

YESTERYEARS

A publication of

The Jefferson County

Historical Society

and

The Jefferson County

Genealogical Society

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CONTENTS – April 2020

Jefferson County Historical Society and Jefferson County Genealogy Society Officers	2
In Memoriam: Raymond E. Riley	3
In Memoriam: Ann Hundley	4
Book Review: <i>Girl Waits with Gun</i>	4
March Madness in 1927: Basket Ball Tournament in Valley Falls	5
Baseball: “Dummy” Taylor on a Try-out	5
Thomas Bayne and Marcus Freeman: Slavery in Jefferson County	6
Voting Rights: “Race, Color, or Previous Condition of Servitude”	11
Pandemic, 1918	13
Tornadoes Rip Across County – Meriden Nearly Destroyed	15
Original Sketch: Early Recollections of Kansas by J.H. Bennet	19
Jefferson Township History by T.W. Gardiner	21
Caution on the Operation of Automobiles	21
In Other News	22
Jefferson County Tax List, 1861, Grasshopper Falls	(separate PDF document)

Yesteryears is published online as two separate PDF documents. The first document contains articles and newspaper stories of historical interest. The second document contains primary source material for researchers; it will be sent out, electronically only, later this month. 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 blog at storiesofyesteryears.blogspot.com.

Jefferson Co. Historical Society Officers

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Jefferson Co. Genealogical Society Officers

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In Memoriam: Raymond E. Riley



Raymond Eugene Riley, 87, of Winchester, passed away Monday, February 17, 2020, at Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka. Raymond was born July 21, 1932, at Atchison, the son of Paul Harlan and Hazel C. Nettleton Riley. He was a 1950 graduate of Winchester High School. He worked at Guaranty State (Merchants) Bank and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce both in Topeka, retiring in 1994 after 34 years of service at age 62. Raymond served as Director and Librarian of the Winchester Public Library and was instrumental in writing and receiving a grant and securing a donor for building of a new library for Winchester. Raymond continued to work and volunteer at the library for 23 years after his retirement. He was an active member of the Winchester United Methodist Church, serving as the church organist for 67 years. Having a passion for

genealogy, Raymond served as organizing President of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society and was a member and officer of the Jefferson County Historical Society. He served more than 10 years as a volunteer for the Find A Grave organization throughout Northeast Kansas. He organized Boy Scout Troop 192 in Winchester and served as troop leader 10 years. Raymond served on the Winchester Elementary School Board and then as a School Board member during organizing and consolidation of Jefferson County North Schools. Raymond was a devoted supporter of all Jefferson County North activities as well as many neighboring communities. He served as the official statistician for Winchester and Jefferson County North Schools sports teams, only missing 15 games in 69 years. He was honored with naming of the JCN football field as “Riley Field.” Raymond and his wife, Marie, received the JCN Spirit award in 2016, and he received the 2015 Basketball Coaches Association Service Award. He was an avid fan of baseball and attended many professional games at various stadiums, including the Kansas City Royals, St. Louis, New York and Chicago. He loved watching college basketball, especially KU and professional football and the Kansas City Chiefs!

Raymond was most proud of his family. He married E. “Marie” Riley on June 14, 1952, at Winchester; she preceded him in death on March 18, 2018. He is survived by one son, Tom (Lisa) Riley, Emporia; three daughters, Beverly “Bev” (Tom) Schuler, Meriden; Mary Ann (Greg) Noll, Winchester; Debra (Dave) Schuler, Winchester; one brother, Glen Riley, Texas; 11 grandchildren, Erin (Jeff) Rodriguez, Derek Riley, Scott Schuler, Kevin (Susan) Schuler, Janelle (Chris) Harper, Alisha (Roger) Elliott, Eric (Danielle)Noll, Zach (Kacie) Noll, Kristin (Bobby) Kramer, Kimberly (Brian) Lackey, Kelsey (Phillip) Strozier; and 21 great-grandchildren, Amiya, Brylie, Laykin, Lucy, Kenley, Curry, Bristol, Reese, Jackson, Wyatt, Alexa, Paxton, Ridge, Zoey, Koah, Berkeley, Emersyn, Cruz, Canon, Anna and Palmer. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Janet Lynn Riley, a son, Paul E. Riley, and two brothers, Charles Riley and infant Baby Boy Riley.

Burial was at the Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery, Winchester. Memorials are suggested to Winchester United Methodist Church, Jefferson County Genealogical Society or to Jefferson County North Baseball fund in care of Barnett Family Funeral Home, P.O. Box 602, Oskaloosa, KS, 66066.

www.barnettfamilyfh.com.

In Memoriam: Ann Hundley

Eva Ann Biery Hundley, 86, of Oskaloosa, died Monday, November 18, 2019, at Midland Hospice Care in Topeka. She was born May 20, 1933, at Webster, Kansas, the daughter of Alvin Jacob and Eva Nola Clark Biery. She was a 1951 graduate of Oskaloosa High School and earned her Registered Nursing Certificate at Stormont-Vail School of Nursing in Topeka. Ann worked at the Colmery-O'Neil V.A. Medical Center in Topeka, retiring after 25 years of service. She also worked five years at the Shawnee County Health Department. She was an active member of Jefferson County Historical Society and also served on the Oskaloosa Public Library Board of Directors. Ann enjoyed gardening, reading and all kinds of music and sports. She was an avid fan of KU basketball, the Chiefs, and the Royals. She was married to Wayne Hundley in January 1953; they divorced after 20 years of marriage but remained friends thereafter. He preceded her in death on October 1, 2014. She is survived by two sons, David Hundley, Steven Hundley; one daughter, Brynn Mroz (Kelly Hodges), all of Topeka; one brother, Everett (De) Biery, Franktown, Colorado; and three grandsons, Philip, Jayce and Tate. She was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Lisa Snyder, wife of Steven.



Ann requested memorials to the Jefferson County Historical Society and the Oskaloosa Public Library or to Jefferson County Home Health and Hospice in care of Barnett Family Funeral Home/Jefferson County Crematory, P.O. Box 602, Oskaloosa, KS, 66066. www.barnettfamilyfh.com.

Book Review: *Girl Waits with Gun*

By Amy Stewart, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015,
ISBN 978-0-544-40991-0 (hardcover)

For those of you who enjoy historical mysteries, this is a gem. Amy Stewart fictionalized the story based on newspaper accounts and genealogical and census records. In 1916, Constance Kopp was an early female police operative in New Jersey. She served as a jail matron and eventually became a deputy sheriff. The first book in this series recounts the harassment from the Black Hand Gang that brought Constance Kopp and her sisters to the attention of her local sheriff's department. Subsequent novels include *Lady Cop Makes Trouble*, *Miss Kopp's Midnight Confessions*, *Miss Kopp Just Won't Quit*, and *Kopp Sisters on the March*. All of them are fictionalized from sources including historical records and newspaper accounts. These stories include actual family mysteries as well as procedural mysteries. The historically based stories are exciting and entertaining, and Stewart provides "Historical Notes and Sources" sections for each book.

March Madness in 1927: Basket Ball Tournament in Valley Falls

The Winchester Star, Fri., Mar. 11, 1927

Contributed by Raymond Riley

Valley Falls entertained their first Jefferson County Basket-ball tournament last Friday and Saturday. The new high school gymnasium was crowded to capacity and about one thousand persons witnessed the final games. The games were broadcasted through the courtesy of the local broadcasting station and the Delaware Telephone Company. The reports were that it was very successful.

An excellent brand of basket-ball was displayed throughout the tournament and considerable "dope" was upset. The Perry team was picked for the winner but went down to defeat at the hands of their nearest rival, Winchester, in a game featuring close guarding and spectacular playing on the part of Winchester.

In the girl's game the McLouth girls easily defeated the Perry girls in the final game and was easily the class of the tournament.

It will be seen by the final scores given below Winchester was awarded the cup as the

winner of the tournament among boys and McLouth girls carried the other end of the tournament.

The games played and the scores were as follows:

FIRST GAMES

Boys—Perry 28, Meriden 14; Valley Falls 17, McLouth, 12; Oskaloosa 16, Rock Creek 8; Winchester 21, Ozawkie 19; Nortonville 11, Winchester 22.

Girls—Valley Falls 6, Winchester 16; Perry 18, Oskaloosa 6; Meriden 11, Ozawkie 7; McLouth 21, Nortonville 3.

