

KANSAS IN THE AMERICAN NOVEL AND SHORT STORY

by

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PREFACE

In writing this thesis, I have considered all the novels and short stories written about the state from its earliest beginnings down to the present time. Drama would have been included, but no drama with Kansas, or a Kansas subject, as its theme, was found. A few novels written about the state have been dramatized, but were first in novel form and have been considered in that form. A few works have been included, which are not, strictly speaking, either novels or short stories; because they contain such rich material for the present study.

No differentiation has been made between strictly Kansas authors and authors who have merely written about the state. It would be difficult to make an exact division of authors on such a basis, for many who have written about Kansas have lived but a short time within the state and could hardly be called Kansans in the strict sense of the word. On the other hand, it was often impossible to determine whether or not some of the

authors were Kansans. Since it would be impossible to make a correct classification, no attempt has been made to classify authors in this way.

More attention has been given to those authors who have written most definitely and directly about Kansas than to those who have given Kansas themes less attention. By this method, minor authors have often been given a great deal of space, while better writers who have used less Kansas material have been given but little consideration. The works of the different authors have not been treated critically and no appraisal of them has been made in regard to their literary value.

The chapter divisions are not arbitrary, but developed after a thorough consideration of the fiction I have found written about the state. Many of the novels and short stories included in this collection are out of print and can only be found in the State Historical Library or in special collections of Kansas fiction.

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CHAPTER I

The Periods of Development

Few states in the Union provide the writer of fiction with a richer or more varied historical background than Kansas. The novelist in search of romance in history may build his plots around the sixteenth century armour-clad knights of Spain, who first crossed the plains of Kansas in search of gold and treasure which they thought was to be found in the "seven famed cities of Cibola"; he may recount the attempts of Napoleon to build an empire for France in the Mississippi basin; he may relate the adventures of Lewis and Clark and of Pike; he may tell of the heroism and sufferings of the early Indian missionaries; he may picture those sturdy old traders who faced the burning thirst of the desert and the savagery of the plains Indians to barter their goods in that far away quaint old city of Santa Fe; he may narrate the heroism and daring of the soldiers and scouts of the regular army who

kept the watch of the plains in the late sixties and the early seventies; he may portray the patience, the fortitude, and the devotion of those early pioneer women who stood so staunchly beside their husbands during the days of the border war; he may describe the sufferings and hardships of the early settlers in the western part of the state, when the crops failed for lack of moisture, burned up by the hot winds, or were literally eaten by the grasshoppers as they were in the year 1874; or he may depict the wild and vicious life of the early frontier towns that grew up suddenly and evilly with the cattle trade from Texas. If he cares naught for the historical, he may weave his story around the rural life of the state, which varies from that of the intensive truck farmer who cultivates but a few acres, to that of the extensive wheat rancher who cultivates thousands of acres; or he may turn to the industrial life of the state, in which he will find nearly every industry and every nationality represented. Without a doubt, Kansas furnishes the writer of fiction with an abundance of material that is different from that of any other state.

The first Europeans to enter Kansas were the Spanish adventurers in search of treasure. In 1527, Cabeza de Vaca accompanied an expedition into

the territory of the southwest. This expedition became scattered and was practically destroyed. Cabeca de Vaca and three companions escaped and for three years wandered over the country, traveling and trading with the different Indian tribes. In 1536, He finally reached the Spanish settlements on the Pacific coast. It is doubtful whether Cabeca de Vaca ever reached Kansas. The result of this expedition, in so far as Kansas was concerned, was in the effect that it had on the later history of the state. Cabeca de Vaca told of the riches and vast resources of the new country in such glowing terms that the king of Spain determined to send another expedition in search of the fabled treasure of Quivira. Consequently, in 1541 Francisco Vasques de Coronado headed an exploring party that entered Kansas in the southwestern part of the state, and came to the Arkansas river where the Santa Fe trail crosses it not far from the present site of Dodge City. Coronado travelled across the state in a northeasterly direction to a point near its northern boundary. He found the quiviran Indian villages along the Smoky Hill and Kansas rivers, but he did not find the fabled wealth that he sought. This is the first known exploration of Kansas. Monuments have been erected in Geary, Dickinson, Riley, and Wabaunsee counties to

commemorate the Spanish explorations of 1541 and 1542.

One other Spanish expedition, consisting of eighty men and headed by Governor Onate of New Mexico, entered the state in 1601 in search of quivira. He joined a war party of an Indian tribe called Escansaques, who were enemies of the Quivirans, and a joint attack was made on the Quiviran villages. The villages were captured and fired by the Escansaques. The Spaniards attempted to stop these outrages and the Escansaques turned on them. In the battle that followed many Indians were killed, but the Spaniards suffered only a slight loss. However, Governor Onate gave up the expedition and returned to New Mexico. This was probably the last of the Spanish expeditions of exploration that came within the present boundaries of the state.

No other exploring expeditions seem to have entered Kansas between the years 1601 and 1682. In the year 1682, La Salle sailed down the Mississippi River to its mouth, and on April 9th, in the name of Louis XIV, King of France, took possession of the Mississippi and all the lands which it and its tributaries might drain. In honor of the king, this vast territory was named Louisiana. It extended from the Allegany to the

Rocky Mountains, and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. All of Kansas except a small portion in the southwest corner was included in this territory. In order to retain possession of Louisiana, the French in 1699 planted colonies at the mouth of the Mississippi river. About twenty years later they built a fort on an island in the Missouri river near the mouth of the Osage river and named it Fort Orleans. M. de Bourgmont was put in command. He made extensive trips along the Kansas river and its tributaries. The first trip into the territory was made in 1724 to establish commerce with the Indians; M. de Bourgmont travelled across the country in great splendor and with a great deal of display and show of power. He gathered around him many of the powerful Indian chiefs and their followers; he addressed the assembled chiefs and the peace pipe was passed. But in spite of all this display and show of power on the part of the French, Fort Orleans was attacked by the Indians in 1725, the fort was destroyed and the garrison massacred. This discouraged the French and they made little or no attempt in the years immediately following to secure a strong foothold in the territory.

In 1763, France ceded all the territory west of the Mississippi river to Spain. Spain's hold on the territory became weaker as the years passed

and she finally retroceded it to France in 1801. This cession to France marked the end of Spanish power in the Mississippi valley.

For a great many years the American colonists had had trouble with the authorities at New Orleans in regard to the commercial rights of the lower Mississippi. President Jefferson, in an effort to obviate these difficulties, requested Livingston, the American minister to France, to open negotiations for the purchase of New Orleans. Napoleon's efforts to settle the territory had met with considerable opposition from England. Napoleon knew that if he did not control Louisiana, it would sooner or later come into the possession of England. He did not desire this; so, when he heard of the American advances, he was more than glad to get rid not only of New Orleans but also of the whole of the Louisiana territory. As a result, of these negotiations, the Louisiana territory became a part of the United States on April 30, 1803.

In 1804, President Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on a trip of exploration to find what kind of a territory the United States had acquired. On June 27th, these men reached the mouth of the Kansas river and camped within the present limits of Kansas City. They proceeded up the river and landed near the present site of Atchison on July 4th.

A few days later they passed beyond the limits of the state. Two years after the Lewis and Clark expedition, Lieutenant Pike was sent to Kansas to return to their tribe on the upper waters of the Osage river some Osage Indians, who had been redeemed from captivity among the Pottawatomies. After delivering the captives to their tribe, he was then to push on to the Pawnee Republic on the upper waters of the Republican river; and from there he was to go south to the Arkansas river and to the Red river, interviewing the Comanche Indians on the way.

On September 25, 1806, Lieutenant Pike's party reached the Pawnee Republic. Its principal village was located in what is now White Rock township, Republic county, near the present site of the town of Republic City. Here occurred a memorable incident in the history of Kansas. Pike had with him only sixteen white soldiers but he met in council four hundred Pawnee warriors. He ordered the Spanish flag, which was flying from a pole in front of the council lodge, lowered and the American flag raised in its place. It was thus that the "Stars and Stripes" first floated over Kansas.

