

YESTERYEARS

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**The Jefferson County
Historical Society**

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Yesteryears is published online as two separate PDF documents. The first document contains articles and newspaper stories of historical interest. The second document contains primary source material for researchers; it will not be sent out on paper in the U.S. mail. If you receive *Yesteryears* as an email attachment, you will receive both documents. If you need a paper copy of the primary source information, please contact the Jefferson County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box, 174, Oskaloosa, KS 66066, email jcgs1979@yahoo.com

The primary source material and the articles are also available on the JCGS website, jeffcoksgensoc.org

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

Yesteryears editors, October 2019: Liz Leech, Jane Hoskinson

Equal Suffrage, 1919

As reported by Jefferson County newspapers

WOMEN RIOT IN WASHINGTON

The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 2, Fri., Jan. 10, 1919

Washington, Jan. 2—Riotous scenes were enacted tonight in front of the White House when soldiers, sailors and citizens undertook to end a “watch fire” demonstration started in Lafayette Park by “sentinels” of the National Woman’s Party, as a protest against the failure of the Senate to pass the Equal Suffrage resolution.

Women carrying banners were knocked down by the charging crowd and their banners destroyed, while an urn in which the “watch-fire” was burning was destroyed. After the police had restored order, the women started a new fire in one of the big urns in the park, and five of them were arrested by the police for this violation of park regulations. They refused to furnish bond and were held at a precinct station.

During the afternoon the women burned copies of speeches delivered by President Wilson.

The Valley Falls Vindicator, Page 2, Fri., Jan. 10, 1919

What sort of women do they grow in Washington? Or is it simply a congregating place for the “nuts” of the country? Everyone remembers the unsavory reputation of suffrage “picketers” of the white house last year—a disgraceful spectacle for the nation; and now a bunch of the same class have been building bon-fires on the streets about the capitol, using the books and copies of state papers of the President as fuel to show their displeasure at not being allowed to vote—notwithstanding the fact that the President has earnestly supported the Equal Suffrage Amendment by a special plea to congress, personally delivered. Can you beat it? A hot bunch of voters this class of cattle would make, truly.

The Defeat of Equal Suffrage Amendment in the States

The Valley Falls Vindicator, Page 2, Fri., Feb. 14, 1919

Monday the Equal Suffrage amendment was defeated by a vote of one, which settles the question for this congress.

The vote was a disappointment to every true democrat everywhere, for an affirmative vote simply gave the states of the union the privilege of saying whether or not the right of suffrage should be granted to the women of the nation, and as such was directly in the line of true democracy.

Of course the action of the representatives of the women themselves in their unlawful acts in Washington for the past two years no doubt had a considerable bearing on the votes of a number of senators—as a matter of fact after all that the President has done in the way of urging the passage of the resolution, just before the vote was to be taken a bunch of the women espousing the amendment attempted to burn the President in effigy in the streets in front of the White House—plainly indicating that these women had neither sense nor decency nor respect for law and order.

The attempt of the Topeka Capital to make the failure of the amendment a political question must fall flat in view of the record of the votes; because practically all of the leaders of the Republican party in the senate voted in the negative; either one of the leaders could have put the amendment over had he so desired.

When such prominent leaders as Borah, Hale, Lodge (prominently mentioned as a candidate of the party for President), Penrose (the ranking republican member of the senate), Weeks and Knox—the men who absolutely rule the republican side of the senate vote against the amendment as they did, one would be little short of an idiot to contend that the defeat of the amendment rested with the democratic party.

Constitution of the United States Amendment XIX.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Senators Hitchcock of Nebraska, and Reed of Missouri, justified the President's designation of them as reactionaries and not true democrats in voting against the resolution.

AND THE WOMEN, ALSO

The Valley Falls Vindicator, Page 2, Fri., May 23, 1919

Those newspapers who are getting anxious about the soldier vote of 2,500,000 should also note that 12,500,000 women will also vote in 1920. That many will vote under present conditions, and since Senator Pat Harrison of Georgia has consented to add his vote in the senate, together with the pressure of President Wilson for national women suffrage, it appears all women will vote in 1920. Kansas women decided the 1916 campaign in Kansas. Perhaps the women may do the same thing in the nation in 1920.

SAYS SUFFRAGE WILL WIN

The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 2, Fri., Mar. 28, 1919

Washington, March 21—One of the first acts of the Republican Congress will be to adopt the Susan B. Anthony nation wide women's suffrage amendment resolution. That statement was made by Senator Curtis of Kansas, Republican whip of the Senate, after a survey of the suffrage situation in both houses.

Senator Curtis announced that the suffrage resolution defeated by the last Congress would be reintroduced on the first day of the next session. The new Senate suffrage committee, which in all probability will be headed by Senator Hiram Johnson of California, stands ready to make a favorable report on the resolution immediately. It would not be surprising if the Senate should adopt the resolution within a week after reconvening, it was stated.

