

# Cowley County Democrat

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## HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

Read at the Centennial Celebration, July 4th, 1876, at Winfield, Kansas.

BY WIRT W. WALTON

FELLOW CITIZENS:

On a beautiful morning in July, in the year 1776, the iron tongued bell in the old State House of Philadelphia, rang out to a few thousand wearied souls the joyous tidings of a nation's birthday.

To-day, from the thousands of villages and hamlets throughout the length and breadth of our land; from the Great Lakes of Michigan to the everglades of Florida; from the rock bound coast of New England to the golden sands of Oregon, there swells up in one grand acclaim, the voice of forty millions of grateful people, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of that event.

To-day, wherever there is a band of Americans, whether they be in inland port or on foreign sea; whether scaling the frozen Andes, or crossing the burning desert of Sahara, that starry banner, mid the booming of guns and the shouts of a liberty loving people, will be unfurled to the breeze.

To-day, proud young Kansas, with her six hundred thousand happy people, sends a kindly greeting to old Pennsylvania, the mother of our Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence.

To-day, the people of Cowley county, laying aside the duties and cares of a busy life, have come up from the office, the shop, and the field, to join together in celebrating this, the most glorious day of all the years.

In conformity with the (implied) wish of the President of the United States, as will be seen by his proclamation of May 25th, and in accordance with the spirit of a joint resolution passed by Congress at its present session, which reads as follows:

"Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it be and is hereby recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching Centennial anniversary of our National Independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day a historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed in print or manuscript in the clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first century of their existence."

But more particularly in compliance with the "printed bills" and "mammoth posters" circulated by the "Fourth of July Committee," do I appear before you to-day, to attempt the delivery of a historical sketch of Cowley county.

Had I been informed that I was expected to write a thesis on the Coleoptera of the moon, or prepare a lecture demonstrating the Darwinian Theory of Development, I could not have been more surprised than when notified by the committee of the appointment. In either case it might have been less embarrassing. I might have found a precedent for the former, and drawn upon my friends, the Winfield Bazique Club, for the latter. As it was I was at a loss to know what to do. I asked the Committee what would be acceptable. They didn't know. I rushed frantically to a friend and inquired. He said: "Never mind the truth, give us something flowery, something characteristic." I turned to

another (he was an old settler and wanted to be mentioned in the history); and he said: "Give 'em the facts, young man, dry facts: tell them that when I came to this county it was a wilderness; that for months I lay upon the borders of civilization, with mother earth for a bed and the blue vault of Heaven for a coverlet; that for weeks and weeks I was nightly lulled to sleep by the wicked shriek of the terrible coyote and waked to morn again by the wild war-whoop of the bloody Indians. Tell them that I have fought, bled, and died to secure them the peace they enjoy to-day. That I ask no recompense at their hands. They have no gift to bestow that would sufficiently reward me for the privations I have endured unless, perchance," he added in an undertone, "they would elect me to the position of Probate Judge, an office to which I have long aspired."

I grew discouraged and resolved to fall back upon my own resources, coupled with the information I might gain from the less ambitious of the "old settlers." I quitted the "field of fact" and reluctantly turned to the mouldering archives of antiquity.

From the dim traditions of the past, then, I learn that a few thousand years ago the fertile valleys of the Arkansas and its tributaries, was the home of a mighty people. Not such a live, rushing people as dwell here to-day, but a happy, contented people. A people who "fed their cattle on a thousand hills" and lazily watched the birth and death of centuries. Their names we know not and even their origin is veiled in the abyss of the great unknown past. This we do know, however: they were a people well versed in the arts and sciences and stood far in advance of the savage tribes that occupied this beautiful land,

# HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

when the continent was first discovered by Columbus. The time-worn mounds and aqueducts of the aborigines still standing, from the Mississippi to the Colorado in the west, speaks in a language not to be misunderstood, of the wealth and industrial power of these pre-historic people. A people who caught the torrents from the mountain tops and carried them down an easy prey to fertilize the plains below.

Coming down a few years we learn that in the year 1492, when Judge Ross, old Nump-ka-walla, Col. Manning, Judge McIntire, Chetopa, Cliff Wood, and a few others left Spain, passed up the Mediterranean, out by Gibraltar and into the unknown seas to find the New World; that after enduring the heat of a tropical sun by day and storms by night, finally landed safe on Alexander's mound near Winfield, where they found that one Christopher Columbus, with a band of half-breed followers, was occupying this lovely valley under the original "Homestead Act."

Being peaceful sort of fellows these newcomers set sail, followed down Black Crook and thence by the Walnut to its confluence with the Arkansas river, and there, upon a slightly eminence pitched their tents again. Here they found they were too late again. The original "Arkansas Traveler" had filed on that particular quarter, named it Cresswell, and was running it for the county seat. By way of parenthesis, I might say that the Arkansas Traveler has been running it ever since. Judge McIntire remained there, "stood in" with the Traveler, and was finally elected chief (representative) of the tribe. Manning, Ross, Chetopa, and the rest returned, swapped some ponies to Mr. Columbus for his interest in this valley, and started a town of their own. (This eventually became the county seat of Cowley.)