Two other Americans, Major Stephen H. Long and John C. Fremont, made trips of exploration into

Kansas. Fremont's trips into the state were more extensive than were those of Major Long. On one of his trips Fremont was accompanied by the famous scout, Kit Carson.

The Louisiana territory was explored by three different nations, Spain, France, and the United States. The first two failed to accomplish anything worthy of note in the way of development, although there was much of romance and adventure in the expeditions these nations sent into Kansas. Here we find the Spanish Don in quest of treasure to be gained at whatever cost. He came to conquer, and to fill his coffers with gold and precious stones; but he went back discouraged when he found instead of gold and precious stones only a land of broad plains with a rich soil and a wonderful climate. The French followed, with the idea of establishing in this country a great empire built upon the strength of arms. The French failed as did the Spanish before them. Neither thought much of colonizing; both wanted the wealth that the territory might give to bolster up the waning strength of their home governments.

Following the acquisition of Louisiana by the United States, traders, trappers, and missionaries drifted into the territory, the former to barter with the Indians for furs, and the latter to

establish missions for the conversion of the Indian tribes.

The life of the missionary in Kansas was a life of sacrifice, suffering, and heroism. These early missionaries pointed out to the red man the way to God; taught him to cultivate the soil and to glean from it the necessities of life; showed the Indian woman how to sew and to cook; and taught the tribes a higher standard of life and much of the white man's ways of living. They induced the Indian, in a measure, to give up the life of a nomad and to adopt the more settled existence of the white man. These men and women lived among the Indians, putting up with the scant and crude accommodations of the savages. They suffered the cruellest tortures and often died in the attempt to civilize and Christianize the Indian, but their zeal for the spiritual welfare of the red man never cooled. They received little or no recognition for their work. Many of them lie buried in unknown and forgotten graves, at rest from a labor of love and sacrifice in which they gave the most that man can give. But this has ever been the lot of the missionary among the savage tribes of the earth. These men go out and break the pathway for the civilization that is to follow, for they are ever in the van of the marching hosts that enter any new

country. Writers of fiction have left this fertile field almost untouched. In only a few instances has this phase of early Kansas life been used, and then only in shorter works, some of which can hardly be classed as fiction.

Probably the first missionary to Indians in Kansas was Father Padilla, who accompanied Coronado on his march into Kansas. Father Padilla returned to the quiviran tribes after accompanying Coronado back to New Spain. Later the quiviran Indians killed him because he was going to leave them to go to another tribe. Thus Father Padilla was the first martyr for the cause of Christianity among the Indian tribes of Kansas.

The first organized missionary endeavor in Kansas was by the Jesuits, who established a mission, in the present county of Atchison, at a large Canza Indian village in the year 1727. Following that, the Reverend Benton Fixley founded missions for the Osage Indian tribes at Neosho and at Boudinot on the Neosho river in 1824. In 1830, Reverend Thomas Johnson established a mission school for the Shawnees. The Ottawa mission was the work of Isaac McCoy and Jotham Meeker and their wives. Meeker was a printer and brought the first printing press to Kansas. In 1847, Catholic missionaries established their headquarters at St. Mary on the

Kansas river. St. Mary's College now stands on the site of the old mission.

Noble L. Prentiss, in his History of Kansas, concludes his chapter on the missionaries with these words: "The missionaries were heroic pioneers of Kansas. They invented phonetic alphabets; they created written languages, wrote dictionaries and song books, and gave the Indian the Bible and the Christian religion. They went into the rude lodges and wigwams and cared for the sick and the dying. They suffered from poverty and often from savage cruelty; they sacrificed home and friends, and many died alone on the prairie that the Indians might know the better way and the higher life."¹

Kansas, lying in almost the exact geographical center of the United States, was crossed by nearly every trail that led to the great undeveloped west of the early nineteenth century. The Santa Fe was the most important and had more to do with the development of the territory than any other trail that crossed the state.

The first eastern terminus of the Santa Fe trail was at Franklin, Missouri, later at Independence, Missouri, and finally at Westport Landing, which

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 1. Noble L. Prentiss. History of Kansas. Revised edition. Published by Caroline E. Prentiss. Topeka, Kansas. 1904

grew into Kansas City. The trail was seven hundred and fifty miles in length, five hundred of which were in Kansas. The beginning of the trail was probably the faint marks made by Indian lodge poles as they were dragged along by Indian dogs. Later, with the coming of the white man, the pack train broadened the trail as it was tramped down by horses and mules bearing the packs of the traders and trappers across the country. As civilization moved westward, the caravans of the freighters came with their immense wagons drawn by yokes of oxen. With the coming of these great caravans, the trail grew until it was a broad road from sixty to one hundred feet in width and stretching from Westport Landing on the Missouri river to Santa Fe in New Mexico.

Much has been written about this old trail; for all the experiences that man is heir to, from the basest treachery to the greatest sacrifices, were enacted throughout every mile of its long length. Men followed the old trail for the wealth that it offered in the commerce of the plains, or for the pure love of adventure; they died on the plains from thirst and at the hand of the cruel savage. Men who engaged to make the trip across the plains, after a hard day of urging the oxen along, stood guard in their turn at night to prevent

an attack by the wily savages. Kit Carson's first trip across the plains, before he became the famous scout, was along the old Santa Fe trail.

Some of the most important as well as some of the most dangerous points on the Santa Fe trail were in Kansas. It was at Council Grove, in 1825, that the Indians met the United States Commissioners and made the agreement that gave the government the right of way for a road from Missouri to New Mexico. The tree under which they met was called council oak and is still standing. The town of Council Grove developed from a small trading post, where the freighters got the last supplies they could procure until they reached Santa Fe, to the prosperous city that it is today.

Farther out on the trail is Pawnee Rock, one of the most dangerous points along the whole length of the road. It was here that the Indians lay in wait to attack the lone horseman or the large caravan loaded with goods for Santa Fe. At this point also occurred many fights between the different Indian tribes. Colonel Henry Inman, in Tales of the Trail, tells of one such fight that he witnessed between the Comanches and Pawnees, in which the Pawnees came off victorious.

Probably the first man to take a train over the Santa Fe trail to the town of Santa Fe was

Baptiste La Lande, in 1804.

While the Santa Fe was the most important, it was not the only great trail that crossed the state. The north branch of the Oregon trail entered the state and ran through Doniphan, Brown, Nemaha, and Marshall counties and across the northeast corner of Washington county, then turned into Nebraska and followed the North Platte westward. The southern branch of the Oregon trail entered Kansas from Westport and ran south of the Kansas river through Johnson, Douglas, and Shawnee counties. It crossed the Kansas river at Papan Ferry, Topeka. From the river it ran north through Pottawatomie and Marshall counties to the crossing of the Big Blue at Marysville where it joined the branch from St. Joseph.

The Fayetteville road in the days of the California emigration came from Fayetteville, Arkansas, northwestward and joined the Santa Fe trail at Turkey creek in McPherson county. Besides these trails, there was the military road that ran from Fort Riley to Leavenworth and down to Fort Scott.

The most important and the most critical period in Kansas history was from 1854 to 1861, when the slave and free state parties were endeavoring to control the admission of the

territory into the Union. Although the question of slavery did not originate in Kansas, nevertheless, Kansas became the battle ground of the contending forces. The Compromise of 1850 admitted Missouri into the Union as a slave state. The free state leaders felt that Missouri would be the last slave state admitted, but in 1854 Stephen A. Douglas introduced into congress the Kansas-Nebraska bill that would throw the question of slavery open again. According to this bill, the people of the territory were to decide whether or not the state should enter the Union as free or slave. With the passage of this bill, hundreds of Missourians crossed the border for the purpose of claiming the state for the slave party. They felt that if they did not control Kansas, the slave-owners in western Missouri would lose many slaves on account of the free territory so near at hand. These Missourians did not intend to make Kansas their home but only intended to hold the land and vote for slavery.