PRESIDENT SENDS SHORT MESSAGE FROM EUROPE

The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 3, Fri., May 30, 1919

Washington, May 20—For the first time in history a message from the president of the United States, cabled from Europe, was read to the congress today. [In the fourth paragraph from the end:]

“Will you not permit me, turning from these matters, to speak once more, and very earnestly, of the proposed amendment to the constitution which would extend the suffrage to women and which passed the house of representatives at the last session of congress? It seems to me that every consideration of justice and of public advantage calls for the immediate adoption of that amendment and its submission forthwith to the legislatures of the several states. Throughout all the world this long delayed extension of the suffrage is looked for; in the United States longer, I believe than anywhere else, the necessity of it, and the immense advantage of it to the national life, has been urged and debated, by women and men who saw the need for it and urged the policy of it when it required steadfast courage to be so much beforehand with the common conviction; and I, for one covet for our country the distinction of being among the first to act in a great reform.”



The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 3, Fri., Jul. 11, 1919

DOTS AND DASHES

Wire News of the Week

WASHINGTON

The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 2, Fri., Jun. 13, 1919

Suffrage, after the more than half century fight of women to get the ballot, won its greatest victory when the Senate by a vote of 56 to 25 adopted the resolution submitting the suffrage amendment to the various states for ratification.

The Valley Falls Vindicator, Page 2, Fri., Jun. 27, 1919, quoting opinions from other newspapers

On enfranchisement of women, the Republican vote of the House lacked one of being twice the Democratic vote, and the Republican vote of the Senate lacked four of being twice the Democratic. If women had waited for enfranchisement from the Democrats they would be a good deal older before the day of enfranchisement arrived.—Capital

Had the Republican party remained in control of the country, the women never would have gained their rights. The suffrage amendment rested quietly in a republican congress for forty years, without a chance for release, but when the party was thrown out by the democratic party things began to happen and the women have gained rights which the old party never would have given them.—Mankato Advocate

NEWS ITEMS FROM ALL OVER

KANSAS

Happenings of More or Less Interest Gathered From Many Sources

A SPECIAL SESSION CERTAIN

Governor Allen Receives Only Two Unfavorable Replies in 55 From Members of Legislature.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 3, Fri., Jun. 20, 1919

A special session of the Kansas Legislature June 16 is practically a certainty. Governor Allen had received fifty-five answers to his letters when the office closed recently, and so few of the members opposed the session that it was believed the call was certain to be issued.

The governor, before he left for a commencement day address in Iowa, left directions that the proclamation calling the election should be prepared and be ready for his signature, if the responses continue as favorable as those already received.

Every senator except one of twelve who had responded heartily approved the plan of the governor for the members to come to Topeka for one day, June 16, to ratify the national suffrage amendment. Senator Plumb of Emporia opposed the session at the present time.

J.W. McReynolds of Gray County is the only member of the house who absolutely opposed the special session. Frank Martin of Reno, wired: "Do not think women suffrage resolution of enough importance to Kansas for special session. Am willing to attend without expense to state."

R.T. Fowler, representative from Russell county, wired: "Will not waive mileage and per diem."

SHE GETS MARRIAGE LICENSE

South Dakota Bride-to-Be Buys Document, Pays \$1 for It, Then Hunts Up the Judge.

Mitchell, S. D.—Cupid and woman suffrage have apparently formed a corporation here, Miss Marie Gipper, twenty-two years old, strode into the offices of the clerk of courts of Davison county one morning recently and plunked a dollar on the desk to pay for the first marriage license that has ever been bought in this county by a woman. After she had procured the license she went out and found the municipal judge.

While obtaining the license Miss Gipper explained that her husband-to-be was "too busy to get the license."

The apparent object of the purchase was inscribed on the clerk's record as Ray Poyer, also of Mitchell.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 3, Fri., Jan. 10, 1919

KANSAS RATIFIES SUFFRAGE

Shortest Legislative Session on Record Unanimously Indorses Amendment to Federal Constitution.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 2, Fri., Jun. 27, 1919

In the shortest session on record the Kansas legislature recently ratified the federal woman suffrage amendment unanimously, passed an expense bill of \$2,931, and adjourned. No other legislation was taken up.

The amendment resolution was passed first by the house. The resolution was then taken up by the senate and final action occurred at 3:15 o'clock. In the house the vote was 120 to 0, and in the senate 35 to 0. Four senators and five representatives were absent.