Second Series

Boys—Perry 21, Valley Falls 8; Oskaloosa 21, Winchester 34.

Girls—Winchester 14, Perry 20; Meriden 14, McLouth 24.

FINALS

Boys—Perry 22, Winchester 25.

Girls—Perry 14, McLouth 30.

Baseball: "Dummy" Taylor on a Try-out

The Oskaloosa Independent, Fri., May 9, 1913

Special to the Globe Democrat.

Guthrie, Okla. May 3.—The application of "Dummy" Taylor, the former New York Giant pitcher, for a tryout in the Southern League this spring, believing that he was able to come back has been recalled to former Gov. Tom Ferguson of Oklahoma, now living at Watonga, the years that Taylor pitched for an independent team of Kansas all-stars, now many years ago. Ferguson was the team's mainstay backstop and Taylor was the star slabman.

The great aggregation was known as Hart's Mill's Rangers, composed of Southern Kansas players, and that year they won the state championship. Taylor was very effective in those days, being able to mow down many of the opposition players, and he was considered a

terror. It was not long after this that he began his career as a professional.

Catcher Ferguson went to Emporia, Kans., captained the college team there, making a record that caused him to be drafted by the Kansas City Blues. Catcher Reynolds and two other members of the Emporia team were also grabbed by Kansas City that year, and Reynolds made good in league ball. Ferguson's eyesight became defective, however, and he did not report, being given his release. He then became a Methodist minister, but later quit that for the newspaper office, and for twenty years now he has been editor-owner of the Watonga Republican. During the palmy days of the Rangers, Pitcher "Dummy" Taylor was a resident of Coffeyville, Kans.

(Contributed by Leanne Chapman)

Thomas Bayne and Marcus Freeman: Slavery in Jefferson County

In the U.S. census of 1840, George Bayne of Shelby County, Kentucky, reported holding 22 black persons in slavery. When he died in 1845, he divided his estate among his children. Those who lived north of the Mason-Dixon line received land and money. Those who lived in slaveholding states received human “property.” In 1850, George’s son Alexander Bayne reported holding six people in slavery in Jefferson County, Kentucky. Two years later, Alexander moved his family to Missouri. According to Alexander’s granddaughter Nora Bayne, “In 1852 they started west in search of cheaper land, Thomas [Alexander’s son] and a negro boy driving through by wagon and the family coming by boat. Their destination was Westport Landing.” Alexander managed the Gillis House hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, for two years and bought a farm near Westport. Alexander and his third wife, Elizabeth Hite Bayne, had a total of six children, three from their marriage, two from Elizabeth’s previous marriage to Alexander’s brother Griffin, and Thomas, Alexander’s son by his first wife, Elizabeth’s niece Susan Hite Bayne.

Thomas Bayne was born May 16, 1836, in Shelby County, Kentucky. His mother, Susan, died not long after his birth. In September 1836, Henrietta, a woman enslaved by the Bayne family, gave birth to her son, Marcus Freeman. George Bayne “gave” Henrietta’s infant to his young grandson Thomas. Henrietta raised the boys together, “just as if we had been two little puppies,” according to Marcus. Thomas would often save food and coffee from his own meals to share with Marcus. “He thought a great deal of me,” Marcus said, “and once when his stepbrother licked me, he nearly cut him to pieces with a Barlow knife.” When the family moved to Missouri, Marcus worked at the Gillis House, learning to cook.

Nora Bayne wrote that her father, Thomas, had a “boyhood dream, of owning a section of land amidst large timber, with fields of corn and blue-grass, and raising pedigreed horses, cattle and hogs. . . . In the fall of 1853 they learned that the Kaw Half-Breed Indian Land situated north of the Kaw River 50 miles west would be open for settlement the following spring. [This was inaccurate; see Kanza Lands, at right.] In February 1854, Thomas Bayne and a young man by the name of Arch Bradley bought a team, covered wagon and outfit for six months’ trip and started in search of the Kaw land.”

The boys built a cabin in virgin timber that reminded them of Kentucky. They hunted for game and explored the area, meeting some of the Kanza people who lived and camped there. Nora Bayne’s impression was that their interactions were peaceful, but she also said that a group of “Indians came to burn the cabin.”

Exploring downriver in the winter, the boys were caught in a blizzard with only two matches, one of them broken, but still succeeded in starting a fire. They discovered the abandoned settlement of Daniel Morgan Boone, who had been appointed “Government Farmer” for the Kanza people in 1827. Arch Bradley returned home after a few months.

Kanza Lands

An 1825 treaty between the U.S. and the Kanza nation reserved one square mile of land on the north bank of the Kaw River between Topeka and Williamstown for each of 23 Kanza mixed blood people. In exchange the Kanza ceded large tracts of their land in northeast Kansas to the U.S. In 1857, the Kanza sent a delegation to President James Buchanan, protesting the incursion of white squatters on the Kanza lands in what is now Jefferson County. The right of the Kanza to their lands was upheld, but squatters continued to lay claim to their land, encouraged by government officials.

In 1860, Alexander Bayne traveled to Washington to plead the case of the squatters. The *Oskaloosa Independent* reported, “No men in Kansas have been harassed more about title to their farms than have the ‘squatters’ on these lands.

“Too much credit cannot be ascribed to Mr. Bayne for the active interest he has always manifested in the welfare of the county, and particularly of the citizens on the Kaw Half Breed Lands.”

Thomas described the Boone village: “Just east of my prairie farm was an old well, near the bank of the river, when I moved here in 1854. The remains of quite a village can still be seen in the vicinity. When I broke the prairie I found the charred remains of a rail fence that had enclosed over 100 acres of land. This old village is seven miles above Lawrence on the north side of the river.”

In spring 1855, Thomas sent for Marcus Freeman, his sister Charity and their cousin Fielding Edwards, to work on his farm. Marcus recalled, “I stayed for a few months, and then with his permission went back to Kansas City and married and rented my time for \$200.00 a year for seven years until I was emancipated. Mr. Bayne gave me a pass which allowed me to go between Missouri and his farm in Kansas.”

The Baynes shared the labor of their enslaved people. The 1859 Kansas census recorded Alexander Bayne owning two people, William Bayne owning one, and Thomas Bayne owning none, as Marcus Freeman’s labor was “rented.” Marcus said that his sister, Charity, “had belonged to Will Bayne, Thomas’s stepbrother, and he left her on his brother’s farm when he went to California.” William Bayne, Thomas’s stepbrother and cousin, traveled to California in 1853 but returned to settle east of Thomas in 1859.

Alexander and Elizabeth Bayne and their three younger children moved to Kansas in 1856, taking a claim west of Thomas’s farm. In 1857, Henry Hatton moved to Kansas from Indiana with his wife, Minerva, and daughters, Susan and Sarah. Thomas Bayne married Susan Hatton in February 1858. William Bayne married Sarah Hatton in October 1860.

Thomas Bayne assisted in surveying the county and setting township lines. Thomas, William and Alexander Bayne held a variety of early local offices in Jefferson County. In 1856, Alexander and William were officers on the proslavery board of Kentucky Township. In 1858, Alexander chaired the Kentucky Township board of supervisors; Thomas was treasurer and later assessor.

Slavery in Territorial Kansas

In 1854, the Kansas-Missouri Act opened Kansas Territory for U.S. settlement, effectively repealing the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and making it possible for Kansas to enter the Union as either a free or a proslavery state. Many slaveholders saw this as an opportunity to “establish the institution” in the new territory and brought their enslaved people to Kansas. Proslavery men flooded Kansas settlements to make sure the March 1855 territorial election chose a legislature that would not only allow slavery but severely punish anyone advocating abolition. According to C.E. Cory, “Kansas was furnished with a slave code which, in its brutal and shameless disregard of the individual rights of whites and blacks, was never surpassed on the continent. . . . By its terms a man could be sent to the penitentiary for the offense of crossing the territorial line with a copy of the New York *Tribune* in his pocket.” Slavery was considered necessary to agriculture in Kansas, where the staple crops were anticipated to be hemp and tobacco.