The free state party was discouraged when the bill passed, but under the leadership of Eli Thayer and a few others, the free state men began to enter the territory for the purpose of establishing homes and making Kansas a free state.

It was with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska

bill that the real trouble in the territory began. In the state the two contending forces fought bitterly for control. The Missourians early sought to bulldoze the free state men and to force them out of the territory. The free state men refused to leave, and the Missourians resorted to arms. The border ruffians were a rough lot, usually in the pay of the plantation owners of Missouri and some of the other Southern states. The slave owners furnished the border ruffians with supplies, among which was an abundance of liquor; in return they were to vote for slavery and intimidate the free state settlers. This they never failed to do. The border ruffians came into the territory without their women, without implements for cultivation, but with plenty of whiskey and guns and ammunition. The free state men came with their families and with plows to till the soil. They built good cabins and planted crops. The crops were destroyed and the cabins burned by the border ruffians, and the men were usually murdered in cold blood. From 1854 to 1861, Kansas was in fact "bleeding Kansas".

The free state town of Lawrence was plundered and burned by Sheriff Jones, an unscrupulous proslavery advocate from Missouri. Raids were made on nearly every free state town in Kansas; the

houses were burned and the leading citizens torn from their families and sometimes murdered. Goods consigned to free state settlers were opened as they crossed the border and much of the contents stolen. This was done to prevent guns and ammunition from reaching the free state settlers.

To overcome the opposition of the slave element, men of the New England states organized the New England Emigrant Aid Society to help the free state settlers in their efforts to gain control of the territory. This society lent money and by other means encouraged men to settle on claims in Kansas with the purpose of making homes for themselves. To oppose the efforts of the New England Emigrant Aid Society, organizations sprang up in Missouri to foster the work of the border ruffians. Most prominent among these was the Blue Lodge, which gave aid and succor to organized bands of desperadoes that were in the territory to intimidate the free state settlers and by every means possible to drive them out of Kansas.

Combating the efforts of the border ruffians with all the power at his command, was John Brown. He became a hero in Kansas and is still remembered for the work that he did in the cause of the free state party and particularly for his efforts in behalf of the negroes. He helped many of them to

make their escapes to Canada by means of the underground railway. John Brown had the interests of the negro at heart long before he came to Kansas. He was a man of action and could not stand idly by and hope for peace without striking a blow in the cause of freedom. He counselled resistance, and when the free state leaders would not listen to him, he acted on his own responsibility. Although John Brown did not always act wisely, it is doubtful whether he ever molested any who were themselves not guilty of violence.

With the entry of the state into the Union, the border troubles ceased for a time, but Kansas was not to have peace for long. The state was soon bearing her share of the burden of the Civil War. Although Kansas had just entered the Union, the quota of volunteers assigned to the state was over supplied at every call. Kansas was open to attack by the proslavery forces on the south and east, while on the west was ever the danger of hostile Indian tribes.

Noble L. Prentiss in his History of Kansas thus describes the work of the Kansas soldiers within the state during the Civil war: "The columns came and went, making forced marches for days and nights together; fighting a battle and winning a dear bought victory, to return whence

they came. They fought, and marched, and camped in a region that was neither North nor South, and so possessed a climate with the evil features of both. They met the blinding sleet and snow; were drenched with tropical rain storms, and braved alike the blazing fury of the sun, and the bitter malice of the frost. Far from their bases of supplies; food and powder must be brought a long, toilsome and dangerous way, guarded at every step, fought for at every ford and pass. It was a hard and desperate warfare. For Kansas the Civil War was but the continuation of the border troubles. The embers of that struggle had not been covered with the ashes of forgetfulness when they blazed again in direst flames. Along the border, the war assumed the character of a vendetta; a war of revenge, and over all the wide field a war of combats; of ambushes and ambuscades, of swift advances and hurried retreats; of spies and scouts; of stealth, darkness, and murder. All along the way men riding solitary were shot down; little companies killed by their camp fires; men fighting on both sides neither asking, giving, nor expecting mercy." ¹

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 1. Noble L. Prentiss. History of Kansas. Revised Edition. Published by Caroline E. Prentiss. Topeka, Kansas. 1904

Bands of guerrillas living in either state robbed and plundered and murdered on the opposite side of the line. On the Missouri side lived Quantrel, who hated Kansas with a deep and abiding hatred. The war gave him and his kind license to rob and murder almost at will the defenseless citizens of Kansas. On the Kansas side lived Jennison, who made his boast that the mothers of Missouri quieted their fretful children by the mere mention of the name of Jennison. Neither of these men represented the citizens of the state in which he lived, but took advantage of the time to rob and murder at will. Their fight was neither in the cause of slavery nor against it. Quantrel's raid on the town of Lawrence will long be remembered for the brutal murders and the wanton destruction of property that he and his band of outlaws committed there.

The close of the Civil War did not mean the end of army life in Kansas. The state was still open to Indian invasion in the west, and for many years the regular army maintained forts throughout the state for the protection of the outlying settlements. Nearly every novel that deals with the early days in the state mentions such forts as Leavenworth, Larned, Harker, Dodge, Hays, and Wallace. These forts served as bases from which the Indian campaigns were carried on, particularly

the campaigns that went to the west and northwest. Usually the troops collected at Hays and Wallace and from there went farther into the frontier in pursuit of the tribes on the war path. The pursuit and subjugation of the Indian tribes, following the close of the Civil War, made the names of Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Custer, and Forsythe familiar in Kansas history. It was from Fort Wallace that succor went to General Forsythe after the battle of the Arrickaree. The Nineteenth Kansas Cavalry was mustered out at Fort Hays in April, following its winter campaign of 1868 under the command of Governor Crawford. Although this was the last Indian campaign in Kansas that required any large force of militia, the state was still not free from the depredations of the red man until 1878.

From the foregoing account it would seem that Kansas was only a battleground for the different forces that were in constant opposition to each other for the control of the state. But such, however, was not the case. Early in the history of the state, the cattle industry began to develop, and for a time was its most important industry. Although some cattle were raised, the importance of the state in the cattle trade came through the drives of the Texas herds to the Northern markets.

Outlets for Texas cattle had been attempted in nearly every direction, but none of them was successful until the Texas cattlemen began to ship their herds from Kansas towns. The most prosperous period for these drives was that following the civil war. The first herd to be shipped out of Kansas was loaded at Abilene. This herd was brought to Abilene in 1867 through the efforts of Joseph G. McCoy, and for the next five years Abilene was a cowboy town. As the railroads extended to the west, such towns as Newton, Wichita, Caldwell, and Dodge flared out for a time in a quick and evil blossoming. Great herds were started from Texas fully six months before they were to be shipped, and were worked slowly up along the trail, feeding and fattening as they came. Once arrived in Kansas, they were allowed a short time to finish off on the fine buffalo grass which was the best to be found anywhere along the trail. As soon as the cattle were in good condition, they were shipped to the eastern markets.

With the coming of the cattle trade came the lawless characters, who preyed on the credulity of the cowboy and got possession of his hard earned money by fair means or foul. Those were the days of the hard riding, straight shooting bad man of the early frontier. Coincident with him came such

officers of the law as "Wild Bill" Hickok and the Masterson brothers. Hickok had a reputation in his day that extended far beyond the limits of Kansas. His first clash with bad men came one day when he was in charge of horses for a stage company near Manhattan, Kansas. A band of about ten thieves attempted to steal the horses, but when "Wild Bill" was through, only one was able to make his escape. The rest were dead. From this time on, Hickok's reputation was made. During the time of the building of the Kansas Pacific railroad, William F. Cody earned his title of "Buffalo Bill" by killing buffaloes to furnish meat for the crews working on the road. Several of the novels that deal with this period in Kansas history portray "Wild Bill" and "Buffalo Bill" as associates in scout duty for the federal government.