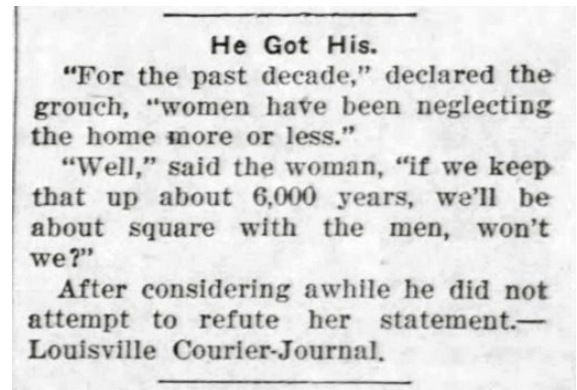
In the house, the first business considered, was the suffrage resolution, which received the unanimous vote of the 119 members present. It was introduced by Mrs. Minnie Grinstead of Liberal, Seward County, the first Kansas woman legislator.

Speaker Lambertson called the house to order at 12:15 and at 1:15 all business was completed and adjournment was taken until 2:15. The only discordant note was sounded by Representative Frank L. Martin of Hutchinson who attacked woman suffrage in a semi-humorous fashion, then voted for the resolution.

"I do not believe woman suffrage in this state or any other has effected the good that was anticipated," he said. "I do not believe that it has reformed politics any. A pan of hot biscuits or a roasted turkey will go a lot further in influencing men than woman suffrage."

A number of women leaders of the suffrage movement were in the gallery cheering every point scored by their cause.

Equal suffrage for women was adopted in Kansas in November 1912. The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified August 18, 1920. Jefferson County newspapers continued to cover the process of ratification in other states.



The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 2, Fri., Jun. 13, 1919

Constitution of the United States Amendment XV.

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Impartial Suffrage, 1870

*The Fifteenth Amendment was ratified February 3, 1870.
The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 3, Sat., Feb. 26, 1870*

ADOPTED.—The Fifteenth Amendment has now been adopted by thirty States. . . . The proclamation announcing the ratification of the amendment, if not already issued, will be very soon, when this vexed question will be put at rest, and the colored population will have the same right to vote as the whites. . . . We do not anticipate any startling advantages to the country at large from this admission to the polls of 850,000 men, vast numbers of whom cannot read, and must depend

upon others for information. We are glad the question is settled, and we hope its disposition on the whole will be advantageous. One thing is certain, the negroes, as a rule, are far more anxious to learn than tens of thousands of the white race who have the right to vote.

More to come on this subject.

Triple wedding

The Oskaloosa Independent

Page 5, Fri., Oct. 17, 1919

A social event of unusual interest took place in McLouth Wednesday, October 8, in the marriage of three members of the second generation of one of the oldest and most prominent families of this city.

Miss Irene May Steeper was married to Dr. Frank Schaeffer, of McLouth, Miss Gladys Lucile Steeper to Mr. Robert Roos, of McLouth, and Miss Ellwyn Wright of Kansas City, Mo., to Mr. Harold William Steeper.

The sisters and brother are children of Mrs. Chas. Steeper of McLouth. Harold Steeper is assistant cashier of the Bank of McLouth. Frank Schaeffer, son of H.B. Schaeffer, of Tulsa, Okla., is a physician with an established practice in McLouth. Robert Roos, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Roos, of Wellington, Kans., is manager for the McLouth Lumber Co. Ellwyn Wright is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuchlin Wright of Kansas City, Mo., and a niece of Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, inventor of the airplane, who was present at the wedding.

The wedding took place at the United Brethren church, the largest audience room in McLouth being well filled before the appointed hour of 3:30 p.m. The church was decorated appropriately to early autumn. A lattice intertwined with ivy and clematis formed a background for the altar which was banked with asparagus, and the entire chancel bordered with autumn foliage, which furnished the note of warmth and color.

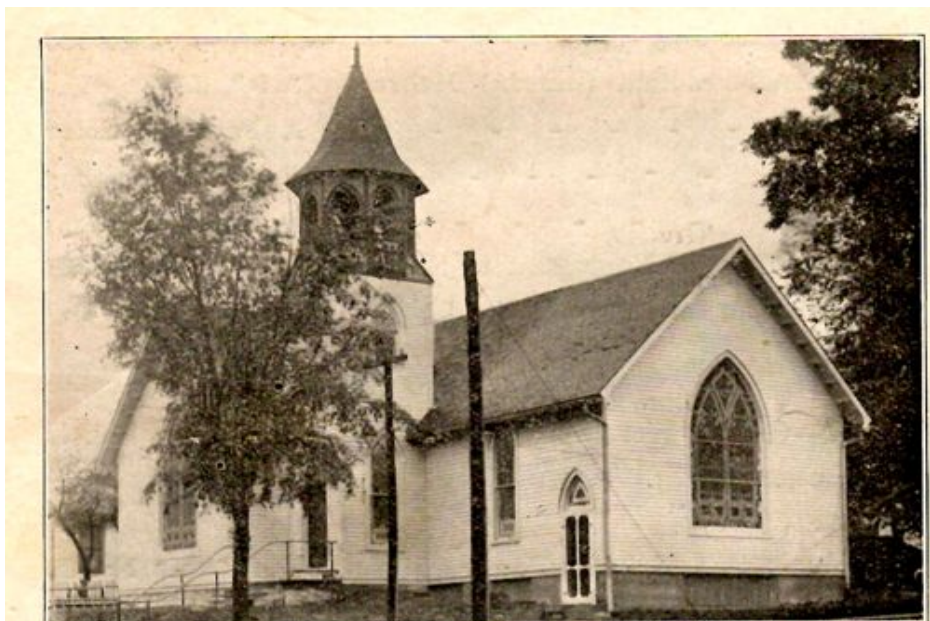
The pianist for the occasion was Mr. Herbert Wright, of Kansas City, brother of one of the brides. At 3:20 he played a prelude. A chorus of ten young ladies sang the bridal chorus from the RoseMaiden, and then came the strains of the Mendelssohn march. Masters Jack Steeper and Junior Russell scattered rose petals along the aisles and were followed by the ring bearers, Louise