The 1855 Kansas census listed 151 free and 192 enslaved black persons. The number enslaved may have been above 400. A.G. Patrick of the *Oskaloosa Times* wrote that 69 people were enslaved in Jefferson County in 1856. Zu Adams* wrote, “It is evident that a large per cent of our actual slave holders came during the first two years of the settlement, with the honest intention of founding new homes in a new state and brought with them their slaves as they brought their horses and cattle.”

Four territorial constitutions were proposed in Kansas. The Topeka, Lecompton and Leavenworth Constitutions failed to be ratified. The free-state Wyandotte Constitution was ratified in October 1859.

The proslavery Lecompton Constitution permitted slavery and excluded free blacks from Kansas. Alexander Bayne was a delegate to the constitutional convention. On August 7, 1880, the *Oskaloosa Independent* listed the signers of the Lecompton Constitution. Jefferson County names were Thomas O. Chiles, Alex. Bayne, Wm. H. Swift. The article noted, “Alex. Bayne was the father of Wm. G. Bayne, present sheriff of Jefferson County, and Thos. R. Bayne, one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Rural Township.”

*“Zu [Abzuga] Adams, the eldest daughter of Franklin G. and Harriet Clark Adams, worked for the Kansas State Historical Society during its first thirty-five years. Her papers consist of two boxes and one letterbook, covering from 1872-1911.”

<https://www.kshs.org/p/zu-adams-collection/13971>.

Another early settler was James Scaggs,[‡] a slaveholder who claimed land on the Kanza reserve in Jefferson County in 1854. According to John Speer, editor of the *Lawrence Tribune*, “He was a leading man of his class, enthusiastic in his idea of planting slavery in Kansas.” In the Kansas 1859 census, James Scaggs reported holding 13 people enslaved; Thomas Bayne recalled the total as 27. Scaggs was regarded as a “rough” man. He rented out skilled enslaved people, such as blacksmith Robert Skaggs, who worked independently in Lecompton. Marcus Freeman’s sister, Charity, married Robert Skaggs. By 1859, it had become clear that slavery would soon be banned in Kansas. Scaggs removed to Texas with all his “property.” Charity went with her husband, with the permission of the Bayne family. Free-state men had threatened to liberate the enslaved people, so Scaggs armed them, trusting them to guard his \$10,000 in specie on the journey.

[‡]“Scaggs” is the spelling in the earliest Jefferson County documents. “Skaggs” or “Skeggs” appears on the memorials of Robert and Charity Skaggs and in many later documents.

In January 1861, Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state. In April 1861, the American Civil War began. Marcus Freeman recalled, “I was working in the printing office for Van Horn and A. Beal on the *Kansas City Journal* at the time of the firing on Sumpter, and worked the press when they were getting out the extras for the occasion. I remember the excitement well.” In March 1863, Marcus married Mary Ann Jones at the Eldridge Hotel in Lawrence, Kansas, where he was working as a cook. According to the *Topeka Plaindealer*, Marcus was working at the Eldridge at the time of Quantrill’s raid in August 1863.

Underground Railroad: The Irrepressible Conflict

In 1856, John Armstrong of Washington Creek, Douglas County, took Ann Clarke to Iowa. She had escaped, been recaptured and daringly escaped again before reaching the home of a Mrs. Scales, who hid her in a sugar barrel in the cellar. Ann eventually made her way to Chicago. John Armstrong wrote, “In preparation for our journey to Iowa, I got a close carriage of Rev. Burgess. The span of mules I got from another place. I had to raise money to pay the expenses: From Gov. C. Robinson \$10.00, Maj. Abbott, \$5.00, Col Ritchie \$5.00. The rest were dollar subscriptions, from various parties, \$70.00 in all. During this journey I looked up the stopping places for the underground railroad. The road was about this way: We went first to Rochester, to Bowker in the night. The next stopping place would be Holton, at Smith’s, or at Reynolds, who lived about a mile west of Holton, on the Creek. Another place was five miles north of Holton, where [John] Brown was caught at the Battle of the Spurr. In crossing that creek I got stuck, and had to get the woman out of the buggy. This was on the Jim Lane road. Another place where we used to stop was Geo. Graham’s, afterwards state treasurer, on Poney Creek, New Albany. We afterwards sent several women up. Some came from Missouri, some from Kansas.”

In December 1859, John E. Stewart wrote, “About two hours since I arrived at home after an absence of eight days, dureing which I have sufferd more than I can describe to you, my hands & feet are froze, my ears are about an inch thick & my cheek bones are destitute of skin & what is worse I have only a few hours for rest to day, as I must start on the road again at night fall to seek a place of safety for two of my black bretheren that I have brought this far from the land of bondage. Since the resque of [John] Doy,[§] I have spent a great portion of my time on this way, & have brought away from Mo. fourteen, including one unbroken family of which I feel rather proud. We have two dificulties to contend with. First, poverty, we have to find our own waggon & horses, pay our own traveling expences, etc, etc, & in many cases to find something for the slaves we resque, who are nearly always destitute of everything. Our second dificulty is what to do with the slaves when we get them. There is something wrong in Nebraska & Iowa. I am fearfull that some have been captured, there & sent back. Please write me all the information you can on this point, the mean time I will do all I can in this great cause. I must conclude this with a remark my wife just now made, What a wicked Institution Slavery is, says she, it makes us all wicked.” John Stewart signed his letter, “Yours in the Irrepressible Conflict.”

[§]For more on John Doy’s disastrous underground railroad journey through Jefferson County, see “Jefferson County Jayhawkers and Forgotten Freestaters,” <https://jeffersonjayhawkers.com/the-immortal-ten-and-the-rescue-of-john-doy/>

Against the Lecompton Constitution

The Grasshopper, Sat., June 5, 1858

A Churubusco Defeat

The 2d day of August the Lecompton bribe is to be submitted to the people of Kansas for their acceptance or rejection. The miserable myrmidons who suppose that a constitution “conceived in fraud and brought forth in iniquity” will ever be sanctioned by an outraged people, will be surprised when, in tones that shall make the White House and Capitol tremble from base to dome, saying, “Get thee behind me, Satan.”

The Grasshopper, Sat., June 12, 1858

A Glance at the Future

A serious question is this: what course will the Free State men of Kansas take in case the Lecompton swindle should become the organic law—through fraud on the part of the Administration officials?

There can be no doubt that if such an event *should* occur, the President of the United States would immediately upon the receipt of the Governor’s proclamation announcing the result, issue his proclamation declaring Kansas a STATE, and worse than all else, a *Slave State!*

We will suppose this possible (and we think it not only possible, but quite probable,) what should we do? Shall we after having battled for four long years, and having almost reached the goal for which we have been struggling—shall we, we ask, after having almost gained the further bank of the Rubicon—turn back? The Free State men have not, nor should they learn the meaning of *fail!*

Higgins in a dispute over a young lady. Higgins ran away. Laura Bayne, the youngest sister, married Joseph McCall in 1865. She died in 1868.

Alexander Bayne’s third wife, Elizabeth, died in 1866. A year later he married Angeline McAninch in Johnson County, Missouri. Alexander studied medicine and practiced as a country doctor in Missouri and Kansas in the 1870s. He died at the home of his son Thomas in 1883. In 1880-81, William Bayne served as sheriff of Jefferson County. He died in 1911.

Thomas Bayne served as a Jefferson County commissioner in 1874-75. He was elected to the Kansas legislature in 1882. When he died in 1896, the *Oskaloosa Independent* said, “Although a democrat he was respected by men of all parties.” Susan Bayne died a few months later in 1897.

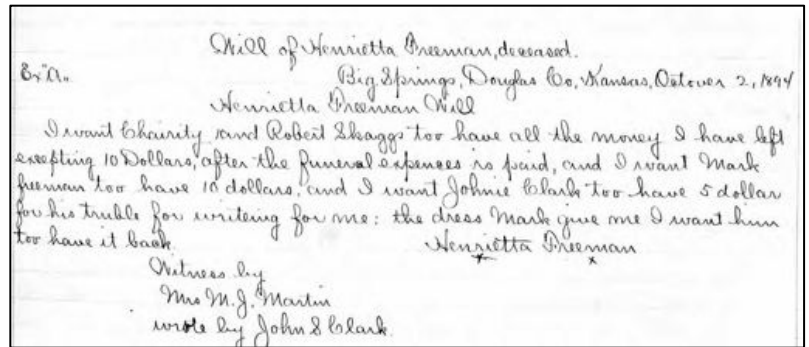
Thomas and Susan Bayne had six daughters; Sallie and Jessie died young. Nora and Bettie remained at home until 1897. Fannie Bayne Wilson died in 1898. Nora and Bettie raised her daughter and son, Inez and Thomas Bayne Wilson, until their father, Benjamin Wilson, remarried in 1903. Maude Bayne married John Morin in 1878; they raised two daughters, Zerelda and Mary Maud. The Morin family moved to California in the 1910s, and Nora and Bettie moved with them.