The settlement of the eastern part of Kansas was forced by the issue of slavery. The early settlers in this part of the state were either proslavery or free state men. They came to Kansas primarily to force the territory into the Union, either as a free or a slave state. As history clearly shows, the free state settlers really came with the intention of remaining in Kansas and establishing homes. They finally won, and the state entered the Union free from the taint of

slavery. The later settlement of the state came following the Civil War when the national government threw the lands of the west open to settlement under the homestead law.

The early settlers in eastern Kansas built log cabins on their claims and were able, in a way, to live with a fair degree of comfort. The land was fertile, there was plenty of rainfall, and in the first years there was an abundance of wild game. The settlers in the western portion of the state worked under difficulties that the settlers in the eastern part of the state were not obliged to meet. The western settler had to build a house of sod, or dig into the hillside and make what was known as a dugout. The soil was good, but the rainfall was often insufficient to produce a crop. Many times when the homesteaders felt that the outlook was particularly bright, the crops would be burned in a day by the hot winds. Then, too, the cattlemen resented the coming of the "nestors", as the homesteaders were called, for they believed that the country belonged especially to the large ranchmen. Consequently, the cattlemen harried the few settlers at every opportunity, a condition which made the proving up on a homestead doubly difficult. But dry years and cattlemen were not the settlers' only enemies; eastern loan sharks, working through

the local bankers, got mortgages on the land when the settlers were hard pressed and managed in many cases to defraud the homesteaders of their claims.

This is but a panoramic view of the different periods in the early development of the state.

Today Kansas stands well toward the top among the states of the Union. Within her borders are found much coal and oil and other natural resources; her live stock is among the best to be found, and she ranks first among the hard winter wheat producing states. Kansas has known dark and dreary days, but the persistence and determination of her citizens brought her into the Union on the side of freedom, developed her natural resources, increased the fertility of her soil, built her educational institutions that rank among the best to be found in the country, and ^{have} given her a clean and healthy social life. The use that writers of fiction within and without the state have made of this many sided development will be told in the following chapters.

CHAPTER II

Early Kansas History

The books discussed in this chapter are only those that are of importance from an historical standpoint. They deal almost entirely with the very early history of the state, and are of interest mainly because they give an idea of life in the territory from the time Coronado made his trip across Kansas down to the period just preceding its entry into the Union. Some of them, however, mention events that happened in the state immediately following the Civil War.

In those early days Kansas was occupied mostly by Indian tribes. Here and there along the eastern border might be found an adventurous pioneer, who usually made his living by trading with the Indians or trapping the fur-bearing animals in season. Herds of buffalo and antelope roamed over the entire state, while in the eastern half was an

abundance of small game. At this time Kansas was on the eastern edge of what was then considered the Great American Desert. Politicians and explorers of the early years of the nineteenth century felt that the west could never be settled, as were the eastern states, and that the region of the "Great American Desert" would serve to restrict immigration beyond the Missouri river. Little has been written about the state during this period, but what has been written has a different tone from the literature about the periods that follow. It is free from the bitterness and hatred that is found in the fiction about the territory and the early years of statehood.

In Old Quivira, by Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter, is purely an imaginative tale of what might have happened during the journey of Coronado into Kansas. There are love and adventure and heroic sacrifice in the story. A young couple in Spain are thwarted in their love and the girl is forced to marry another. The young man in his grief turns to the Catholic Church and becomes a priest. Years later he accompanies Coronado in his search for the Quiviran villages. With him on this journey is the lover of the daughter of his own first love. The priest tries him out on this journey, finds him true, and bequeaths him his own private fortune that this young couple may not be

separated as were he and the girl's mother. The priest thus brings these Spanish lovers together. He also brings about harmony between two Indian lovers. He then decides to devote the remainder of his life to the Indian tribes in Kansas. He dies on the prairies at the hands of the Indians whom he is trying to Christianize. The life of the priest in this story is the same as the life of Father Padilla as told in the histories of Kansas. It is a tale of sixteenth century Kansas and the Spanish power in America at that time. The Spanish fail to reap the real wealth of the fertile plains; they are looking only for the yellow metal.

A Volunteer with Pike, by Robert Ames Bennet, begins with the intrigue of Aaron Burr and continues with a narrative of Lieutenant Pike's expedition across Kansas and into New Mexico. In the beginning of his story, the author tells much of the political and social life in the Nation's capital. Dr. John Robinson, the main character in the story, makes a trip to the capital, another down the Mississippi river, and another into the southwest. He tells much about the Indian tribes with which he comes in contact, with, and of the extreme dryness of the western territory. The romance of the story is the love of Dr. Robinson for Senorita Valois. This is not primarily a story

of Kansas, but the state comes in for some mention on account of being a part of the territory that interests Burr at the time of his conspiracy.

The setting of the narrative, Gleanings from Western Prairies, by Reverend W. E. Youngman, is in eastern Kansas, probably near Fort Scott. The author was a well educated young man from England, used to the refinements of life but unaccustomed to any of its hardships. He came to Kansas and visited for a year at the ranch home of Charley Karwin. At first the prairies seemed to him to be desolate and dreary, but he soon became accustomed to pioneer life and learned to cook and wash and do the other work of the ranch. There were no women at the Karwin ranch, although there were families on some of the other ranches and claims in the neighborhood. The author gives a very concrete idea of life on the eastern Kansas prairie in the early days. The settlers are not concerned about questions of politics as are the later settlers, who came to Kansas for the purpose of making the state either free or slave. The mutual assistance given by one family to another in time of sickness and distress is vividly pictured. The winter that the author spent in Kansas was very severe. The weather was intensely cold and the snow lay deep, making travel difficult and sometimes impossible.

Something is told of the Indian legends and customs and of the work of the early Catholic missionaries among the tribes. There is a large Catholic mission and school a few miles from the Karwin ranch from which the priests go out to work among the surrounding tribes. On Sundays the Catholic settlers come to the mission to hear mass, but the larger portion of the congregation is composed of Indians.

Through the whole narrative runs a story of peace and good will that makes it different from the usual western story. There are no Indian massacres, usually found in the ordinary western tale. The people are peaceful and happy in their relations with one another and with the Indians. There is only the hardship of living with the meager accommodations that might be had on the plains. A spirit of love and helpfulness towards others predominates throughout the story.

Stories of the Old Santa Fe Trail, by Colonel Henry Inman, consists of fifteen stories and sketches, mostly of western Kansas life during the early frontier days. One story, The March of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, goes back as far as the year 1540. All of them tell of happenings along the Santa Fe trail, from the earliest beginnings of the trail down to near the border war

period. All of the old generals - Sherman, Sheridan, Custer, and Forsythe - who fought in the Indian campaigns in the west pass in review. The author gives a vivid picture of the battle of the Arrickaree and of the daring of the scout, Jack Stilwell, and his companion, who made the long trip of one hundred miles to Fort Wallace for help. All of the stories and sketches in the book tell of frontier life and the experiences of frontier men and women. Here is depicted the rude frontier justice that is meted out to the breaker of the frontier code, the wily cunning of the savage Indian, and the bravery and unflinching endurance of the frontier scout and plainsman.

In The Covered Wagon, Emerson Hough gives some idea of the country along the southern branch of the Oregon trail in Kansas in the spring of 1848. He mentions as friendly tribes the Otes, Kaw, and Osage Indians. These tribes came to Westport Landing to trade and look on in wonder at the revelings of the whites. The wagon trail that the author mentions came from Westport Landing to Leavenworth and from there it cut northwest across Kansas to Nebraska and then west through Nebraska on the trail to Oregon.

CHAPTER III

The Santa Fe Trail

There is evidence that the Santa Fe trail existed long before the white man came to the territory along its route. The Indians had been using it in their journeys to the southwest from the Kansas territory. Traders and trappers had used it, for it was a natural outlet to the southwest. With the coming of the white man and the settlement of the states along the eastern border of Kansas, a need arose for a route to Santa Fe. With the opening up of the trade with Mexico, merchants faced the dangers of the plains in order to barter their goods in the old Mexican town.