Russell, Louise Bradford and Richard Steeper, who carried their precious charges on pink roses. The brides carried bouquets of bride's roses.

Miss Wright's gown was white crepe meteor trimmed in Valenciennes lace. Her veil was held in place by a silver band. She wore a necklace of pearls, the gift of the groom. Miss Lucile Steeper's gown was of kitten's ear crepe trimmed in pearls, with an over drape of point d'esprit. Her veil was caught with a band of pearls. She wore a string of pearls, the gift of the groom. Miss Irene Steeper's gown was of kitten's ear crepe with an over drape of silver lace. Her veil was fastened in place with a band of silver. She wore a platinum brooch, the gift of the groom.

The couples were met at the altar by Rev. O.H. Deever, pastor of the United Brethren church, who pronounced the ceremony uniting first Irene Steeper and Dr. Schaeffer then Lucile Steeper and Mr. Roos, and lastly Miss Wright and Harold Steeper.

Following the ceremony an informal reception was held at the Steeper home, the guests including relatives, out-of-town guests and members of the All-Sew club and of the Grouch club.



McLouth United Brethren Church (from JCGS files)

After the ceremony the wedded couples left by auto for Lawrence to take the train for a wedding trip together.

The out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Reuchlin Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wright, Mrs. J.C. Warnock and daughter, Miss Alice, Mr. and Mrs. M.R. Linscott, Mrs. C. A. Davis, Mrs. G.E. Baltis and Miss June Baltis, all of Kansas City, Mo.; Mr. Orville Wright and sister, Miss Katharine Wright, of Dayton, Ohio; Mrs.

Bilheimer, Birmingham, Ala.; Miss Ruth Benham, Leavenworth, Kans.; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Roos, Wellington, Kans.; Mr. and Mrs. C. Sparr, Mrs. And Mrs. Otto Barteides and children, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Stout, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lowman, all of Lawrence, Kansas; Mrs. E.J. Rice, Lyndon, Kans.; Mr. and Mrs. S. Sprowell, Larcon, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ratliff, Tonganoxie, Kans.; Mrs. J.W. Ross, Mrs. E.B. Slade and Mrs. M. Blevins, Oskaloosa, Ks.

Another Hickory Point Relic

The Winchester Argus, Page 3, Sat., Sept. 24, 1881

On Wednesday of this week Mr. Richardson brought to Brown & Mott's blacksmith shop a small cannon for the purpose of having the spike drilled out of the touch hole. The piece was one of the "old settlers' and was at Hickory Point during the Kansas-Missouri [illegible]. Mr. H. Mott, (and right here we wish to say that if anybody is to be handled roughly that Mr. M. gave us the facts, and as he is no relation of ours it would be nothing more than fair to beat him.) went up to the store and asked Mac for some powder to try a cannon captured at Hickory Point. Mac looked kind of "off," but "Hank" insisted that the relic was at the shop and could be seen by going down there. Mac was counting out a basket of eggs for an old lady on by Crooked creek, and began to get excited and lost the count and paid for the eggs on her statement

of the number, and lit out to see the "trophy of war." Menzo was trying to get 200 pounds of corn away from a 900-pound wagon, and had just got to that point where you have to "carry one," when he caught part of the conversation about the "great historic" and thought he would just slip out and "take in that gun." He had a doubt about what figure he should "carry," and gave the farmer the benefit of the doubt, charged the farmer with a two-hundred wagon, and then broke for the 'gun," calling for George Walls to come, too. George left a customer in the chair, half shaven. When they got to the shop and found an 8-inch, cast-iron toy cannon they adjourned to the north end of the shop and indulged in language like that used by keno players when luck is hard against them.

Snow and More Snow

The Oskaloosa Independent, Page 8, Fri., Jan. 17, 1919

A ruling has been made in regard to roads that are or may be blockaded with snow, to go through the fields where it is possible to do so, and adequate damages will be paid for any permanent injury done to crops; provided no road should be opened up through any corral or feedlot where stock is kept at the time.