In October 1864, Thomas and William Bayne enlisted in Company N, 4th Regiment, Kansas State Militia. From the Kansas State Historical Society, Militia rolls, Oct. 9-26, 1864, Kansas Memory, vol. 2, p. 79: “T.R. Bayne went out as Orderly, was elected Capt. on the 16th Oct., 1864, took command on the next day, commanded the Co. up to the state line, when he deserted and led his company home, except the former Capt. who left the Co. and crossed the line. Capt. Bayne lost his Muster Roll and all the papers belonging to the company. All the other members of the Co. deserted Friday and Friday night, the 22nd of Oct., 1864. . . Most of the Co. refuses to assign the Pay Rolls and Muster Rolls. Each man in the Company drew one single blanket, the price of which I do not know.” Kansas militia units helped to defeat the Confederate forces of Gen. Sterling Price at the battle of Westport on Oct. 23, 1864. Militia enlistees were not required to cross the border into Missouri. Thomas’s company and other units who remained in Kansas were within their rights.

The Baynes may have had a personal reason to avoid the battle. Their young half-brother, James Warner Bayne, called “Warner,” had joined Company B of the Confederate 12th Missouri cavalry regiment under Col. David Shanks. Company B was recruited in Jackson County, Missouri, in 1862-63. The 12th participated in Price’s raid on Missouri and Kansas in 1864. Warner Bayne was taken prisoner and died at Fort Leavenworth in November 1864.

Theodore Frederick Bayne, Thomas’s youngest brother, was shot to death on the Kaw bottom (in or near Rising Sun) on August 20, 1865, by Robert

Robert and Charity Skaggs worked for James Scaggs in Texas, six years enslaved and two as free persons, earning enough money to return to Kansas in 1868 or 1869. William and Thomas Bayne helped them get started farming in Kansas, renting land to them. They bought 50 acres near Big Springs in Douglas County and farmed there for 40 years. They are buried in Eastview Cemetery in Big Springs, along with Charity and Marcus's mother (and Thomas Bayne's foster mother), Henrietta Freeman.



Douglas Co. Record of Wills, Vol. 1-2, 1873-1901, ancestry.com

In 1871, John Speer reported that James Scaggs, having lost his fortune, was living in Montgomery County, Kansas, renting a cabin from a man he had formerly enslaved.

Marcus Freeman was head cook at the Eldridge Hotel in Lawrence until 1885, when he accepted a position at the Copeland Hotel in Topeka. He was head cook there for nearly 20 years. He owned a barbershop in Topeka, and Mary Ann Freeman opened a bakery there in 1894. They had five children. Only their daughter, Mayme Johns Shane, survived them. Marcus Freeman died in 1905. According to the *Topeka Plaindealer*, he “was one of the best cooks of his day, and was well acquainted with most of the leading men of the state and nation. He was a drawing card for the Copeland as it was often said by drummers and politicians that they longed to get back to Topeka to get some of his cooking.”

In 1895, Zu Adams of the Kansas State Historical Society interviewed Marcus Freeman for a collection of narratives of slavery in Kansas. Marcus was reluctant to give her permission to publish his memoir unless she first consulted Thomas Bayne. “Mr. Bayne,” he said, “has always been a good friend of mine, and I don’t want to hurt him. . . He was offered at one time \$1,800 for me. A man named Davis wanted me for his father’s farm in the south. Mr. Bayne was kind to his slaves. He would buy cloth for himself and me off of the same piece of goods. . . When the colored refugees came over into Kansas during the war, many of them came up the river as far as Lawrence. They were destitute. Mr. Bayne assisted them in many ways. He invited [them] to come out to his woodland and carry in all the wood they needed for fuel, free of cost.”

When Zu Adams wrote to Thomas Bayne, he responded with a few additions to Marcus’s account, and offered his reaction to her project, “I am not ashamed of having owned Slaves. Of course we knew that we had a great responsibility on our hands but was willing to meet it – we was not like northern people covered solely by prophet. . . but it is of no use to write on this Subject – the northern people don’t now understand what Slavery was and never will.”

This paternalistic attitude was common among Kansas slaveholders, according to Marc Allan Charboneau: “Because they had convinced themselves that slaves had accepted their enslavement willingly, slaveholders placed blame for disloyalty on abolitionists and other free-soilers in the territory. Paternalism relied on a hopeful belief that by treating slaves decently, they would reciprocate with loyalty and docility. Slaveholders had difficulty admitting that perhaps the slaves were not as contented with their condition as they seemed. . . As for the slaves, they rejected any paternalistic attempts of control by the masters and instead chose to take advantage of a unique opportunity for freedom offered by Kansas.”

When Thomas Bayne ran for the Kansas senate in 1892, Marcus Freeman told a reporter, “Tom Bayne is a good neighbor, but he is on the wrong side, and always was, and these times when these fellows are bidding for the colored vote, I feel like drawing history on them. They can’t stand history. I’m a free man, but it is no thanks to Tom Bayne. No self-respecting colored man can vote for him.”

— by Jane Hoskinson, with thanks to Liz Leech for research and editorial assistance

Voting Rights: "Race, Color, or Previous Condition of Servitude"

In 1867, a group of Kansas residents petitioned the state legislature to support suffrage for black males by removing the word "white" from articles five and eight of the state constitution. The legislature approved the amendment. It was presented to voters in a referendum, publicized in Kansas newspapers for several months before the election. Kansas voters (white males only) defeated the amendment. According to the Kansas Historical Society, "Voters also defeated a similar amendment supporting white, female suffrage. These proposed amendments followed the Kansas legislature's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which defined who were citizens, including Negroes."

On February 3, 1870, ratification of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution assured the right to vote to all male citizens, regardless of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

The Elections.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Sat., Nov. 9, 1867

Kansas Republican by a large majority. Negro suffrage fails by a large majority, and woman suffrage by a still larger vote. The vote against negro suffrage is nearly all in four counties, Leavenworth, Wyandotte, Atchison and Jefferson; outside of these four, as far as reported, it has a small majority.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Sat., Nov. 23, 1867

The result of the election in this State is about as follows: . . . The majority against negro suffrage is about 9,000, against female suffrage 10,000, for disfranchising rebels, 1,500; subject to variations from the official count. The vote for and against negro suffrage is larger than for and against female suffrage.—The latter gets less than 7,000 votes in the State, and about 3,000 of these were obtained on a bargain and sale with the Democracy [Democratic political party].

The Oskaloosa Independent, Sat., Feb. 26, 1870

ADOPTED.—The Fifteenth Amendment has now been adopted by thirty States, Texas and Nebraska having passed upon it on the 15th and 17th inst., which gives the required number of States without counting New York and Indiana, over which the Democracy quibbled. 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.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, WHICH WERE SUBMITTED AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE, FOR RATIFICATION OR REJECTION, BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE STATE, AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

Concurrent Resolution amending the Constitution of the State of Kansas.

SECTION 1. That there is hereby proposed for publication, and for submission to the qualified electors of the State of Kansas, at the next general election, for ratification or rejection, a proposition to amend section one, article five, of the Constitution and wherever else in said Constitution it occurs, by striking out the word "white."

SEC. 2. That the ballots used at said election shall be written or printed as follows: "For Constitutional amendment striking out the word white," or "against Constitutional amendment striking out the word white," as the voters may prefer.

SEC. 3. That said election shall be conducted in all respects in accordance with existing laws, and if a majority of the qualified electors of the State at said election, shall vote in favor of striking out said word "white" from and after the canvass of said vote, it shall form and constitute no part of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and if a majority of said electors shall vote against the proposition to strike out said word "white," it shall be and remain a part of said Constitution.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
February 18, 1867. JOHN T. MORTON,
Chief Clerk of H. of Reps.

Concurred in by the Senate, February 18,
1867. A. R. BANKS,
Sec. of Senate.

