on this subject, is truly a hopeful sign, if it is followed up, and encouraged by a healthy membership joining this society. Bronze statues, and tablets have been erected in nearly every city in the country to commemorate the services of their leading men. Before St. Louis had attained the population that this city now enjoys, more than one bronze statue had been erected in some of the public parks.

Only a few days ago a prominent business man, said: "It is a great pity that more of our people do not unite and push this movement that has been awakened by Mr. Connelly's address. It costs so little to become a member,

(only one dollar for a certificate of membership, and no annual or quarterly dues to pay,) and if we could only get from 300 to 500 members in this society, there is no telling what additional good could be accomplished for the good reputation of our city, but the good things for any community do not grow wild on the bushes, like paw paws, but they must be worked for by more than one or two persons, but by many members of the community, and if we could only have a united effort of from 300 to 500 members, much could be accomplished, with but little money outlay. Let us make a united effort on this movement, even if we have failed to unite on so many other worthy enterprises. Tell your friends about this."

And now comes Philo M. Clarke, of Bonner Springs, Kansas, who writes as follows: "Editor Kansas City Sun: I observe that much interest is taken in Mr. Connelly's address before the Wyandotte County Historical Society at the High School Auditorium in your city, and I regret very much that my health did not permit me to attend. Mr. Connelly once was a citizen of this part of the county and taught school here. Now if you will have another meeting of our society about the last of May or the first of June, I will make an effort to be with you, as the only person now living who was an attache of that memorable body which met in your city and framed a constitution that has stood and 'held water' for 50 years. It has stood the test longer than the constitution of any other modern state in the Union. I am deeply interested in the success of this Society."

PHILO M. CLARKE.

(Note:—Mr. Clark has the distinction of being the only person now living who was connected with workings of this notable body of men, who did their work so well.—Ed.)