If the ground is frozen, no bad places will develop in the fields by reason of the public travel; but if such places should develop, then such work may be done in shoveling snow as is necessary to eliminate such bad place or places.

The foregoing pertains to county roads and from this date on no snow shoveling will be paid for by the county that is not in accordance with the same.

The county reserves the right to make an investigation relative to the above before allowing any bill pertaining thereto, and in case of violation the bill will be turned down and not allowed.

However, provision will be made so that travel will not be stopped.

E.E. Clark
County Engineer

Winchester School History

By Raymond Riley

Winchester has a rich history of having a strong educational system. The first school was taught in a little box schoolhouse in the summer of 1858 by D. M. White. In 1859, District #7 was organized and a temporary school building was used. A new building was built between Oak and Walnut Streets and first used in 1860. In 1870, the old building was moved away and a new two-story schoolhouse was built on the same block, but next to Grasshopper Street.

When the increased attendance made necessary a new building or addition, there was a controversy. Neither side would compromise, so for several years in the 1880s there were two school districts, each having its own schoolhouse. In 1879, District 91 built a two-story wooden building where the present Winchester Community Center building is now located.

The two districts consolidated in 1891 and used the District 91 building. This building was used until 1911 when the three-floor brick building was constructed to accommodate the growing needs. This building was located on the same block, but on the northwest corner of the block, where the present day shelter house is.

In 1921, high school district #104 was established and a new modern high school building was constructed. This building was located just east of the present JCN High School. At the time this building was constructed, it was considered one of the best in the county. Recitation rooms and laboratories were well equipped. The auditorium had a seating capacity of 525. The gymnasium was the scene of many basketball tournaments. The library and study hall were well equipped. The 1911 building continued to be used by the grade school until a new building was built. This building, now the JCN Tech Center, was first used in 1960, at the same time the 1911 building was razed.

With school consolidation with Nortonville and the establishment of USD #339, Jefferson County North, the Winchester High School building was used as a middle school while high school students went to Nortonville. In 1980, the building then used for middle school was deemed deficient and dangerous, and was razed. In January 1982, the JCN High School was moved to Winchester to a new building. Grade school students remained in the Winchester building until a new Elementary-Middle School building was constructed in Nortonville, at which time all students K-8 were transported to Nortonville.

In 1874, the Winchester Academy was established. It was the desire on the part of the leading citizens of the village to found an academy that should exist for all time, and in course of time, add a college. More on the Academy in coming issues.



Winchester School photo from JCGS files

Early Recollections of Kansas

Written for the Independent

By J.H. Bennet

Published in *The Oskaloosa Independent*, Sat., Apr. 20, 1878

Jeremiah Howland "Squire" Bennet wrote captivating reminiscences about early Jefferson County for several county newspapers in the 1870s. Having moved to Kansas Territory near Coal Creek around Grasshopper Falls (now Valley Falls) in 1857, Bennet had a lot of material from which to write his stories. Bennet, a lawyer born in Maine in 1824, worked in various Jefferson County government jobs, including justice of the peace, probate judge, county clerk, county superintendent of public instruction. He lived in Valley Falls and in Oskaloosa – he married Caroline Macomber there – and later at Holton, where he died in 1897. Albert G. Patrick, a Jefferson County newspaper editor who shared Kansas Territory and early Kansas state experiences with Bennet, wrote of his friend: "Bennet had a penchant for county history and probably had more facts stored together than any other man in Jefferson county. He and [Patrick] often disagreed on some material points, and would have a little spat now and then, but we soon got over our mad fits..."

It was Thursday, April 7, A.D. 1857; a dull gloomy day, and my first prairie experience, and my first pony-back ride. In the early morning I stepped out of the south door of a little twelve-by-fourteen log cabin at Winchester; or rather where Winchester now is. Behind me was the cabin. It is there yet. A little to the east was a small corral and a frame building, also small, made of cottonwood lumber which had already begun to *twist*. The building was only partially enclosed. In my immediate vicinity was our own wagon, canvas covered, four yoke of oxen, and my own little bay pony. A little way to the north-west was another prairie schooner, two yoke of oxen, and a saddle mule. For miles around there was nought else, except the brown prairie, just tinted with green grass; yes, there was; a long distance to the north-east there were two black specks which I knew for cabins we had passed yesterday; nearer, and to the north-west, in a slight depression, were five cows, (I remember the number and relative position yet,) probably belonging to the ranch behind me; to south-east the timber on the headwaters of Stranger [and] Walnut [creeks], added to the bare and brown sadness of the outlook. The picture remains with me most vividly, to this day.

Old Elisha Best lived in that house, with his good old wife, as hospitable a couple of pioneers as ever our western borders produced. Our own company were four, Rasselas Monroe, James Curry, Wm. P. Putnam, and the writer. Some day I will tell you all about them. The other prairie schooner belonged to a young man and his young wife, settlers on the Soldier. They were going east for supplies. Their names dwell not now in my memory. In that little cabin eight of us had slept the profound sleep of peace. I suppose it was the deep sleep and our clear conscience that made the old mother's coffee, fat bacon, and well browned pan-cakes eaten at breakfast so deliciously sweet.