State of Kansas, Office of Secretary of State,
Topeka, July 15, 1867.

I, R. A. Barker, Secretary of State, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original concurrent resolution now on file in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the great seal of the State, the day and year last above written. R. A. BARKER,
Secretary of State.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Sat., Aug. 10, 1867

The New Era.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Sat., Apr. 9, 1870

This week has marked a new era in the political history of the country.—Thousands of colored people have gone to the polls and voted; and, as a rule, they have voted right.

The colored men know who have been their friends. They know that Abraham Lincoln was their true benefactor, that to him more than any other man they owe their enfranchisement; and they know that Mr. Lincoln was elected by Republican vote, and upheld by the Republican party when rebels and copperheads were howling about the constitution, and denouncing the soldiers of the Union and of Liberty as “Lincoln’s hirelings,” and the war for the government and freedom as an “abolition crusade.” They know, too, that as soon as Andy Johnson turned his back upon the negroes, and became a traitor to all his pledges for the enfranchisement of the colored people, the Democracy took him up, and tried to sustain him in his wicked and perfidious war upon their race. These are great facts which no amount of blarney can blot out. They stand up in bold relief against the political sky, and are no more to be removed than the “everlasting hills” of granite. The colored people are not such fools they cannot see these things; and seeing them, they are not such fools as to vote for the men who have been against them all the time, and against those who have been their friends from the beginning.

JOYOUS.—Tuesday was a gala day with the colored people of this place and vicinity. It was the first time they had ever been permitted to walk up to the polls and deposit their votes. They felt proud of their new manhood. They were new men. You could see that plainly. They *felt* it. They behaved remarkably well; and the result of the election shows they voted right. Of course there were some amusing incidents. There are two orifices in the ballot-box for depositing the votes, and one of the colored men, after voting, called a friend out privately, and asked him confidentially about these two places, saying he was afraid his vote had been “put in the wrong hole.” He was told it made no difference, and felt relieved. He did not want to put a vote in the Democratic end of the box. We saw Mr. Merriman after he had voted, and he was so lithe and buoyant, we actually thought he was a young man. We could give a dozen anecdotes, amusing and instructive, but omit them, and simply say that the colored people of Oskaloosa acted with propriety, good sense and sound judgment the first day they exercised the elective franchise.

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Pandemic, 1918

The so-called "Spanish influenza" epidemic began at Camp Funston (Fort Riley), Kansas, in March 1918. As soldiers were sent overseas to serve in World War I, the virus mutated, becoming a deadly pandemic in Europe. Historians believe that neutral Spain's lack of news censorship gave the virus its common name. Pandemic flu struck the U.S. again in fall 1918. Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine, secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health, advised the governor to close schools, churches, theaters, dances and public meetings, and to limit the number of people allowed in stores at one time. Schools posted homework assignments in post offices and published them in local papers. Ministers published their Sunday sermons in newspapers. The ban disrupted elections. A third wave hit in spring 1919. Kansas recorded 2,639 deaths. Neighboring states without closing orders had higher infection rates. "It is estimated that the disease killed between 16 and 30 million people worldwide and was responsible for 675,000 deaths in the United States alone." — Kansas Historical Society, <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/flu-epidemic-of-1918/17805>

The Oskaloosa Independent, Fri., Sept. 27, 1918

Seek Cure for Influenza

Surgeon General Blue Asks Scientists to Join in Hunt for Germs of New Disease.

Washington, Sept. 21.—Laboratories throughout the country were asked yesterday by Surgeon General Rupert Blue of the United States Public Health Service to aid in determining the exact nature of the micro-organisms causing Spanish influenza.

It is well known, he said, that the epidemic of influenza which swept a large part of Europe and the United States in 1893 was an infection caused by a very minute bacterium usually spoken of as "Pfeiffer's bacillus."

Reports from some European countries indicate 20 per cent of the population has been affected this summer by Spanish influenza.

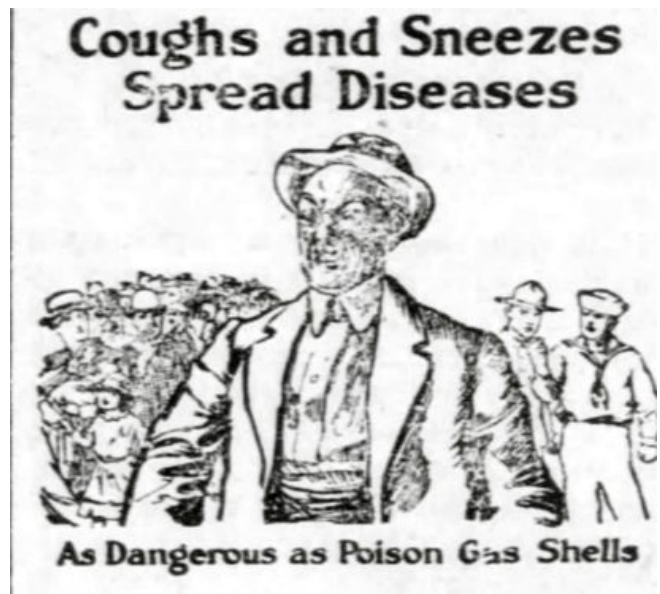
The Oskaloosa Independent, Fri., Oct. 11, 1918

All Public Meetings Called Off

Governor Capper, at the instance of the State Board of Health, has asked that all public meetings, schools, etc., be called off until one week from this coming Saturday, when it is hoped the influenza epidemic will have spent its force.

Accordingly the Oskaloosa schools were dismissed yesterday at noon; the church meetings have been canceled as noticed elsewhere; the lyceum jubilee concert is postponed; also the teachers' meeting at Perry, and the District S.S. Institute at Holton.

There are several cases of the disease at Nortonville, and the State Board says 25 cases in all in this county. Keep away from crowds, gargle or spray throat and nostrils if you have a sneezing cold and take care of yourself, consulting a doctor if you have serious symptoms.



The Oskaloosa Independent, Fri., Oct. 18, 1918

Influenza Still Spreading

Governor Capper has issued a proclamation closing schools, churches, theaters and prohibiting all public gatherings in Kansas for a week at least, to prevent the spread of influenza. This action was taken following a conference with Dr. S.J. Crumbine, secretary of the state board of health. The order is effective at once and continues until October 19. It may be continued longer if conditions warrant it as the time for raising the quarantine approaches. [The order was extended until mid-November.]

Influenza is essentially a crowd disease, the infection being spread most rapidly by people in close contact. The closing order is to prevent any large number of persons being together at one time. By delaying the transmission of the disease the virulence of the organism carrying it is lessened materially and soon the virulent form of influenza develops into nothing more than a cold.

By closing all meeting places, churches, schools, moving picture shows, theaters, parties and dances for a week, exposed or contact cases will have developed and [been] located by the health authorities. Then the schools, churches and theaters may be allowed to reopen as the disease can be held in check.

In Topeka arrangements have been made for opening an emergency hospital for influenza cases in a school building.

The Big Public Sale Postponed

The ban being placed on all public gatherings on account of the influenza, the Kinnett & Hutchins big Dissolution Sale is postponed until Monday, October 21st, 1918, three miles east of Valley Falls, Kans.

103 head of cattle.
11 head of horses and mules
High grade Duroc Jersey hogs
Farm implements.

The Winchester Star, Fri., Oct. 18, 1918

The Oskaloosa Independent, Fri., Oct. 25, 1918

Influenza Still on the Increase Missouri and Kansas Stricken.

Washington, Oct. 19—Reports to the public health service today from thirty-five states showed that Spanish influenza still is on the increase in most parts of the country. Conditions in army camps also were less favorable, the 4,591 new cases reported to noon today showing that the disease apparently was stationary after the marked decline noted for several days.

The epidemic still is more pronounced in the eastern section of the country than it is west of the Mississippi river, due, undoubtedly, to the more crowded conditions in the large cities. Up to October 16, New Jersey reported 107,839 cases with 2,232 deaths, while in New York City 4,733 cases of influenza with 336 deaths and 646 cases of pneumonia with 287 deaths were reported yesterday.

The epidemic also continues in the Middle West. Louisville and five other cities in Kentucky have many cases, while Indiana yesterday reported 2,688 new cases outside of Indianapolis, where the disease is epidemic. The malady also continues in Illinois and Michigan, while Ohio reported that it is prevalent in thirteen cities of that state.