Nump-ka-walla lived to see Manning in the legislature; Ross, Probate Judge;

Cliff Wood, a government stone contractor; and Chetopa at the head of a gang of Osage Indian horse thieves. And as he could not bear to see his comrades thus disgraced, he gave up his Kinnekenick and passed to the spirit land. He was buried with Indian (summer) ceremonies. Dr. Graham, Dr. Mansfield, Will Hackney, and James McDermott were the pall bearers. James Renfro, J. P. Short, E. G. Nichols, J. B. Fairbank, Frank Hunt, W. D. Roberts, A. T. Stewart, and J. D. Cochran were the chief mourners. They mourned because it wasn't the last Indian on earth that they were called to bury. This mourning party was led by Dick Walker and the Tisdale string band, and accompanied by the Patrons of Husbandry in full regalia. This was the first high toned funeral in the county.

About fifty years afterwards, in the Summer of 1542, Francis Vasquez de Coronado, in company with Jimmie Simpson and Frank Gallotti, three Spaniards of royal blood, started on an exploring expedition from Old Mexico to the northward, in search of gold and silver. They traversed the western portion of Kansas and reported finding "many crooked backed oxen (meaning buffalo), and grapes and mulberries in abundance. On reaching this county, they liked it so well that they had about concluded to stay, and grow up with the country; but on learning that men here loaned money that didn't pay taxes, that the newspapers fought each other like "kilkenny cats," that Tisdale and Arkansas City were both striving for the county seat, and lastly, that we had no railroad, they became disgusted, returned to Mexico, and until quite recently this country was not known to the outside world.

So ends the traditionary history of Cowley county. Now for the "dry facts."

## KANSAS.

Twenty-two years ago the Kansas of to-day was unknown. Previous to that

time geographers noted it as the "Great American Desert." This territory, stretching from the 37th to the 40th degree of north latitude, and from the Missouri river to the base of the Rocky Mountains, was the home of the nomadic savage and the no less wild buffalo. This was Kansas in 1854. Soon the tide of immigration set to the west and a stream of hardy pioneers came pouring in. Among the early Kansans there were as many elements of discord as there were eastern localities represented. The laws which to a great extent governed the inhabitants were unwritten. Force was repelled by force, and while the good and orderly were desirous to see a reign of peace, yet it was impossible by reason of the numerical strength of the disorderly.

The call by the United States in her hour of need for volunteers was answered by thousands from our young state, and no better records of bravery or pure devotion to the cause of liberty was ever made than by the Kansas soldiery, and for every six of her population one fought in the civil war. At the close of the war in 1865, Kansas had less than one hundred thousand population. But now peace was hovering under the governmental wand. The soldier had replaced the civilian's garb. In the east a quarter of a million of boys who had been with the "tried and true" returned to the ranks of peace and had to be supplied with homes. The high price of lands in the east out counted the cash of a soldier's savings and west they came. Thus it was that Kansas was populated with a brave, energetic people and although she has passed through enough to overwhelm a people of less "grit," still she has prospered, and like the products of her soil has beaten the world in her growth.

## COWLEY COUNTY.

This county was born in the usual way, of "poor but honest parents," viz: the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives in old Constitution

# HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

Hall at Topeka, on the 3rd day of March, 1867. Governor J. S. Crawford stood sponsor and named it Cowley, in honor of Lieut. Mathew Cowley, a soldier of the 9th Kansas Regiment.

At that time and up to July 12, 1870, the land embraced within its borders belonged to the primitive red men, the Osage and Cherokee Indians. The Osages used it as a neutral strip from which they made many raids into the country south of us, stealing from the Texans and Indians their horses and cattle. These they sold to white border ruffians, who met them here and drove the stock further north into the older portions of the state.

From this class of whites the early settlers first gained their knowledge of Cowley's beautiful prairies, rich bottoms, and swift running streams.

Attracted by these reports a party of persons, consisting of James Renfro and sons, Judge T. B. Ross and sons, Shep Sayers, and Frank Hunt, crossing the sombre, stony hills of old Butler, followed down the Walnut river on the 1st day of January, 1869, and "took claims" in the bottom just above the mouth of Timber Creek. In August, 1868, N. J. Thompson built a log house near the Butler county line. This was the first house in the county. Wm. Quinby and family, and a Mr. Sales settled on the Walnut below Thompson's place about the same time. They were the first actual settlers in Cowley county.

Sometime in the month of June, 1869, C. M. Wood brought some groceries down from Chase county to sell to the Indians and settlers. He kept them at the house of Renfro and erected a small shanty, by setting puncheons in the ground, located a few rods east of where Bliss & Co.'s mill now stands. Into this shanty he moved his goods during the month of July. The Osage Indians made several futile attempts to steal them. Fearing an attack when not prepared, Mr. Wood moved his stock back to the house of Mr. Renfro for

safety. Afterward, in the month of August, when all the settlers were ordered out of the valley by the Indians, the goods were taken up to the Butler county line. After the goods were removed, the brave Osage warriors burned the house to the ground.