I had had some experience as a woods man, but none on the prairie. My pony was prairie bred and born, and taught me in an hour that he had better eyes and ears than I had. He could hear a rustle behind me, or see a spotted squirrel ahead, he could see a moving object on the distant horizon, or catch sight of the skulking wolf in the tall grass in the next hollow, long before I could, all day long.

I left my company and went south over the trackless prairie, my point of destination being Lawrence. I was wonderfully happy; — was in exuberance of health; — for the first time in my life completely emancipated from office labors; physically puny, but mentally strong, loyal, and true to freedom and the right.

Abundantly familiar with the country afterwards, I can trace with some enthusiasm the line of that morning's ride. Your readers who live along the route will smile at my earnestness, and wonder at the exuberance of my enjoyment; while to me the very recollection is like knocking the manacles off a life long slavery.

I went nearly south for three miles. I have now forgotten whether the house where Dr. Grower lives was then built, but I think it was not. I passed east of that and over the present site of J.F. Curry's house, and about three-quarters of a mile west of N.A. Howard's present dwelling, and seventy or eighty rods east of Bob Carter's house; there was a little field of corn about eighty rods east of Spence Bird's, part on the Holland quarter, and part on the quarter where Bird now lives. I went on the east side by guess, and of course got into the mud. Directly I came out of that hollow I saw the timber to the south-west; where old Billy Meredith, Jim Rickman and Spence Faubion live. I turned thence a little easterly, but was going south when I passed midway between the houses of Wm. Roberts and Tobacco Bell, and still south over the site of Old Slosson's present residence, and still south to about where Theodore Glynn now lives. For all these ten long miles I had seen no man, no house, no tame animal, no path, no sun. My idea of the direction I was going was of the vaguest kind. Old Billy Meredith and Jim Rickman are there yet. Spence Faubion has gone the way of all the earth. Spence Bird was then but a boy, over in Missouri. Trower, Curry, Roberts, Bell and Howard were unknown to Kansas for years after that.

On making the top of the first wave south of the branch south of Slosson's, (and I tell you these waves were magnificent and glorious, even in their dull brown,) I saw coming from the low ground, three men with guns, and saw also that they were walking on a well travelled road. In a flash I knew I was on the Lecompton road, the scene of many a Border Ruffian outrage, but with fear and trembling, and vague thoughts of sudden flight, and my pistol just concealed I advanced, *three to one*; they carried their guns at a trail; I could see their eyes; my own chin quivered; my lips must have been pale; the foremost and the shorter man with the most unmistakable significance hailed me; "Af you please, 'stranger' could yees till us how far it is to watter?"

This man was not the leader of the band. That leader was a tall, powerfully built man, past middle age with an eye and nose like a captured eagle, if I may use the expression. He impressed me as a man of prodigious strength, physically and mentally, the constant exhibition of which it cost him a struggle to suppress. We soon found the water; satchels were opened; tin cups, whiskey bottles, a cold pone, fried pork, and hard tack produced. Mr. Leader showed me a bundle of cuttings from the sumach, red bud, box elder, and hackberry; he also had samples from the gooseberry, and some wild onions. He had a fresh root of rosin weed, and showed me the old stocks and pods. He had one flower, a little pale lily, about a half inch in length, which looked as though perishing with cold. The company was scarcely in keeping with the hour, but it was a first lesson in wild life, and ever so different from what I expected. The old man explained to me the geography of the country between us and Lawrence, told me how to keep on the top of the ridge and thus avoid mud holes, advised me to go back a few miles to a wild prairie Post-Office and inquire which ridge I should take, and finally praised my agility as I mounted

my pony on the level prairie. I may say here perhaps, that I kept up this acquaintance for five years, and that the old man died in darkness, cold, and storm, under the bluffs and without shelter, the night after the battle of Shiloh.

Following his suggestion I turned back towards Leavenworth for more than three miles, over a bare prairie. That prairie is nearly bare now. Slosson's can be seen perhaps on the northwest, and I guess Andrus's on the south-east; and there is also a house on the Walls place. It was still high prairie, though there was quite a body of timber on my left; and turning a point thereof I found a respectable and comfortable looking log cabin, then occupied by William Butler. He was the father of that Butler who afterwards got so badly shot to pieces by Hugh Cameron. Many of your readers will remember the long continued law-suit over this shooting.

Old Butler was then Postmaster. To me he was polite, cheerful, and hospitable. He asked me to stay to dinner, and directed me on my way in plain and easy language. I never saw him afterwards. This house was on or very near the spot where Mrs. Joe Woodhead now lives, and unless I am much mistaken this was the first Postmaster in Jefferson county.