In Missouri and Kansas.

Missouri reported epidemics in seven cities, Colorado in seven cities and Kansas in seven cities and many counties. There is a serious epidemic at Oklahoma City, with many cases in other parts of Oklahoma.

Although influenza cases in army camps increased slightly, the number of pneumonia cases, 1,599, decreased during the 24-hour period ending today at noon. Deaths were 657 against 684 yesterday. Influenza cases reported from all camps since the epidemic began now total 279,945; pneumonia cases 42,675 and deaths 13,681.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Fri., Oct. 25, 1918

Uncle Sam's Advice on Flu

Epidemic Probably Not Spanish in Origin— Germ Still Unknown—People Should Guard Against "Droplet Infection"—Surgeon General Blue Makes Authoritative Statement.

Washington, D.C.—(Special.)—Although King Alfonso of Spain was one of the victims of the influenza epidemic in 1893 and again this summer, Spanish authorities repudiate any claim to influenza as a "Spanish" disease. If the people of this country do not take care the epidemic will become so widespread throughout the United States that soon we shall hear the disease called "American" influenza.

Tornadoes Rip Across County - Meriden Nearly Destroyed



JEFFERSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE — (Left in the state, but it did not in the tornado which struck Oklahoma May 19, 1960. — Independent photo.



REMAINS OF A LARGE BUILDING — This is the same building which was destroyed by the tornado which struck Oklahoma May 19, 1960. — Independent photo.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Thu., May 26, 1960: Tornadoes struck through the heart of Jefferson County last Thursday night, sweeping a path that ranged in width from three miles wide to a half mile wide at its narrowest point; thus, recording the date of May 19, 1960, in the annals of history and engraving upon the minds of all who witnessed their passing images never to be forgotten.

Entering this county just west of Meriden, Kansas, these roaring, digging, grotesque monsters of the sky swept down upon the residents of Meriden and left their town a mass of rubble. In their wake were many injured and one dead.

Passing out of Meriden they swept a path across many of the finest farms in central Jefferson County on a path northeasterly to the village of Ozawkie. After damaging many homes and destroying much of the town's sheltering trees, their paths crossed the hill just east of the village on which lie the ancestors of many of the families of this area. Their resting places were strewn with torn and twisted trees and monuments erected to them by their survivors were hurled about.

Here on this high hill overlooking the Delaware Valley, Jefferson County Sheriff, John Pence, was seriously injured while attempting to chart and report the approach of this dreadnought

of nature. His patrol car was overturned and came to rest hanging from a tree. Although he was seriously injured, John managed to escape the car and make his way downhill to the highway where he was picked up and taken into Ozawkie and from there to Lawrence Memorial Hospital, where he is resting fairly comfortably although suffering a fractured vertebra.

From Ozawkie the storm's path, etched with destruction, was due east through the county seat, Oskaloosa, heavily damaging farms as it crossed over the hills into the Slough Creek valley and thence into the city.

Entering Oskaloosa the storm's path of heaviest destruction was over the entire north half of the city, bordered on the south by highway K92 and on the north by the county road north of the cemetery. Here the Oldest Court House (still in use) in the State was destroyed, homes and businesses suffered heavy losses and some were demolished. Several persons were injured and three were hospitalized.

Continuing their eastward path to the eastern boundary of our county these whirling, destructive freaks of nature ripped apart farm buildings, homes and caused great losses. Leaving the county near the Edmonds Chapel, this path of destruction will long bear the scars to attest its passing.

Meriden, Kansas

Daylight, Friday, May 20, gave the badly shaken and bewildered residents of this community their first complete view of the extensive damage and destruction done by the tornado which moved down on them at about 6:40 p.m. the evening before.

Miraculously, only one person died—Mrs. Mildred Hundley, 50, who was buried in the ruins of a restaurant and tavern she operated on the town's main east-west street. Thirty-nine persons were injured, several severely.

Mrs. Hundley died thinking the storm was over. She had just left Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Bruner, who live across the street from her restaurant. Mrs. Bruner, 75, said the victim had gone to the front yard of the Bruner home, preparatory to seeking shelter.

Then the women talked for several minutes in the front yard, and Mrs. Bruner said she and her husband were going inside. She quoted Mrs. Hundley as saying, "It looks like the storm is over and I'm going back to my restaurant." Five minutes later the tornado struck.

Only the south edge of the city escaped heavy damage. The business district was virtually wiped out. Red Cross count placed the destruction count at 64 houses and businesses destroyed and 148 homes and buildings heavily damaged.

The Methodist Church, built only 10 years ago, was completely destroyed. The basement of this building had sheltered several from the storm's onslaught and is all that remains.

The Meriden elementary school, where 180 pupils are enrolled, suffered damages that the faculty said were almost beyond repair. Mrs. Irvin Keck, wife of the principal of the school, said she and her husband were listening to a transistor radio when a bulletin broadcast the tornado warning. It said the twister was in the Elmont district, seven miles southwest of Meriden.

The couple took their children and some neighborhood children to the school basement.

"We had been there about five minutes when everything started bursting apart overhead," Mrs. Keck said.

Rescue operations were begun only a few hours after the storms' passing. Kansas Highway Patrol and Highway Maintenance Department, Kansas Nat'l. Guard, the Salvation Army and Red Cross units were on hand throughout the night.

MERIDEN, CONN. TO AID OF MERIDEN, KANSAS

A newspaper editor in Meriden, Conn., read a disaster story coming off the wires last Friday morning, headlined: "Tornado Hits Meriden . . . Kansas," and hoped he would not be the only reader who was shocked into awareness that his own city could have been the Meriden of the headline.

The editor of the Meriden, Conn. COURIER did more than write the headline. After thinking about, it he called the Red Cross with a suggestion. The next day a wire from executive director, Mrs. William Greiner, of the Meriden, Conn., Red Cross was received by Mr. Richard A. Swallow, Home Service chairman of the Jefferson County Chapter, which is headquartered in Oskaloosa. It read: "Residents of Meriden, Conn., are raising funds for disaster victims in Meriden, Kansas. Please rush information to help us tell story."

The information was sent and radio station WMMW in the Connecticut city placed a telephone call to Kencell Hunt, mayor of Jefferson County's Meriden on Tuesday. During this telephone call, which was tape-recorded for broadcast, the radio announcer informed Mr. Hunt that all money contributed by people of Meriden, Conn., would be turned over to the Red Cross Chapter of Jefferson Co. to help the disaster victims of his town.

The fund began with contributions totaling \$145 on Monday. The chapter in Connecticut is confident it will reach a generous amount when more people become aware of the campaign, just beginning this week.

Floodlights from portable power units showed only a small preview of what was to come with daylight. Throughout the town people moved about in dazed, awesome wonder at what had happened.

When the sun rose many gave vent to emotions and broke down and cried. Your reporter has seen, as have many others, the effects of war on cities of the world, and it was almost necessary to pinch one's self to be certain it was not time reversing itself and that this city had not been destroyed by war.

Work is progressing in this city and clean up will be virtually complete by the week end, but the gigantic task of replacement is still only started.

The town will be re-built and will rise from the ruins to a bigger and better community!

Ozawkie, Kansas

A few minutes past 7 p.m. May 19, one of the tornado funnels [came across the Delaware] River and along the south edge of this village, strewing debris and heavily damaging farm homes both south, east and west of the village proper.

The residents came out of shelter to find their homes damaged and trees torn and twisted all over the area.

The main force of the tornado struck the cemetery hill just east of Ozawkie and littered it with debris, upsetting virtually all of the grave markers in the north two-thirds of the area.

It was here in this cemetery our sheriff met the storm head on. His car was removed from its resting place and taken to Oskaloosa early Friday morning by county highway workmen.

Citizens and farm neighbors worked over the entire week end to clear the fallen trees from the village and much of the clean up has been accomplished.

Neighbor helped neighbor and others not hit by the storm helped with the clean up task. It was reported at this time they were still working on farms through the area, but more hand labor, such as pick up crews, will be necessary to help clear fields and restore fences.

Oskaloosa, Kansas

Tornado warnings flashed over the radio and television, and the subsequent power failure at 6:54 p.m. brought most Oskaloosans out to watch the sky. Few, if any, thought the storm would strike this area. However, at 7:25 p.m., most took cover as the storm seemed upon us.