Judge T. B. Ross was the only pioneer that did not obey the orders of Mr. "Lo." They couldn't scare him. He came to stay and he has stayed.

In June, 1869, E. C. Manning assisted P. Y. Becker to erect a claim cabin in the bend of the Walnut about two miles below Winfield. This was the first building South and West of the river. On the same day they found encamped at the mouth of Posy creek, a Mr. and Mrs. Bridges and two or three men. Mrs. Bridges is the first white woman that is known to have crossed the Walnut river in this county. She corresponded for some eastern paper at the time, and afterwards wrote the "CARRIERS ADDRESS" and other political effusions for the Traveler.

On June 11th, aided by Becker, Mr. Manning laid a claim foundation for himself upon the present town site of Winfield. The fear of Indians having somewhat subsided, several families during the month of September crept down along the valley and settled on claims on the beautiful prairie where Winfield now stands. These settlers each paid to the Osage chief, Chetopa, five dollars for the privilege of remaining in peace. These early pioneers were C. M. Wood and wife (Mrs. Florence Wood, who was the first white woman to settle on the Walnut, south of Timber, then known as Dutch creek.), Prettyman Knowles, J. H. Land, J. G. Monforte, and their families.

Dr. W. G. Graham, and family, who came the last week in October and settled on the east bank of Dutch creek, two miles above its mouth, were the first settlers on that stream.

During the Winter of '69, Alonzo Howland, W. W. Andrews, Joel Mack, H. C. Loomis, A. Meanor, and others took the claims upon which the most of them reside. Mr. Howland built the first frame house in the county, his present residence, which was considered at the time a herculean task, having to haul the lumber over 100 miles without the sign of a road. About this time E. C. Manning erected a small log building on the claim south of C. M. Wood's. In this Baker & Manning kept a small stock of goods, which they sold to the settlers and traded to the Indians.

At this time the land was neither surveyed nor subject to entry. Claim corners were designated by stakes, and the claim holders' intentions set forth on a shingle with letters of charcoal, often in about the following style.

"NOTIS.

"This klaim was taken by me on the 20th day of January 1869. I am gone after my family. Anybody who dairs to squat on my claim while I am gone will git a load of buckshot when I get back. Plenty of good klaims not taken just south of me.

Yours truly,

JOHN SMITH."

Claim disputes were settled by tribunals called "Settlers Unions" or by public meetings before whom the respective claimants presented their cases.

In March, April, and May, 1869, H. C. Endicott, Sr., Geo. Harmon, W. Johnson, Ed Chapin, Pad Endicott, Pat Somers, and J. K. Rodgers, took claims along the Walnut above its junction with the Arkansas river. H. C. Endicott built the first house in that part of the county. In the following September, Z. K. Rodgers died at his house. This was the first death in the county.

# HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

1870.

On the 9th day of January, a party of 15 men under the lead of Thomas Coats took claims along the Grouse valley. Their names were John Coats, Wm. Coats, Joseph Reynolds, Gilbert Branson, Henry Branson, Winton Phenis, J. H. Phenis, H. Haywood, L. B. Bullington, J. T. Raybell, D. T. Walters, S. S. Severson, John Nichols, and O. J. Phenis.

About the 10th day of January, 1870, the initiatory steps were taken for the organization of a town company, and the starting of a town on the claim of E. C. Manning, which lay adjoining C. M. Wood on the south.

On the last day of December, 1869, Judge W. R. Brown (our present congressman), H. G. Norton, T. A. Wilkin, H. D. Kellogg, John Brown, and G. H. Norton drove into camp near Wood's residence as members of the Walnut City Town Company, a few leading citizens of Emporia, among the number. C. V. Eskridge, P. B. Plumb, J. Stotler, L. B. Kellogg, H. B. Norton, Judge Brown, and H. L. Hunt, of Cottonwood Falls, had organized a town company and sent the party mentioned, down into the Walnut Valley to locate a town at the junction of the Walnut and Arkansas rivers. The map of Kansas at that time showed that the junction was about the center of Cowley County. After some conference with the settlers, the newcomers took five claims adjoining Manning's claim, east south east and south with the intention of making this the location of the proposed town. In a day or two upon examination of the county below, the party concluded to locate this town at the present town site of Arkansas City. On January 1, 1870, T. A. Wilkinson, John Brown, G. H. Norton, and John Strain staked out and claimed the four claims upon which Arkansas City now stands, as the location of the new town. H. B. Norton took a claim adjoining the town site on the north. H. B. Kellogg took a claim south of the town site.

When this party arrived at the mouth of the Walnut, they found the bottom and timber claims taken by H. Endicott, and his son, Pad, and George Harmon, Ed Chapin, Pat Somers, Mr. Carr, Mr. Hughes, and one or two others.

The Walnut City town company consisted of fifteen members and the four claim holders mentioned were of the members, and were to hold the claims and enter them for the company. On their way down the valley, the party discovered a Walnut City in Butler county, and concluded to change the name of their company to Delphi. On their return to Emporia, the name was again changed to Creswell, and by this name the town was known for some months. On applying for a post office, the P M department informed Senator Ross, who made the application, that there was a Creswell in Labette County, Kansas, and that no two offices of the same name would be located in the same state, and at Ross' suggestion, it was called Arkansas City. When the commission came to G. H. Norton, who was the postmaster named, the town was named Arkansas City. This was April 1870.