I would like you to go with me the full trip of that day down over the "Reserve," to witness an actual interview with a herd of wild ponies, to hear and see my first talk with a wild Indian in a language natural and common to all the world, but I fear of tiring. My next chapter will be in a different strain and will address itself only to the locality and people of Oskaloosa.

St. Ann's Catholic Church, Winchester

By Raymond Riley

During the first third of the twentieth century, members of the Catholic Church had their own building in Winchester. It was proposed in the early part of 1903 and by August of that year the foundation had been poured. The Church was dedicated in November of that same year.

Located at the northeast corner of Seventh and Pine (now where Albert and Ann Ray's residence is located), the building was 28 feet by 50 feet in size. There were four stained glass windows on both the east and west sides of the building and two stained glass windows on the front. According to a picture that is available at the Winchester Public Library, the steeple with a cross towered about 80 feet above the Church.

The dedication service was held November 15, 1903, with Rev. Bradley, the secretary of Bishop Fink, delivering the sermon. After the sermon, Father Fisher, the pastor of the congregation, said Mass. The Church bell, a \$125 gift from Bloss Noll, was blessed.

During the years, the Church, as a mission Church of the Corpus Christi parish, served the citizens of Winchester and vicinity until the 1930s, when it was closed. Old timers say there was much unhappiness over the closing of the Church.

According to the book "Corpus Christi Parish, 1857-2007:" "Saint Ann's was closed in 1940. The Martin house in Easton had been destroyed by fire. The lumber and other materials from the Church were used to rebuild the house. The vestment case was moved to Corpus Christi Church and continues to be used to this day. The statues' whereabouts are unknown. All the St. Ann's territory reverted back to Corpus Christi."

Purple Heart

By Donna Ward

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[Donna Ward is the great granddaughter of Salley Bissell, who was the great granddaughter of Jeremiah Bissell, the brother of the first Daniel Bissell. Two Daniel Bissells are mentioned in the story, one being an ancestor of the other. The younger of the two was the one associated with the Purple Heart. — Rick Nichols]

Daniel Bissell: Patriot Spy, by the Windsor Historical Society of Windsor, CT. “Seldom do we find a memorial erected to a man who at one time stood disgraced and despised by his fellow townsmen. Such a monument in memory of Sergeant Daniel Bissell, courageous patriot spy of the American Revolution, now stands on Palisado Avenue. The site chosen was the farm of his ancestor, John Bissell, founder of the family in America and owner of the famous Bissell Ferry. “Birthplace of Daniel Bissell, Patriot Spy of the American Revolution, 1674-1824, Conn. Soc. V.”



If Daniel Bissell could retrace the steps of his childhood, he would be amazed to find the honor that Windsor history has done him.

Daniel Bissell was born in 1754, the oldest son of Daniel Bissell Jr. and Elizabeth Loomis. He and his brothers lived a happy outdoor life in Windsor, typical of the pioneer family. They learned woodlore for their safety. They were taught to fish in the Great River and hunt in the surrounding woodlands to provide sustenance for the family. While this was essential to a full larder, they also spend many happy days swimming in the Rivulet and picnicking on the shore. As boys will, Daniel learned to imitate the speech of a Negro companion. This ability was to play a vital part in his future. He attended the local school, but as the oldest son he would inherit the family farm, and so his formal education ended in Windsor. However, he was a great lover of books and Oliver Ellsworth and Roger Wolcott were generous in lending so avid a reader books from their extensive libraries.

[Ed. note: Ellsworth and Wolcott were lawyers in Windsor. Ellsworth was a delegate to the Continental Congress and the third Chief Justice of the United States. Wolcott was a former colonial governor.]

When the news of the Boston massacre spread through the colonies, Daniel, now 20 years old, wished to join the volunteers from Windsor, but was persuaded by his father to wait for further developments.

After the Battle of Bunker Hill, Daniel did enlist under the command of Colonel Huntington. A short time later he returned to Windsor and resumed life on the farm.

After the Declaration of Independence, which united the colonists in a strong desire for liberty, Daniel re-enlisted and was soon promoted to sergeant.

There is a tradition that he was first married before the war and that his wife died, leaving a son. This has never been verified, but it is definitely known that he married Rhoda Hurlburt at Windsor on Dec. 30, 1780.

Rupert Hughes, the noted author, wrote a delightful tale about Daniel's war time romance. According to the story, while at a dance for soldiers, Daniel met a very charming girl named Rhoda Hurlburt, who later became his wife. She wore a purple silk gown trimmed with lace. During the festivities a clumsy Dragoon caught his spur in her skirt and ripped off a long strip of it. Daniel secured the piece of silk and placed it inside his blouse. Later he fashioned it into a heart and wore it as his lady's favor.

It seemed the sergeant's sterling qualities had not been overlooked, and there was an important mission to be undertaken. A dependable and capable man was needed to secure information relating to the forces and plans of the British army then occupying New York City.