At 7:30 p.m. the roar like that of a freight train could be heard, and trains have not run through this city in its historical past. This roar was made as these great demons of the sky bore down on this community.

At 7:45 the storm had passed, except for a following down pour of rain. Life began to stir throughout the city as its people emerged from shelter to see what damage had been done.

In the north end of our town, the heaviest hit, several were injured, two trailer homes were demolished, one new home was a total loss and at least two others suffered major damage, many garages and outbuildings were destroyed, nearly 100 homes suffered minor damage, trees, communication and power lines were a twisted mass all over the area.

THE OLDEST COURTHOUSE

The courthouse at Oskaloosa is not the first to be erected in Kansas, but is the oldest yet in use, a contract for its erection being let in 1867, its completion in 1868. Its construction was deemed first-rate, yet its walls in second story had to be braced with tie rods forty or fifty years ago. It had some features unique in early days, notably semi-circular stairs which start a couple back to back and bring them up face to face on second floor, also the "catwalk" around the cupola which brought visitors from long distances for the widest scenic view of the area.

From 1868 to 1888 the courthouse furnished people of the area their favorite assembly place. Here were numerous gatherings of a civic, a political or a social nature, here have come many orators of state and national reputation. For thirty years the greatest attractions to the courthouse and its lovely park were the spectacular and noisy celebrations of the "glorious 4th"; from 1901 to end of second world war the greatest drawing events have been the old settlers reunions.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Thu., Aug. 25, 1960

The south half, thinking the storm had missed their town, slept or awaited the return of power. Word finally spread and by 10 p.m. many of the town's citizenry were out to see the damage. The Jefferson County Court House, oldest still in use in the state, had lost most of its second story and seems virtually beyond repair.

As in Meriden the cold light of dawn showed what had passed the evening before. Residents of the south half of the city were awe struck to see

their city. Those who lived in the north half could hardly believe their eyes. And all the citizenry, who had heard of Meriden's plight, gave thanks that it had not happened here and took heart in knowing that they had survived.

The Lawrence Journal World, one of the few daily papers to carry any word of our troubles, had this to say about these people:

What surprised outsiders the most about the Oskaloosa situation was the people.

"You'd expect people who'd been hit by a storm such as this to panic at least a little," one law official said. "But these folks didn't. They just calmly went about their business and made plans to start the clean-up."

A reporter who went to the area Thursday night reported no panic by anyone.

"It was really something to see how matter-of-factly they took it," he said.

Clean-up work began early Friday morning but by 8:30 a.m. it had become evident that sightseers were going to be a problem. Under-sheriff Walter Turner sent out a call for help to the Douglas County sheriff's office. The National Guard and Civil Defense were dispatched immediately and arrived on the scene shortly before noon. Capt. Karl Reber and his men took over the task of traffic control and cleared the area of all sightseers. The Civil Defense units aided in communication with four mobile units.

Schools were dismissed for the day and all who could helped with the seemingly impossible task of removal of debris.

By night fall the tired residents gave up to rest and had a good night under the watchful eye of the National Guardsmen. Passes were necessary to move about the north half of town.

Saturday was again a big day but by evening virtually all the big trees and the heaviest of debris had been moved to the city dump.

Sunday brought out the sightseers by the droves, but work still progressed throughout the day and at this time our city looks very good although much more is to be done.

The almost seemingly impossible task of clean-up after last Thursday's tornadoes is moving ahead and Oskaloosa may report nearly 75% of the work accomplished. In the rural areas this percentage is slightly smaller but rapidly gaining momentum.

Much volunteer labor has been forthcoming and more is needed especially that of hand labor to pick up scattered debris in fields and off fences in the rural area and to pick up and clean up yards and streets of the cities.

The people of the stricken areas will be eternally grateful for the assistance rendered by all those who have helped in any way to restore order and beauty out of chaos.

Oskaloosans would like to express their grateful thanks to the men of the Lawrence National Guard and their commander Capt. Karl Reber whose excellent services last Friday and Friday night made possible our rapid recovery and prevented any serious looting. We also want to thank the Lawrence Civil Defense units for their help with mobile communications while we were without service of this kind.

Today the Winchester Schools, under the direction of E.L. Farr, high school supt., sent 60 students, 3 pick-up trucks and 2 big trucks as well as adult supervision and were immediately dispatched to farms east of Oskaloosa.

Co. Agent Arthur Johnson announces that 4-H clubs of the county and Home Demonstration Units have a collection of food, clothing and bedding for distribution at the John Jones home in Perry, Kansas, and these organizations will meet at Oskaloosa Disaster Headquarters Saturday and Sunday of the coming week end to be assigned work. Those in and around Meriden will continue their excellent work in that area.

FOR SALE
ONE COURTHOUSE

Friday, August 26, 11:00 a.m., the Jefferson County Courthouse goes on the auction block to be sold to the highest bidder.

The sale will take place at the south front door of the building.

The Oskaloosa Independent, Thu., Aug. 25, 1960

Original Sketch: Early Recollections of Kansas

Written for the Independent by J.H. Bennet

Published in The Oskaloosa Independent

Sat., Apr. 27, 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 plenty 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 and 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..."

There is no need of mincing matters. While it was the first law suit I had ever tried in Oskaloosa. I was vastly more interested in studying the personal appearance of those crowded into that little room than in the success of my client. Every face was strange, I scarcely knew who I myself was. I forget the exact date, but believe it was in December, A.D. 1857. The room was the south side of the office of the present Central Hotel, in Oskaloosa. It could scarcely have been eight feet wide, and was about fourteen feet long. There was another room north of it, fronting the street, but I doubt whether its history will ever be written. The persons there were M.R. Dutton, Justice of the Peace; Dr. A.R. Cantwell, who still lives about Winchester, the plaintiff in the action; George W. Grayson, who then lived where he now lives, the defendant. If that constable will come forward and tell his name I'll "set 'em up," for truthfully it "dwells not in my memory." Dan Wright was there, bless his old heart; he has gone to his long home, lo, these many years. Another man was there as a witness who had owned slaves in the Territory, and who hesitated strangely about testifying that he had employed Dr. Cantwell to attend upon one of his black girls. Henry Elson, who only a few weeks since left his children fatherless, was also a witness; may those children be as honest and true-hearted as their father.

Of course Dutton was my first riddle. He was small, wrinkled, little-faced, and nervous. He evidently feared and hated Grayson, Hopewell, Cantwell and Bennet about equally. The blue gleam in his eye changed only when Dan Wright was "on the stand;" and then, with all my observation, I could not say if it was softer or steelier.

In The Valley Falls New Era, Sat., Apr. 27, 1878, A.G. Patrick expressed his doubts of the accuracy of J.H. Bennet's recollections:

We are glad to think that a number of persons in this county are giving some of their early recollections, among the number our old friend J.H. Bennet, of Oskaloosa, but we urge upon him and everyone to confine themselves to the truth, and not get jealous and tell fibs on each other.

We are not one of those who are always carping and picking flaws in what any one else has written, but as friend Bennet has given us an occasion to do so, we sail in for once. [*Here, Patrick points out flaws in Bennet's Sat., Apr. 20, 1878, article, published in Yesteryears in October 2019.*]

Historians must be more careful how they put their foot in it, as some such chap as us might knock all the wind out of their sail!

Judge Hopewell was my next peculiar study. He was notorious as one of the pro-slavery judges of the election at Hickory Point, which Tom Gardiner [Winchester] talks about last week. [See Jefferson Township History, below.] He was a southern politician of the first water; the first Justice of the Peace in the county; an experienced lawyer. This deponent was a good deal afraid of him, when he asked for a non-suit on account of some deficiency in the papers.

Grayson came in for more attention than I can now account for and went out with much less of interest than he obtained some years afterwards.

The trial was not spiritedly contested. Cantwell caught the idea before I did, that he was having everything his own way. Dutton ruled the law points in my favor every time, admitted my evidence, and gave me a judgment for all I asked. Hopewell was stiff and nearly declined to make my acquaintance. Dutton was stiffer yet, and accepted my half dollar for my dinner with a dignity very amusing for so little a fellow.