The Winfield enterprise took form in January of 1870, as did that of Arkansas City. From the start the two parties interested in the two prospective towns were shaping events to secure the county seat of Cowley county whenever it should be organized. In February of 1870 a bill was introduced in the Senate of Kansas entitled "An Act to Organize the County of Cowley," and making Creswell the county seat. As soon as the news arrived at Winfield, James H. Land, A. A. Jackson, and C. M. Wood traversed the county in three days and took the census of over six hundred population, and reported at Douglass, in Butler county (the nearest place where any officer could be found to administer an oath), on the 23rd of February.

At that time the necessary papers were made out and E. C. Manning took them to Topeka and presented them to the Governor, who thereupon issued the order organizing Cowley county, designating Winfield as the temporary county seat, and W. W. Andrews of Winfield, G. H. Norton of Creswell, and S. F. Graham of Dexter as county commissioners. This was made February 28, 1870. E. P. Hickok was appointed county clerk at the same time by the same authority. The first meeting of the county board was held March 23, 1870, at the house of W. W. Andrews, at which time W. W. Andrews was chosen chairman.

Their first official acts were the division of the county into three townships, viz, Rock, Winfield, and Creswell, and their issuing a call for an election to be held on the second day of May, 1870. This election was held for the purpose of choosing a permanent county seat and to elect a complete set of county officers. The result of that election was as follows: For county seat Winfield 108 and Arkansas City 55 votes. The officers elected were commissioners T. A. Blanchard, Morgan Willett, and G. H. Norton; county clerk, H. C. Loomis; Treasurer, John Devore; district clerk, E. P. Hickok; probate judge, T. B. Ross; register of deeds, W. E. Cook; sheriff, Frank Hunt; coroner, W. G. Graham; and surveyor, F. S. Graham. This ticket was elected without any opposition. Such a millennium for office seekers never occurred before, nor is likely to occur in this county again. On the 5th of September, W. R. Brown, Judge of the 9th judicial district (of which Cowley was a part), appointed T. H. Johnson county attorney. On July 6th Loomis appointed E. Q. Mansfield his deputy county clerk, and John Devore appointed J. P. Short deputy treasurer. At the fall election G. B. Green was elected treasurer, but failing to give bond, Devore held the office till 1872. The officers succeeding them will be given in the order of their respective terms, some of whom have been

# HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

appointed, but the greater majority have been elected.

County commissioners have been T. A. Blanchard, G. H. Norton, and E. Simpson, Frank Cox, O. C. Smith, and J. D. Maurer; R. F. Burden, M. S. Rosberry, and John Manly, and the present incumbents, R. F. Burden, Wm. White, and W. M. Sleeth.

County Clerks A. A. Jackson and M. G. Troup; Treasurers G. B. Green, E. B. Kager, and T. R. Bryan; Probate Judge T. B. Ross, L. H. Coon, T. H. Johnson, and H. D. Gans; Sheriff J. M. Patison, James Parker, and R. L. Walker; Register of Deeds W. B. Smith, J. F. Paul, N. C. McCulloch, and E. P. Kinnie; District Clerk, E. P. Hickok, James Kelley, E. S. Bedilion; Surveyor H. L. Barker, D. A. Millington, M. Hemenway, and Wirt W. Walton; Coroners H. B. Kellogg, G. P. Wagner, S. S. Moore, and J. Hedricks; Supt. of Pub. Inst.; L. B. Walmsly, A. S. Blanchard, E. P. Hickok, and T. A. Wilkinson. Our representatives in the state legislature have been in 1871, Col. E. C. Manning; in 1872, Judge T. McIntire; in 1873, Capt. Jas. McDermott; in 1874, Rev. Wm. Martin; in 1875, Hon. Thos. R. Bryan; and in 1876, Hon. W. P. Hackney.

The first political gathering in the county took place at the raising of the "old log store" (now the Winfield Courier and Post Office) on the 1st day of April, 1870. This was a citizen's meeting and was held to nominate candidates to be voted for on the 2nd day of May.

On the 13th day of June, 1870, the first coach arrived with the United States mail at Winfield. Previous to that time all mail matter was brought by private hands from Douglass and distributed among the settlers. There were no mail routes, roads, nor bridges up to this time. The people in the various localities amused themselves by taking sides with Winfield and Arkansas City in their

county seat, and "Manning and Norton war." They had nothing else to do but brag about the county, eat beans and dried apples, and draw on their friends in the east for more money. The land was not surveyed, hence they did not know where to make their improvements. The bitter local feeling that was engendered in those days has long since been a theme of the past.

With the exception of a few would-be-leaders in the various towns of the county, who are continually kicking up strife in their own immediate neighborhood (simply because they are not able to kick up anything else), the citizens of Cowley county are today a unit on any measure or proposition that tends toward the general advancement of their interests as a people.