The first wagon trains to follow the Santa Fe started from Franklin, Missouri; but as the river trade moved northward, Independence, Missouri, was used as a base, and finally the permanent eastern

terminus of the trail was located at Westport Landing, which later grew into Kansas City. The journey between Westport Landing and Council Grove could always be made in comparative safety, but from there on the trail was very dangerous. After leaving Council Grove, no supplies could be had until the end of the trip at Santa Fe. West of Council Grove and particularly at Pawnee Rock, there was always danger of Indian raids. In the southwestern part of the state and in New Mexico, the caravans were often obliged to travel for many miles without water. Many wagon trains were lost on this part of the trail; some of the men were massacred by the Indians and others, cut off from the only available supply of water, died of thirst.

Colonel Henry Inman has published two books about the Santa Fe trail. Stories of the Old Santa Fe Trail consists of fifteen stories which are mostly of western Kansas life during the early frontier days. Tales of the Trail, which was published later, is made up of thirteen of the stories found in Stories of the Old Santa Fe Trail.

The stories and sketches found in these two books are intensely interesting and give a slight but vivid picture of life on the plains of Kansas from the beginning of the Santa Fe trail until the

close of the Indian campaign of 1868. The author tells of the Indian campaigns in the west and mentions Generals Sully, Forsythe, Custer, and Sheridan. In General Forsythe at the Arrickaree, he tells of the battle of the Arrickaree. In Did General Custer Commit Suicide? he says he doubts that Rain-in-the-Face killed Custer, but, believes Custer committed suicide to avoid the torture that was sure to follow if he were captured alive. El Solitario, the Hermit of the Old Santa Fe Trail, is a story of the hermit, who lived for a time in a cave in the bluffs near Council Grove. The tragedy of the plains and the fierce Indian raids live again in the Tragedy of Twin Mounds, which is a story of Hart, the government scout, and his sweetheart. Medicine Bluff describes the healing powers of an Indian shrine. Wal. Henderson pictures the straight shooting frontiersman and the rough life of the frontier towns. Kit Carson's Pawnee Rock Story tells of the fight that Kit Carson and one companion had with a band of Kiowa Indians on Pawnee Rock. In this encounter these men killed thirty Indians and were forced to run the "gauntlet of the knives" but were finally allowed to go their way. Kit Carson's First Indian gives Kit's first experience on the plains, when he killed his own riding mule at night, thinking it was an Indian

attempting to stampede the stock of the wagon train Kit was accompanying to Santa Fe. The Passing of the Buffalo tells of the wanton slaughter of the buffalo by men, who shot them from the car windows of the trains as the animals ran along the track. The Wooing of Ah-key-nes-ton is a story of a white doctor, who tries to win the daughter of an Indian chief, and the trouble he meets because the girl has been promised to an Indian brave.

Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter's Vanguards of the Plains is a romance of the old Santa Fe trail. The beginning of the story is at Fort Leavenworth, on the bluff near the Missouri river. This novel gives a complete account of the Santa Fe trail from the early forties to about the year 1867. The author takes the reader all along the route of the trail and incidentally all over the state of Kansas. Much of the life in the state at that early day is shown, and particularly the long spells of drought from which Kansas has often suffered. Nearly every class of people passes in review as the story unfolds.

Samond Clarendon is a man of business, who says that war and strife will not build for the future, but that trade and commerce with the southwest will bring about an understanding that will build a lasting friendship between the United

States and Mexico. Clarendon wins, as men of his type always do. He makes ready for the trip at Leavenworth and goes from there to Franklin, Missouri, where he completes his wagon train and where the journey to New Mexico is begun. With him on the trip are his two nephews and his ward, Mat Nivers. These children grow up into fine men and women under the influence of Clarendon. Eloise St. Vrain connects the Kansas times and places with those of New Mexico and the southwest.

Nearly every town along the eastern part of the trail adds something to the story. The western end of the trail was open prairie over which roamed many hostile Indian tribes. Clarendon's train fought Indians and went for days without water, but the journey was finally completed. The author mentions the old army forts of Hays, Harker, and Dodge, and the fights that the settlers and the army have with the Cheyenne, Kiowa, Arapahoe, and Dog Indians, who fight for every foot of land that they must give up before the onward march of the white man. While this novel deals essentially with the Santa Fe trail, it portrays much of the life and struggles in the state from the early forties to the close of the Indian campaigns, about 1867 or 1868.

The Second William Penn, by W. H. Ryus, is an account of incidents that happened along the

Santa Fe trail in the sixties. The author drives a stage coach and tells of the Indians and the methods he used to gain their friendship. He mentions Quantrel's raid on Lawrence. His stagecoach was searched on one of his trips by outlaws from Quantrel's band. The interest of the story lies in the fact that the author is telling his own experiences. This book throws much light on the nature and habits of the Indians, and shows the conditions in Kansas in the early sixties, especially that portion of it along the Santa Fe trail.

Molly McDonald, by Randall Parrish, is a story of the late sixties and early seventies in the west, particularly in western Kansas and the territory along the Santa Fe trail. It is a tale of stirring Indian fights, and of intrigue among the followers of the army posts of that day. The author pictures the danger from Indians along the stage lines and the bravery of the men who drove the stage coaches. The Indians of the territory are shown in all their baseness and treachery. The closing chapters of the book give some idea of the campaigns against the Indians by Generals Sheridan and Custer, with the assistance of the Kansas militia. Through the narrative runs the love story of Molly McDonald and Sergeant Hamlin.

Pilgrims of the Plains, by Kate A. Aplington, is a story of the early days of the Santa Fe trail. It is told in something like diary form, and narrates the events of the trip in the order of their happening. The story begins at Galena, Illinois, takes the reader down the river to St. Louis, from there to Westport Landing, and then across Kansas along the trail. The boy, John Randall, and his sister are seeking his health, as he has consumption and has been advised to go west. On the trip they meet a herd of stampeded buffaloes, and at Council Grove John finds a small stone on which is carved the name "Padilla".

The Border Rover, by Emerson Bennett, is a story of the early frontier days in Kansas and western territory. The scenes are laid along the Santa Fe trail and the narrative is full of Indian raids on the defenseless settlers. The hero is captured and rescued, lost and found, falls in love, and loses his sweetheart only to find that instead of a trader's daughter, she is a Spanish countess. The hero is heir to a large fortune in the east but the call of the border is too strong, and he gives up wealth and position for adventure in the west and Kansas.

CHAPTER IV

The Border Warfare

Kansas entered the Union as a free state only after a long and bitter struggle with the forces of slavery. The free state settlers had to fight against the hardships of a new country, the national politicians, who favored slavery, and the border ruffians, whose acts of violence were countenanced by the territorial officials. Although they knew that when they entered the new territory, they would be denied every right and privilege that they were entitled to, under the constitution of the United States, nevertheless, the free state settlers came to Kansas determined that the curse of slavery should never be legally fastened upon the state. From 1854 to 1861, Kansas was the battlefield of the free state and proslave forces. With the entry of the state into the Union came the outbreak of the Civil War and the smoldering conflict of the territorial days

was soon fanned again into active fighting. During the four years of the Civil War, the citizens of Kansas were harassed by bands of guerrillas from across the Missouri border. Lawrence was sacked by a band of these guerrillas under the leadership of Quantrel. The citizens of Lawrence had come mainly from the New England states and had always stood squarely against slavery. They had strongly opposed the slave forces and had preached and fought for the cause of freedom against the advocates of slavery. Quantrel considered the town to be legitimate prey for his band of marauders.

Novels dealing with this period in the history of the state never fail to mention the town of Lawrence and Quantrel's raid. Practically all of the stories of this period have their setting either at Lawrence or near there.