While we were waiting for our horses, — and by the way I ought to record the fact that I that day rode Billy, a heavy set, dark bay brown pony belonging to Dr. Cooper, that Patrick afterwards took across the plains twice. Well, while we were waiting for our horses I thought there was more than the usual scrutiny of curiosity expended upon us by the bystanders. A tall man, very straight, with a long neck and a comical leer in his gray-black eye, talked mild politics, and laughed a little that pro-slavery men should try their law suits before a free-state justice and employ a free-state lawyer. To my suggestion that it was a ground-hog case, he answered drawlingly, “Yes; what else could a mon do?” That was Joe Fitzsimmons. He had a little store about where Dr. Balsley’s office now is, and lived in a log house, a claim house, just south of McClellan’s, in the street.

I recognized instantly the voice and form of a heavy, large-muscled man, somewhat aggressive and pompous in his manner, as a personage I had seen at the land sales, who had said to me: “Yes, sir; I am Jesse Newell, from Slough Creek; do you want to make my acquaintance?”

A middle-aged man, slightly stoop-shouldered, who put his index finger along the side of his nose, whenever he was interested in his own conversation, will be remembered by all as our present Father Trapp. There was a lurking suspicion of fire in the old man’s eye then, that has nearly gone out now.

A well-built, mild-eyed man, rather young, to whom I was not introduced for long afterwards, was the only one I “took to” naturally, all that day. The acquaintance was continuous, however, for fifteen years and was very pleasant. His name was John Newell.

My remembrance of the buildings in town is not very distinct. It is probable I may have mixed the improvements of the two years together. I expect, however, that there was a little wooden building about where Mrs. Cooper’s prettiest flowers now are, owned or occupied by Andy Dawson or Tom Noble. Something of a building where Minor Hoskinson now lives. Quite a little place known as Noble’s Hotel, where W.A. Coy’s dwelling is. The house, or nearly all of it, at present occupied by Marsh Gephart was there then. The one due south of it was also there. I never knew where old Jesse Newell lived. Old Dr. Gamble had something where Horace Deming now lives. There was probably some kind of a building near where B.R. Wilson lives, but I am not sure. To the north west, I think the only house for miles was a cabin occupied by W.W. Bell, the then husband of Widow Bell, who owns property near the Jefferson House. North of “Town,” the road ran nearly where it now runs and the first house was the “Randolph” house, a couple of hundred yards west of that high bank of Slough Creek.

In closing this chapter, I desire to say that if you could persuade Tom Noble, or Uncle Terry Trapp, or perhaps any of the Trapps to write personal recollections of this town, you would undoubtedly obtain facts and figures more amusing, instructive, and valuable to our history, than anything I could say. I promised you four articles for this series. If your readers enjoy their reading half as much as I do their writing, I may increase the number.

Jefferson Township History

By T.W. Gardiner

The Winchester Argus, Thu., Apr. 18, 1878

THE FIRST ELECTION,* held in this township came off at Hickory Point, on the 30th of March 1855. The election board appointed by the Governor for some reason did not serve, and the electors chose a board and the polls were open. Political discussions ran high that day, and plenty of bad whisky did not help the matter. Ephemeral-resident Missourians attended in great numbers, many of them having arrived the day before, made their claims the morning of the election. Several of them camped in the woods near "our cabin" and against the protests of the residents, before sun-rise that morning there were more than a dozen claims, on a forty-acre tract. These claims were indicated by miniature foundations made of "hazel brush" and the claimant's name, badly written on a piece of paper fastened to a stick stuck in the ground, within the foundation. The student of history understands why these people were so disposed. Over a hundred votes were polled that day, but the voting was badly one-sided, there being only seven Free State votes cast. But when those fearless men marched boldly to the polls in a body and voted, the triumphant pro-slavery men gave them cheer after cheer as each vote was taken.

N. Hopewell, — Jones, and W.M. Gardiner were Judges of the election.

Be it said that while there were many greatly in earnest in their endeavors to carry the election, were none that were violent that day. No blood was shed—no fights or knock-downs.

The large Pro-slavery majority was not unexpected. The illegal voting was against the protests of the leading residents—persons who had come here for the purpose of making this a real home and abiding place. Yet it could not be helped. Had none but actual, "bona fide" residents voted, the Pro-slavery majority would have been greatly decreased, for, taking Sim Hull as authority, there was a gentle Southern breeze kept up here till '57.

For some time after this, all was quiet in this township, and new settlers arrived every week.

And while the hardy pioneers were busily engaged during that summer, in all that pertains to making new farms and homes in the West, they hoped to succeed undisturbed and unmolested.

*For more about the 1855 election in Jefferson County, see "Jefferson County Jayhawkers and Forgotten Freestaters," https://jeffersonjayhawkers.com/2016/10/31/kansas-territory-elections-1855-let-em-vote-or-theyll-tear-the-house-down/?fbclid=IwAR3tv_eqMOCyW93Hgfpc_fs2B0OQ2dYWxj9xeaxAFWXmvjMe4tCnzY4mIts

Caution on the Operation of Automobiles

The Winchester Star, Fri., Aug. 4, 1922

People are becoming more and more careless all the time in the operation of automobiles. We refer to the growing practice of running cars at night without head lights and rear lights. It is no unusual thing to observe a number of cars every night running along our residence streets without either. The occupants appear to have not the least concern for their own safety nor the safety of others. There is a strict law against this uncalled for practice and it should be enforced to the letter. Just why people persist in flirting with death in this manner is hard to understand. At any rate, it is a pernicious habit and one that should be stopped by all means. It is only appropriate to class the fellow who runs without lights along with the speed maniac, who places but little, if any, value upon human life. The attention of our city minions of the law is respectfully directed to these chaps who evidently love darkness better than light.

In Other News

(Contributed by Leanne Chapman)

The Winchester Star, Fri., Jun. 30, 1916

Harry Myers has two black eyes and a bruised nose and O. A Carson has a broken arm, the result of cranking automobiles.

The Winchester Star, Fri., Aug. 4, 1922

Last Friday morning the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Gill, who live on the Beasore farm, north of town, was digging some potatoes for dinner, when she discovered a huge rattlesnake in the weeds only about two feet from her. The snake was coiled ready for fight. It evidently would have buried its fangs in the flesh of the little girl had it not been for the appearance of Mr. Gill's dogs on the scene. Instead the snake bit both of the dogs. Mr. Gill, who was helping a neighbor thresh, was phoned for, but could not be reached. Owing to crossed telephone wires, the phone in the Ed Lindsay home, some three miles distant, rang, and Mr. Lindsay, hearing the fruitless call for help, seized his shotgun and hastened to the Gill home in his auto. He succeeded in dispatching the snake by firing a couple of loads of shot into it. The rattler was a whopper and showed fight to the end.

The Winchester Star, Fri., Dec. 22, 1922

Observer: "I noticed you got up and gave that lady your seat in the street car the other day."
Observed: "Since childhood I have respected a woman with a strap in her hand."

— Pennsylvania Punch Bowl

The Jefferson County Tribune, Fri., Feb. 3, 1911

Oskaloosa has a cow that is a fit subject for the Keely Institute. The owner of the cow likes a nip occasionally and so he kept a jug at the barn. The manger looked like a safe place to deposit a jug so he stowed it away there. Then

came the old family cow, and she sniffed the jug and was tempted. With her teeth the cork was drawn and this she devoured. Then she wobbled the jug around until she turned it over, spilling the contents over the hay, which was eagerly devoured. The man said he missed his morning nip, but he expected to have a milk punch for supper.

The McLouth Times, Fri., Jun. 8, 1917

The girls need not worry. The attorney general has ruled that any girl when she reaches the age of 18 has a perfect right to get married without the consent of her parents or guardian. This ruling was made in response to many inquiries from probate judges over the state. The new law making the age of majority for women 21 years went into effect last Monday. The attorney general held this only applied as far as inheritance was concerned. Heretofore when a preacher married a couple he was compelled to send the original license to the office of the secretary of state but a new law went into effect Monday whereby the minister must return the license, showing when and where the ceremony was performed, to the office of the Probate Judge where the license was issued.

— Jefferson County Tribune

The Oskaloosa Times, Thu., Jan. 5, 1893

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Huddleston gave a New Year's party to their many friends last Saturday evening. Doctors taking rides on the bannister and merchants standing on their heads and turning somersaults were among the amusements of the evening. All present say they had a merry time.