During the summer, fall, and winter of 1870, the tide of immigration kept flowing into the county. The valleys of the large streams were all settled upon and still they continued coming, until the settlement extended across the rich prairie into the smaller valleys beyond. There was a certain social, or equality, feeling that existed in those good old days among the settlers that would be termed improper and imprudent by the people here to-day. Away from home and friends, out on the verge of civilization almost within sound of the bloody war whoop, and always within hearing of the prowling coyote, it is no wonder that at times they overstepped the bounds of eastern etiquette. By the flickering light of some settler's dip lamp, many fleeing hours were chased into merry morn, by the flying feet of Cowley's pioneers. People would go miles and miles to join in such festivities. The violin always precedes the evidence of a better civilization. This era did not continue long; it soon gave way to school and church exercises, and the more refined and christian like enjoyments.

In January, 1871, a surveying party under O. F. Short, began the survey of

the county. They were followed industriously by claim-hunters, who hoped the survey would develop unoccupied tracts. The settlers were on the alert, and many lines were run just in front of the deputy surveyor by them. Fifty dollars, and often a less sum, would so influence the magnetic needle of this United States official, that a line would be run cutting the original settler off his particular claim, and leaving it for these unscrupulous land banditti following him. In consequence, the lines of the original survey are very crooked.

On July 12th Congress passed a law allowing actual settlers to enter from 40 to 160 acres of these Osage lands at \$1.25 per acre. On March 2, 1871, the town site laws of the U. S. were extended to these lands, and on May 11, 1872, Congress passed a law allowing actual settlers to enter the Cherokee lands. The terms were similar to those of the Osage lands, except that all lands east of the Arkansas river were sold at \$1.50 per acre, and all west at \$2.00 per acre.

Having given an account of the early settlements of the county at large, I will now attempt a short sketch of her various towns, societies, and organizations, beginning, of course, with Winfield, the county seat.

## WINFIELD.

The oldest house in Winfield is the one immediately north of the stage barn, in block 108. It was built by E. C. Manning in January, 1870, and first occupied by himself and family as a claim house, on the 10th day of March, following.

The Winfield Town Company was organized January 13, 1870, "with power to lay out a town site upon the open prairie, east of the Walnut river and south of Dutch creek, in Cowley county, Kansas." E. C. Manning was its President; W. W. Andrews, Vice President; C. M. Wood, Treasurer; W. G. Graham, Secretary; and E. C.

# HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

Manning, J. H. Land, A. A. Jackson, W. G. Graham, and J. C. Monforte, Directors.

The question of a name for the new town puzzled its fathers for several days. A minority wanted it called "Lagonda," but the majority decided to honor Winfield Scott's christened name. He was at that time the minister in charge of the Baptist church, in Leavenworth. Within the next four months, following the organization, forty acres of Manning's claim was converted into lots, blocks, streets, and alleys. The old log store was built by Manning, which was occupied, in part, by Dr. Mansfield as a drug store, and by Baker and Manning with their goods. Soon Max Shoeb arrived, built a log cabin where Read's bank now stands, and opened a blacksmith shop. On August 20th J. C. Fuller and D. A. Millington bought A. A. Jackson's claim and proceeded, with Manning, to lay out that part of the town lying east of Main street. July 4, 1870, was a glorious day for Winfield. The first celebration in the county was held on that day, under an arbor in the rear of the old log store. Prof. E. P. Hickok was the orator of the occasion. From that time up to the present, Winfield has so rapidly increased in population that it is impossible, in this short sketch, to give even a synopsis of her growth; but I will endeavor, however, to name the first who engaged in the different branches of business.

E. C. Manning was the first settler and merchant; Max Shoeb, the first blacksmith; Frank Hunt, the first hardware dealer; W. Q. Mansfield, the first druggist and physician; J. P. Short, the first hotel keeper; A. J. Thompson, the first feed store keeper; B. H. Dunlap, the first livery man; T. H. Johnson, the first lawyer; D. A. Millington, the first engineer and surveyor; J. C. Fuller, the first banker; M. L. Palmer, the first tinner; C. A. Bliss & Co., the first mercantile firm; J. C. Munforte, the first painter.

Mrs. Delphine Manning was the first woman in town; and her son, Fred, was the first child born on the town site. Rev. A. Tousey was the first resident minister, but Judge Ross preached the first sermon. Miss A. Marks taught the first school.

On the 10th day of July, 1871, Judge T. B. Ross entered the town site of Winfield at the Augusta land office, under the town site laws. At that time there were eighty buildings in town.

The city of Winfield was incorporated February 22, 1873. The first city election was held March 7, 1873, at which W. H. H. Maris was elected Mayor; A. A. Jackson, police judge; and O. F. Boyle, C. A. Bliss, J. D. Cochran, H. S. Silver and S. C. Smith as councilmen.

The council chose S. C. Smith its president; J. W. Curns, clerk; M. L. Robinson, treasurer; C. W. Richmond, marshal; and J. M. Alexander, attorney.

The first annual election was held April 7, 1873, and the same persons were re-elected, with the exception of Mr. Bliss, who was succeeded by Samuel Darrah.