Guerrillas of the Osage, by Stephen Holmes Jr., is a story of the guerrillas of the border and the devilish outrages they committed during the unsettled days of the Civil War. It is not particularly a story of Kansas so much as it is a story of the guerrillas, who robbed and murdered the defenseless citizens on both sides of the Missouri-Kansas border. The setting of the story seems to be in Missouri, but the evil characters in the story operated on both sides of the line. It.

was written in 1864.

Western Border Life: or, What Fanny Hunter saw and heard in Kansas and Missouri (1864) pictures living conditions in Kansas and Missouri at the time of the conflict between these two states prior to the beginning of the Civil War. Fanny Hunter came from Connecticut to teach the children of a slave owner, who lived near the Kansas border. She tells of the squalid life in the home of Jack Catlett, by whom she is employed, and the shiftlessness of the whole family, although they boast that they belong to the aristocracy of Virginia. The slave owners near the Kansas line wanted to hold claims in Kansas. Many of the most desirable farms, however, were already occupied by free state men. In order to get possession of these claims, the Missourians collected a drunken mob and either drove off or killed any free state man who opposed their taking possession of his claim. The slave owners supplied the whiskey and the "poor white trash" killed whenever necessary in return for what they could drink. The Missourians were very contemptuous of the Northern Yankees, but were reluctant to meet them in equal fight. The author tells of the Missouri army that was to have destroyed Lawrence but was stopped by order of Governor Shannon. It is the old story of the

border warfare over again but in a milder tone than the later books about the same period. It probably is literally what the title indicates: What Fanny Hunter saw and heard in Kansas and Missouri.

The Spy of Osawatomie; or, The Mysterious Companions of Old John Brown, by Mary E. Jackson, begins with the early plannings of the free state and proslavery men before the actual struggle began in Kansas. The characters come from Ireland, England, and Scotland. The author describes the founding of Lawrence and Osawatomie and the threats made by the Missourians to the free state settlers as they attempted to come into the territory through Missouri. Many of them then took the northern route and entered Kansas by way of Iowa and Nebraska. The author tells of the attack that was to have been made on Lawrence but which was prevented by Governor Shannon on the principle that declared "Equal rights to all" - which the proslavery elements soon perverted into "Southern rights to all". General Blair came to Missouri with the intention of aiding the proslavery forces in their attempt to bring Kansas into the Union as a slave state. He remained for a time, but resigned because he could not condone the things that the slave elements of Missouri were doing. The author pictures vividly John Brown's attack on Harper's

Ferry, his life in the South as a prisoner, and his execution. She also mentions the work of the outlaw bands in Kansas, particularly that of Quantrel. The spy of Osawatomie was a young girl, who came from a sheltered home in the east and did her share in the attempt to keep Kansas free from slavery. She dressed in the costume of a man and gathered much information that aided the free state forces in their work. She often assisted John Brown, and once made a trip into Missouri where she engaged to teach school for a time in order to gain information about the proslavery forces in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Mary A. Humphrey, who wrote The Squatter Sovereign, or Kansas in the '50's, says of her novel: "This story is founded upon memorable and historical events, whose characters have been carefully chosen to represent the various types of men and women, who met upon the Kansas plains intent on settling the vexed question as to whether the territory should come into the Union as a free or a slave state". The setting of the story is between Topeka and Lawrence and pictures conditions in the eastern part of Kansas during the fifties. As stories of this period in Kansas must necessarily do, it deals with the struggles of the free state and proslave forces, the border war, and John Brown. The men and women, who came

to Kansas to make the state free, had a desperate struggle to make a living and, at the same time, protect themselves against the border ruffians. Their efforts were particularly difficult as most of the territorial governors were controlled by the South and, consequently, looked with favor upon the proslavery elements and the methods they used to gain control of the territory. Justice under their regime became a mere travesty, but the author shows that some of the proslavery men were fair, and, while they wanted the state to enter the Union on the side of slavery, they wanted it to do so honestly and fairly.

The free state women, who came to the territory, led a life of suffering and hardship. They cared for the claims while the men fought for freedom; often they stood by while their husbands and sons were murdered. But life in the territory was not without its brighter side, and something of the fun and pleasure of the settlers is shown in this work.

The free state settlers came from the New England states, Ohio, and Iowa. Some of them had means of their own, but many of them received help from the New England Emigrant Aid Society. When the Missourians closed the border to the free state emigrants, the route through Nebraska

was used and many came into the territory from the north. The heroic efforts and the suffering of the early settlers from the eastern states are shown, as well as the efforts of the "Southern gentlemen", to hold Kansas by bringing in many of the "poor whites" of the South to fill up the state. The trials of Warsaw and Walnut Grove, free state settlements, are vividly portrayed by the author, but with fairness to both of the contending forces.

The Boy Settlers, by Noah Brooks, is a story of the spring and fall of 1856 in Kansas. The boy settlers came from Illinois primarily with the intention of helping to make Kansas a free state. They were accompanied by their fathers, while their mothers remained in Illinois, intending to come to Kansas as soon as a home had been established. The overland trip from Illinois to Kansas is told in detail. The boys, who were from fourteen to eighteen years old, had visions of Indian fights and encounters with border ruffians. In reality, they had little to do with either, as the Indians they did meet were only those they saw at the missions and the border ruffians did not molest them as they located too far from the Missouri border. The boys had heard many stories of the Black Hawk war in Illinois and expected to find the same conditions in Kansas, but were disappointed.

The author merely hints at the possible danger of Indians and suggests something of the work of the border ruffians, although he does mention the free state towns of Lawrence and Topeka, and casts a little ridicule at the National government for protecting the proslavery elements with the government troops.

Kansas territory from the Missouri border to a point a little west of Fort Riley is well described. The settlers built themselves a log cabin, broke out forty acres of land, and planted corn and melons. Their crop did well and they expected an abundant harvest, but a herd of stampeded buffaloes trampled the corn and melons into the ground and their summer's work was lost. However, they did not consider their loss to be very heavy, as the government officers at Fort Riley, their only market, would not buy anything from free state men. With the loss of their crop, there was no reason for their remaining in Kansas during the winter, so they decided to spend the winter in Illinois and return to Kansas in the spring in time to plant another crop.

T. B. Ferguson, the author of The Jayhawkers, moved from Kansas to Oklahoma and was governor of that state from 1901 to 1903. The novel is a tale of the border warfare and its purpose can be

best explained by quoting the closing paragraphs of the last chapter:

"With the commencement of the story, Kansas is presented to us as an arena of war and bloodshed.

"It was upon her soil that the world heard the booming gun that heralded the great American rebellion. It was upon her soil that the principle that, 'all men are born free and equal', was first maintained upon the field of carnage.

"But things have changed.

"Through fire and blood, the Jayhawkers' dominion has passed out into the ranks of her sister states - the fairest of them all.

"Her school houses, her churches, her improvements of every kind, and her fame at home and abroad, all proclaim the story of her triumph.

"From baptism of blood in the valley sorrow, Kansas has come up out of the great tribulation with white garments and a diadem of love and peace, encircling her brow.

"From beneath the clouds of adversity, she has risen and now walks in the paths of hope and promise.

"From adversity to prosperity.
 Life out of death!
 Victory out of defeat!
 Light out of chaos!
 Love out of hate!
 Peace, hope, promise, victory.
 A heroic struggle on her journey.
 'Ad Astra per Aspera'."

The story carries the reader through the border war troubles and into the times of peace following the Civil War.

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- The following note is written on the fly leaf of the copy of this novel in the State Historical Library at Topeka: "Presented to the Kansas State Historical Society with the explanation that this volume is one of an entire edition which was ruined by typographical error. No other edition was printed in consequence of the discouragement the typographical error gave the author. No volumes of this work were ever put in circulation and this is an old one presented to your society by a son of the author and Kansas.

June 22, 1912

Walter Ferguson
Cherokee, Oklahoma."