Washington appealed to Daniel Bissell as he had to Nathan Hale earlier in the war under similar circumstances. Daniel was instructed to wear his army uniform in order to appear as a deserter from the American army, and a price of 50 pounds was set for his discovery and return. To accept this assignment, which would bring shame to him and his family, was a very difficult decision for Daniel to make. It meant isolation from everyone. But his love of country and desire for service made him sacrifice his personal feelings. Daniel was successful in evading the American sentries and penetrating the British lines. On his way to New York he gained admittance to General Benedict Arnold's headquarters by disguising himself as a lame, bent, old Negro, who pretended British soldiers had ransacked his farm. While in Arnold's headquarters he overheard the plans for the attack on New London being discussed. Knowing that any written information found upon his person would be his death warrant, he committed all that he had heard to memory.

The next day a sympathetic Dutch farmer carried Daniel in his wagon loaded with produce to the recruiting office of Arnold's Corps, where he was passed off as a drunken deserter. This bought him immunity for three days, and then Daniel was taken ill with fever and sent to a British hospital. Later he was put in a barn with other soldiers, where he was dreadfully ill.

Of his experiences there Daniel Bissell wrote, "Here my suffering was truly great; without fire the greatest part of the time, only wood allowed for the purpose of cooking our pork and pease; without attendance, but an additional blanket to two men; without shifting my clothes for three months; covered with head and body lice; unable to walk."

During his illness he became delirious and betrayed the fact that he was a patriot spy to his attending physician.

When Bissell's youthful strength returned, he became anxious to complete his mission. Acting on the suggestion of the doctor, who had become very fond of him and who had decided to help him, he confided in another soldier who also wished to escape. Pretending to search for a stray pig, the pair managed to leave the camp.

After crossing two rivers they were traced down by bloodhounds. The dogs lost the scent when the fugitives hid in a swamp. Days of evading discovery passed, but finally the American lines were reached. Daniel went immediately to Washington's headquarters to make his report. The general told him that he could not be rewarded by promotion as he had intended. Congress had ordered that no more commissions be given, and the army had no money for medals or other decorations.

As Rupert Hughes related this story, Daniel had worn Rhoda's purple silk heart pinned to his blouse all during the war, and when General Washington learned of this, he murmured to himself, "A purple heart! A purple heart!"



Sergeant Daniel Bissell was awarded the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington. Images on pages 13 and 14 from Wikimedia Commons.

On August 7, 1782, George Washington issued a badge of merit with the following order: "Whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with a narrow lace or binding. . . . Men who have merited this last distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do. The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all."

This badge was the only one issued during the Revolution, and only three men are on record

as having won it, all of them sergeants of the Connecticut Continentals. [They were Sgt. Daniel Bissell, Sgt. Elijah Churchill and Sgt. William Brown.] This award was highly prized by Daniel, and he kept it carefully pressed between the leaves of the family Bible.

"In the year 1810 upon returning from Sunday service, the Daniel Bissells found that their home had been struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The Order of the Purple Heart was destroyed with all of their other possessions." (Mildred Dunn and Edwinna Hillelmei)

Marks Hospital

The Valley Falls New Era, Thurs., Jan. 7, 1915

Open to all Reputable Surgeons and Patients;
A Needed Institution

One of the most important and useful institutions in the City of Valley Falls is the Marks hospital, owned and controlled by Dr. M.F. Marks, the oldest practicing physician and surgeon, and one of the most successful, in the city and country.

Dr. Marks recently enlarged and improved the hospital so that it is now modern in every respect, and one of the best equipped hospitals of its size in the state.

It is provided with four neatly furnished and cozy wards, one of them large enough to accommodate two patients and room for the nurses.

The bath and toilet room is a model of neatness and convenience, and is furnished with the latest in the art of fixtures.

The operating room is large, airy and well lighted for day or night work. The operating table and accessories are of the latest pattern, clean and white as Austrian enamel can make them.

The kitchenette, though least is not last, is ample for all purposes of preparing food and other necessities for patient or nurse.

The whole is lighted by electricity and provided with furnace heat, and hot and cold running water—from the city sand springs—and a fire escape.

In size and appointment the hospital is sufficient for the needs of the injured or ailing in Valley Falls and vicinity; and for patients abroad even who, from a long distance, have found it profitable to patronize the Marks hospital because the expenses for the same class of work and medical attendance was much less here than in metropolitan hospitals. The local surroundings and conditions were found to be better and more desirable and the location naturally healthful.

Since the accommodations and convenience are at least as good and the expense much less than at other hospitals and the local surgeons are experienced and capable, there is no good reason why every one needing hospital treatment should not make use of the home hospital.

This modern hospital is open to all reputable physicians and surgeons and their patients. In case an outside surgeon should be required to assist the local surgeon or surgeons, his services will be given with but little extra cost to the patient. The home hospital is at your service.