The second annual election, held April 8, 1874, resulted as follows: S. C. Smith, mayor; N. H. Wood, police judge; and J. D. Cochran, H. S. Silver, R. B. Saffold, and J. P. McMillen, councilmen.

J. W. Curns and M. L. Robinson were re-appointed clerk and treasurer. T. H. Suits was appointed attorney, and Z. T. Swigart, marshal. On November 16th Messrs. Wood and Suits resigned. T. H. Johnson and W. P. Hackney were appointed to fill their offices.

The third annual election, held April 5, 1875, resulted in the election of D. A. Millington, mayor; W. M. Boyer, police judge; and M. G. Troup, N. M. Powers, J. Newman, and Chas. C.

Black as councilmen. B. F. Baldwin was appointed clerk; E. R. Evans, marshal; J. E. Allen, attorney; and J. C. Fuller, treasurer.

At the last annual election, held April 4, 1876, D. A. Millington was elected mayor; J. W. Curns, police judge; and A. B. Lemmon, M. G. Troup, C. A. Bliss, T. B. Myers, and H. Brotherton, councilmen. The same officers were re-appointed by the council, with the exception of Evans, who was superceded by Walter Denning.

The postmasters of Winfield have been, successively, E. C. Manning, Rev. Tousey, T. K. Johnston, and James Kelly.

The Methodist was the first regularly organized church in Winfield. It perfected its organization in May, 1870. The Baptist organized in the following October, and the Congregationalist in January, 1871, with J. B. Fairbank and A. Howland as deacons. The Christian church was also organized in 1871. The Presbyterian completed its "beginning" in January, 1873. The Catholics have a mission established, but no regularly constituted church in Winfield.

A. F. AND A. M.

On the 20th day of October, 1870, a dispensation was granted to J. S. Hunt, A. H. Green, Enoch Maris, and eight others, for a lodge at Winfield. J. S. Hunt was appointed W. M.; A. H. Green, S. W., and Enoch Maris J. W. On the 17th day of October, 1872, the lodge obtained a charter under the name of Adelphi, No. 110, with the following charter members: J. S. Hunt, A. H. Green, Enoch Maris, C. A. Bliss, A. A. Jackson, W. M. Boyer, H. Shaughness, I. L. Comfort, E. Adams, Thomas Hart, W. S. Huff, S. H. Revis, T. A. Rice, and J. Traxler. The same officers were installed under the charter and held their offices until January 1, 1873, when Enoch Maris was elected W. M.; W. M. Boyer, S.

# HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

W., and T. A. Rice, J. W. On January 1, 1874, Enoch Maris was re-elected W. M.; T. A. Rice, S. W.; and W. G. Graham, J. W. On January 1, 1875, L. J. Webb was elected W. M.; W. G. Graham, S. W.; and J. E. Saint, J. W. For the present year J. S. Hunt was elected W. M.; J. E. Saint, S. W.; and A. B. Lemmon, J. W. The lodge now has 50 members and is in a healthy condition, morally and financially.

R. A. M.

On the 15th of March, 1875, a dispensation was granted M. L. Read, H. P.; M. C. Baker, K.; John D. Pryor, Scribe; W. C. Robinson, C. H.; A. ARKANSAS CITY.

On January 1, 1870, the first stake was driven in the town of Arkansas City by the town company. On March 1st G. H. Norton built the first house on the town site. It was occupied as a residence and store. G. H. Norton, appointed in April, 1870, was the first postmaster.

During the year of 1870 the following enterprises were established, being the first of the kind in the city.

Sleeth & Bro's saw mill; C. R. Sipe's hardware store; Richard Woolsey, hotel; Newman & Houghton, clothing house; Paul Beck, blacksmith shop; E. D. Bowen, grocery store; Keith & Eddy, drug store; J. I. Mitchell, harness shop; T. A. Wilkinson, restaurant; Wm. Speers, the first ferry across the Arkansas river.

The first temperance meeting was held February 21, 1871. W. P. Hackney was the first lawyer; Dr. John Alexander, the first physician; Mrs. S. P. Channell opened the first millinery store. The first Sunday school was organized in Rev. B. C. Swarts cabin, with T. A. Wilkinson as superintendent. Creswell Grote was the first child born in Arkansas City. The date is October 5, 1870. The town company magnanimously deeded the little native a lot. On the 20th day of

Howland, P. S.; W. G. Graham, R. A. C.; J. W. Johnston, M. 3rd V.; P. Hill, M. 1st V.; A. A. Newman, member. On October 19th a charter was issued to them under the name Winfield Chapter, R. A. M., No. 31; and on the 29th of the same month, the Chapter was instituted by J. C. Bennett, of Emporia. This branch of Masonry here is in good working order and in a healthy condition, financially.

I. O. O. F.

Winfield Lodge, No. 101, was organized by P. S. M., W. A. Shannon, of Augusta, Kansas, February 18, 1873. The charter July, 1871, the town site was entered at the Augusta land office. On June 10, 1872, it was incorporated as a city of the third class. At the first election, held July 1, 1872, A. D. Keith was chosen mayor and Amos Walton police judge. The office of mayor has been successively filled by A. D. Keith, H. O. Meigs, and S. P. Channell. Judge Timothy McIntire has been police Judge almost continuously since April 1873.