Arthur Paterson's novel, For Freedom's Sake, is a story of the fifties in Kansas and the struggles of the free state men against the proslavery element. The injustice of the proslavery leaders and of the laws enacted by the legislature of 1855 are thoroughly discussed. A great deal of the book is given over to a discussion of the work of John Brown and his followers. The free state town of Santone, which is probably Lawrence, was sacked by the border ruffians. The author mentions the work of Governors Shannon, Reader, and Geary. The law, making punishable by death the "crime" of helping slaves to escape, is ridiculed, and incidents are given to show the extreme cruelty of slave owners toward their runaway slaves. The story closes with the execution in December, 1859, of John Brown for the Harper's Ferry incident. Throughout the story are shown the strength and courage of woman's devotion and the unswerving heroism of a man who is determined to help John Brown in his fight to free the slaves.

The Stormy Petrel, by Colonel John Bowles, is a story of slavery in Missouri and Kansas during the fifties and through the Civil War period. Much of the story is laid in Kansas at Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Topeka. It tells of the struggles

of the free state settlers, John Brown, the border war, the underground railway, and the runaway slaves from across the Missouri border. Although much attention is given to the border war in Kansas, the author tells of the fighting between the Union and Confederate forces in Missouri and particularly of the campaigns of General Price.

This is a typical Kansas story of the border war period and the bravery of the men and women who fought for the freedom of the slaves. There is suffering and sorrow, but in the end triumph for the right as the long struggle of the Civil War ends.

The setting of the novel, Order No. 11, by Caroline Abbot Stanley, is in Jackson county, Missouri, beginning in the year 1859. It tells of the prosperity of the county at that time and the events that led up to the war of the rebellion. In the neighborhood are men from the South and men from the North, while scattered among them can be found the usual degraded lot whose sympathies are always with the side that seems to have the upper hand. The author mentions Quantrel's raid on Lawrence, but says it is in retaliation for the raids of Jennison upon the settlers of Missouri. Both sides suffered in this war of reprisal, but neither was wholly to blame for the crimes committed,

in the name of either the North or the South, by the irresponsible desperadoes that thronged the border at this time. The author feels that it was folly to place soldiers from Kansas to guard the border and takes exception to General Ewing's "Order No. 11", which deprived many Missouri settlers of their homes. The story covers the time from 1859 to about the year 1867, and tells of the return of many of the settlers who were driven out of the county by "Order No. 11".

The author feels that the slaves would be happier in bondage and looked after by the slave owners than they would be without the care and kindness given them under slavery. The love and kindness of the slave owners for their slaves are brought out in the care that Colonel William Trevilian gives his blacks. This is manifestly a story that describes the border troubles and the Civil War from the Missouri point of view.

Time and Chance, by Elbert Hubbard, is really a biography of John Brown. It covers his life from the time he was a mere child not yet five years old until the time of his death. His parents moved from Connecticut to the Western Reserve in 1800. The Western Reserve was in the northeastern corner of Ohio and at that time was claimed by Connecticut. The little company with

which the Browns emigrated settled near Zanesville, Ohio, and it was here that John Brown grew to manhood. It was here that he learned about slavery and met one of the men, who was to go with him through much of the trouble he afterward experienced in Kansas. Here he first saw white men sell as slaves their children by negro women. He fell in love with the daughter (white) of one of these men. Although they do not marry, she is the only woman he really ever loved. In his young manhood he went back to Connecticut to study for the ministry with his mother's brother, but returned to Ohio after spending only a short time at his studies. On returning to Ohio, he married a girl of the neighborhood and in a few years he became one of the most respected men of the community. Later, he accidentally met Margaret Brydges, his first love, but he does not recognize her. It is through her that he later began his career of freeing slaves by means of the underground railway. Through his efforts to help slaves to escape from the South by means of the underground railway, Brown got into difficulties with his neighbors and so moved with his family from Ohio to North Elba, New York. Things did not go well with him here and his sons soon returned to the old neighborhood in Ohio. They were not looked

upon with favor by their neighbors and soon left for Kansas. In 1857, John Brown joined his sons in Kansas, and from this point on the author tells of John Brown and his work in the interests of the negroes and the free state party in Kansas. His attack on Harper's Ferry, in which he was to have been helped by the only son of Margaret Brydges, is dramatically told. The author pictures John Brown not as a fanatic, but as a man of keen foresight and much personal courage, a man with an ideal, who bravely attempted to his duty as he saw it.

Over the Border - A Story of the Kansas Pioneers, by Ruth Cowgill, gives a comprehensive picture of pioneer life in Kansas during the stormy days of the late fifties and early sixties. The story begins in the spring of 1855 and pictures the struggles of the free state settlers against the murderous crews sent in by the Southerners to drive them out of the territory. The mob violence of the border days is told, but without the gruesomeness and horror that are usually found in a story of this type. The setting of the story is at Lawrence and the surrounding country. The author tells of the murder of Dow and Barber, free state men, at the hands of the proslavery advocates, the bogus legislature, the ribaldry of Sheriff Jones and his

followers, the peace party at the Free State Hotel, and finally the sack of Lawrence.

Mrs. Muriel Culp Berry has written two short stories of the border war period. In Jane Orchard, Heroine, she writes of the guerrilla war of 1862 and Quantrel's raid on Lawrence. The heroine's hair turns white from the fright and anxiety she suffers during the raid. John Brown's Soul is a story of the war on the Wakarusa and of John Brown at Lawrence during that time.

Mrs. Margaret Hill McGarter has written two novels that deal with the border troubles in Kansas. The Price of the Prairie, while it is mainly a novel of the post-bellum period, gives the reader an idea of the struggles of the settlers near the town of Springvale, Kansas, before and during the Civil War. The author tells of Quantrel's raid on Lawrence and the visits of bands of ruffians to Springvale after the men of the village have left to fight with the Union forces. Only the old men and the boys are left to protect the town. The boys are only in their early teens, but they bravely assume the burden that is placed upon them.

A Wall of Men begins in the middle fifties and pictures the kind of people, who first settled in Kansas territory, and the purpose that brought

them here. The setting is around Lawrence and east to the Missouri line. It is a story of the struggle between the free state and proslavery forces. Each side is determined to win - the free state settlers by peaceable means, and the proslavery forces by any means possible. The sufferings of the early settlers in this part of the state are vividly portrayed. The Kansas droughts are long and hard to bear, but they are not as terrible as the unreasonable and wanton killing of innocent men by the proslavery forces in the territory. The author emphasizes the courage and fortitude of the free state women when father, son, or brother is waylaid and brutally murdered. The women hold the claims while the men fight for their rights and the freedom of the negro. Lawrence is sacked by Sheriff Jones and his band of outlaws from Missouri, the Wakarusa peace treaty is signed, the two contending forces make merry at a farcical peace party in the Free State Hotel at Lawrence. At the end of two years of vendetta warfare, Lawrence is destroyed by Quantrel, yet the free state settlers do not give up in their determination to make Kansas a free state. John Brown, through his attack on Harper's Ferry, adds his bit to the drama of the early struggle in Kansas. With everything against them, the brave free state settlers hold out in the

face of the ill will of Governor Shannon and the President of the United States. Everything points against them, but they finally win out and Kansas enters the Union a free state.

Free Soil, by Miss Margaret Lynn, is another novel of the struggle to make Kansas a free state. The story begins by telling of the righteous indignation of the New Englanders when they heard of the work of the border ruffians in the interests of slavery in Kansas. Men of the New England states felt that since the territory had been thrown open to slavery, the question, whether the state should be free or slave, should be settled by the citizens. When they heard of the attitude of the Missourians, they were incensed, and many of them set out for the new territory in the interests of freedom and avowedly against slavery. The New England Emigrant Aid Society was organized and gave assistance to many of the free state settlers, who came to Kansas during the time of the border troubles. The author tells of the wanton murders of free state men, and of the work of John Brown and his sons in their efforts to help the free state party, and also to free the slaves. The women have an especially hard time of it, as they must remain at home on the lonely prairie, while the men are aiding in the defense of Lawrence.