Mrs. H. B. Norton made the first American flag in Cowley county. It was used at Arkansas City, July 4, 1870.

Some time during the fall of 1871, a dispensation was granted the Masons at Arkansas City and a lodge organized. In due time they received a charter under the name of Crescent Lodge, No. 133, with O. C. Smith as W. M.; and E. B. Kager, S. W. The Crescent now has over thirty members, and is prospering.

TISDALE.

Under a charter bearing the date, June 13, 1871, with A. D. Keith as president and C. R. Mitchell as secretary, the Tisdale Town Company laid out the town of Tisdale in the month of June, 1871. S. S. Moore, Geo. W. Foughty, Sid Moses, and M. Elinger were the first settlers. Mart

members were J. J. Williams, S. A. Weir, C. W. Richmond, C. G. Stephens, and A. S. Williams. The lodge has steadily increased in number until it now contains about 40 members.

I. O. G. T.

Winfield Lodge was organized in March, 1874, N. K. Jeffries, D. G. W. T. On the evening of the organization, Rev. J. McQuiston was chosen W. C. T. and Mrs. A. Gordon, V. T. The lodge was organized with twenty charter members. It now contains nearly 100 members in good standing.

Elinger erected the first house, Sam Williston, the first blacksmith shop; and J. A. McGuire, the first store in town. J. A. McGuire was the first, and still is the post master. The town site was purchased from the government in June, 1876. Mrs. G. W. Foughty taught the first school.

DEXTER.

The "Dexter Town Company" was organized by leading citizens of Emporia sometime in July 1870. C. B. Bacheller, Geo. W. Frederick, and L. W. Robinson, of Emporia, and Alex Stevens and Thos. Manning of Grouse Creek, Cowley county, were its incorporators. After obtaining a charter nothing more was done by the company. The first house built on the Dexter town site was erected by James McDermott, who moved into it June 25, 1871. In September, 1870, the Dexter post office was established with I. B. Todd as post master, and in March, 1871, the first mail carrier arrived from Eureka. Previous to this time the mail for the settlers was brought down in the pockets of travelers and distributed. In February, 1874, Dexter Lodge of A. F. & A. M., under a dispensation began its work. On the 18th day of November following, it received a charter bearing number 156. It is now in a flourishing condition.

# HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

On October 21, 1875, the Dexter Town Association was incorporated; and in November following, the land purchased by it was laid out into lots and blocks by Wirt W. Walton, county surveyor.

## LAZETTE.

The first settler in this part of the county was J. W. Tull, who built the first house (in November, 1869), raised the first crop, and taught the first school (in 1870) in the valley. Elder Wm. Gans preached the first sermon. John Thonburgh was the first to settle here. Dr. T. J. Raybell opened the first store in 1870 and was the first post master. The same year Edward Sutton erected a blacksmith shop and saw and grist mill. The first marriage December 25, 1870, was Richard Miller to Flora Dudley, by E. Simpson, the first justice of the peace.

The town of Lazette was laid out in 1871 by H. D. Wilkins and S. M. Fall. H. D. Gans was the proprietor of the first hotel (the Black Bear); Thos Walch, the first blacksmith shop; and B. H. Clover, the steam saw mill. M. Hemenway was the first merchant, and R. C. Story the first attorney at law.

## MAPLE CITY.

Maple City is a village of half a dozen houses, situated on the beautiful prairie in Spring Creek township, sixteen miles east of Arkansas City.

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Cowley County Agricultural Society was organized August 19, 1871. Its first officers were M. M. Jewett, president; A. T. Stewart, vice president; D. N. Egbert, secretary; A. B. Lemmon, assistant secretary; J. B. Fairbank, corresponding secretary; J. D. Cochran, treasurer; and C. M. Wood, superintendent. On the 12th day of October, 1872, its first fair was held.

In 1872 the society was incorporated under the state law. It purchased twelve acres of land lying adjoining Winfield on the south, and erected thereon commodious buildings. The race course was laid out and a high pine board fence was built around the grounds during the fall of that year. The second fair transpired from the 15th to the 18th of September, 1872.

## PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

On April 28, 1873, Vernon, the first subordinate grange, was organized. A. S. Williams was its master. There are now over thirty-five in the county with a total membership exceeding one thousand.

## NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper published in the county was the Cowley County Censor, the first two numbers of which were printed in Augusta, the type having been set up here and sent in galleys to that town. A. J. Patrick was its editor and proprietor. Number "3" was printed at Winfield on the historical press of Kansas, the first printing press ever within its territory. August 13, 1870, was the date of the Censor's first issue. On the 3rd day of June, 1871, I. J. Webb succeeded Patrick as its editor, and on the 5th day of August, 1871, Webb & Doud (Doud of the Censorial, at Eureka) bought Patrick out and continued the publication of the paper until the 26th of the month, when E. G. Nichols succeeded Doud and the firm became Webb & Nichols. On January 6, 1872, Webb & Nichols sold to W. H. Kerns and the Censor ceased to exist. On the 13th of January, Kerns issued the first number of the Winfield Messenger; and on the 4th day of July, 1872, Kerns was succeeded in proprietorship by Yale Bros., who published it until the 5th day of December, 1872, when they broke up. The office and material (except the old press) was moved to McPherson county.

The next paper after the Censor was the Traveler, published at Arkansas City by M. G. Mains, with H. B. Norton as special contributor and C. M. Scott as local editor. August 24, 1870, was the date of its first issue. This was the first paper printed wholly in Cowley county. On December 15, 1870, L. B. Kellogg succeeded Mains as proprietor, and on September 1, 1871, C. M. Scott bought Kellogg's interest, since which time he has conducted the paper alone.

On the 12th day of September, 1872, Will M. Allison published the first number of the Telegram at Tisdale. Five numbers were published at Tisdale; and the sixth, published on the 28th day of November, 1872, was issued at Winfield. In the month of January, 1873, Allison associated with A. H. Hane, under the firm name of Allison & Hane; and they published the paper until the 20th day of March, 1873, when Hane was succeeded by A. B. Steinbarger (now of the Howard City Courant). Allison & Steinbarger dissolved on July 3, 1873, since which time Allison has published the Telegram.

R. S. Waddell & Co. started the Winfield Courier on January 11, 1873, with R. S. Waddell as editor and J. C. Lillie, local. On the 27th day of March, 1873, James Kelly purchased the office and assumed the editorial chair. He associated with him V. B. Beckett as local editor until March 4, 1875. From March 4th to July 1st, Mr. Kelly conducted the paper alone, at which time Wirt W. Walton became, and has ever since been, its local editor. On the 11th day of November, last, Col. E. C. Manning became the Courier's editor and publisher.

On November 19, 1874, the Plow and Anvil made its appearance in Winfield, with Col. J. M. Alexander as its editor and proprietor. On the 22nd day of April, 1876, Messrs. A. Walton and C. M. McIntire purchased the office and continued its publication together, till the 17th day of May, the

# HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

present year, when Walton retired, leaving it in sole charge of Mr. McIntire. On the 24th day of February, 1876, its name was changed from the Winfield Plow and Anvil to the Cowley County Democrat; the name it bears to-day.

The Censor was, and the Traveler and Courier are, Republican in politics. The Messenger and Plow and Anvil were, and the Telegram is, Independent in politics. As its name implies, the Democrat is Democratic in politics.

I would be unfaithful to my trust, should I, in noting our history up the present time, fail to mention our long-legged, hooked-nosed, India-rubber-sided visitors of 1874. True, they did not come by invitation, but let it be recorded, that they came, nevertheless; that they came in countless millions and all brought their relations and their wife's people.

Ah, distinctly we remember,  
'Twas on a hot September  
Afternoon of eighteen seventy four,  
The grasshoppers fell upon us  
With their war-paint and harness,  
Like the crusading Knights  
Of the brave days of yore.

It is useless for us to say here they ate up what the "drouth" left; that in consequence of their visit, many new comers were thrown upon "half-rations" and the charity of eastern friends; that with difficulty, in many instances, the wolf was kept from the door. These facts are a matter of history, facts we all well know, facts upon which we do not like to dwell. But to-day, as we rejoice over the blessings of a bountiful harvest, it is but mete and proper that we kindly remember

those unknown friends beyond our borders, who did not forget us in our hour of need, the grasshopper year.

It is with feelings of pride, that I look back over the few short years of Cowley's history, a history filled, not with the deeds of warriors, reaching back to the revolution or later war of the rebellion, but a history filled with the industrial workings, the growth and progress of an agricultural people.

And as I look abroad to-day and see her ten thousand citizens, reaping the annual harvest of her million bushels of golden grain; see her churches and school houses in every valley; her rich, broad prairies dotted all over with happy homes, a vision only surpassed in wealth and beauty by the diversity of scenery spread out upon every side, I cannot help but exclaim:

## Behold Cowley county;

Beautiful land of fragrant blooms,  
Emerald carpet and rich perfumes,  
Land of the brave, leal, the true,  
Whose skies are softer and deeper blue,  
Than the mellowed light of a moonlight pale,  
'Neath the starry gleaming of midnight's veil.  
Land of the prairies, the wide, the free,  
That sleeps to the hum of the droning bee,  
Where the day-god raises his jeweled crest,  
Or sinks in dreams on the twilight's breast,  
With a sweeter grace, and a kindlier power  
And a dainty guilding of tree and flower.  
Land where the live oak rears its head  
With a kingly bearing, to list the tread,  
The steady tramp of the myriad feet,  
That seeks its shade, with hoofs as fleet,  
As the wild gazelle where the lightning's play.  
Land where the seasons gently flee  
To the measured march of eternity.  
Soft as the babe, that sinks to rest  
Now cradled and lulled on its mother's breast;  
Where ambered grain, steals the winter's kiss,  
And spring-time warms it to newer bliss.