Not all the Missourians in the territory, however, are bad. Many of them mean well, but are unable to control the freebooters, who are in the territory and carry out their depredations in the name of the proslavery forces.

This novel covers substantially the same ground that is covered by Mrs. McCarter in A Wall of Men. It treats of the same historical incidents but has less of the emotional description that is so characteristic of Mrs. McCarter's novels.

Marching On, by Ray Strachey, is a recent novel of the years preceding the Civil War. The story begins in the early thirties and ends with the beginning of the struggle between the North and the South. The question of slavery is thoroughly discussed and many of the prominent leaders on both sides are mentioned. A great deal of space is given over to a discussion of John Brown and Kansas. The story shows the steady march of events that led up to the Civil War.

Sons of Strength, by William R. Lighton, is a story of the border war period beginning in the spring of 1854. The trials of the free state settlers, aggravated by the hatred of the proslavery element from Missouri, are shown. The border ruffians are depicted as cowardly and inhuman; they are usually drunk and always brutal. The

town of Lawrence is the center of interest, and it is also the main setting of the story. John Brown is cast in heroic mold and portrayed as a man with a wonderful strength of character. The war of the Wakarusa is colorfully told, and pictures the proslavery army as composed of low, degraded men.

The hero of the story was left at a foundling home in Ohio when he was a mere baby. He remained here for a time and was then taken from the home by a man and wife, who belong to the Quaker sect. As the boy approaches manhood, he hears much talk of the trouble in Kansas. The old Quaker wishes to go to Kansas and do his part for the freedom of the slaves, but he is too old to stand the hardships of frontier life. The boy, whose name is McCulloch, remained with the old Quakers until their death. After he had taken care of the affairs of his foster parents, he set out for Kansas. He joined a train of emigrants, who entered Kansas through Missouri. As the train nears the Kansas border, McCulloch comes upon a slave owner beating a silly negro girl. McCulloch, with the help of the slave owner's son, Fokey, tie up the slave owner and accompany him to Kansas. They settle on claims on the Wakarusa river and build themselves log cabins and barns. They take part in the war of the Wakarusa, but when the free state forces of

Lawrence will not attack the proslavery forces, the two boys decide to visit Franklin in hopes that Fokey will be able to see his mother. They saw Fokey's parents and found his father as degraded as ever. Fokey saw him push his mother over and she fell against a wagon wheel and was injured. Fokey and McCulloch carried her away but she died in a cabin on the way to Lawrence. Fokey vowed vengeance on his father, but when his father later rode up to the cabin, Fokey would not shoot. His father, however, did shoot, and Fokey was wounded, though not seriously. It is at this critical moment that McCulloch discovers that he is Fokey's brother. The story is rather hazily told and is not well unified.

The entering wedge, by William Kennedy Marshall, is a story of the love of Dan Rogers, a Missouri slave holder, for Winifred Woodbury, a girl from New England. The story takes us once more over the border war, with its outrages committed by the Missourians and the wanton murder of the free state men, Dow and Barber. The author tells of the sack of Lawrence by Quantrel and the inhuman murders committed by the mob. Here again we meet John Brown, but not in the heroic role in which he is usually cast by many writers. Winifred Woodbury and Dan Rogers are both well educated.

Often they appear at public gatherings and speak for their respective sides of the slave question. They are married soon after the close of the Civil War.

CHAPTER V

Army Life in Kansas

With the close of the Civil War emigration from the east began to fill Kansas with hardy young men, who had gone through the long and arduous campaigns of the war. These young men had fought with the armies of both the South and the North. They came to Kansas to take up land in accordance with the homestead laws. The western two-thirds of the state was still menaced by hostile Indian tribes, and, to curb their depredations, the United States government established numerous army posts throughout Kansas and many of the other western states. Although these posts were intended to protect the settlers, many outrages were committed by the Indians before the soldiers could reach the scenes of their activities. The United States government was slow

in giving the army commanders orders to proceed against the Indians, and, as a consequence, the state militia often had to be called out to quell Indian uprisings. These old army posts were abandoned by the government as danger of attacks by the Indians decreased. Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, however, are still used as permanent army posts.

From reading stories about the army in Kansas, we are given a very good idea of the extent and the barrenness of the prairie within the borders of the state. The most prolific writer of this type of fiction was Captain Charles King. He had a wide experience in the army, having been stationed in nearly every part of the west. He has written fifty-five novels of a lighter type about army life. His interest was primarily with the army. Kansas is mentioned only incidentally when the troops, about which he is writing, happen to be on duty within the state. Captain King and John Coulter are the only authors, who have written novels solely of army life within the state. Other authors mention the work of the soldiers only incidentally.

Colonel Henry Inman in General Forsythe at the Arrickarce, which is included among the stories in Tales of the Trail and Stories of the Old Santa Fe

Trail, tells of the battle of the Arrickaree, which was fought by a picked detachment of United States Cavalry. He gives a vivid account of the battle, and of the attempts of the army scouts to get word of their predicament to the commanding officer at Fort Wallace, which was one hundred miles away. This story, which can be found in both of these books, gives a very good idea of western Kansas and the danger of Indian raids on the prairie in those early days.

Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter, in The Price of the Prairie, tells essentially the same story of the battle of the Arrickaree as does Colonel Inman. In addition, Mrs. McCarter gives much of the history of the Nineteenth Kansas Cavalry, and of the severe test it went through during its winter campaign of 1868 against the Indians. The author intimates that the sincerity of the Kansas settlers was shown by the courage and endurance of the men, who volunteered to serve, during this campaign, to free the state from the depredations of hostile Indian tribes. In the course of the story, Mrs. McCarter mentions the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Sioux, Kiowa, and Dog Indians.

In The Last Frontier, Courtney Ryley Cooper tells again of the battle of the Arrickaree. He gives the reader a very good idea of the status of

the military troops in Kansas, during the building of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. It seems that the army men in Kansas at that time were never able to determine just how much authority they really had. The author tells of General Custer's scouting expedition that came to naught, of his arrest and final reinstatement. It was at this time that reservations were located in the Indian territory and the tribes taken there. The agents, who were to issue supplies to the Indians, robbed them and set up trading posts with the stolen goods. These illicit traders, for the sake of the profits, supplied the Indians with guns and ammunition with which to fight the whites.

Mr. Desmond, U.S.A., by John Coulter, is a story of army life in the west. The setting is at Fort Leavenworth. The novel is mostly of life at the army post and of the efforts of Colonel Desmond to get a commission for his worthless son, George. By a great deal of political "wire-pulling", he finally manages to obtain the commission. The Colonel's wife is of the opinion that the army is made up of the aristocracy of the country.

Captain Charles King has written three novels that deal, to a certain extent, with army life in Kansas. The Colonel's Daughter is a story of army life and particularly of the social ambition of

Colonel Pelham's wife for her daughter, Grace. She wishes this daughter to marry a wealthy Second Lieutenant, but Grace is in love with Captain Truscott. This is at a time when the regiment is stationed in the far west. The story ends at Fort Hays, where the regiment finally arrives sometime in the seventies. Jack Truscott is a social outcast because of his loyalty to the wife of his deceased comrade, Captain Tanner. Captain Truscott remains faithful to his trust, and his loyalty finally wins him the Colonel's daughter. In this novel Captain King mentions Tommy Drum's saloon in Hays. Tommy Drum also ran a saloon in Victoria, Kansas, at the time the English started the settlement there.

Campaigning with Cook; and Stories of Army Life tells of the beginning of the Indian war of 1876. The first chapter relates to the order received at Fort Hays, which sent the Fifth cavalry into the far west to fight the Indians. The regiment, or a part of it at least, really started from Fort Riley. At this time, Captain King was a lieutenant with the Fifth cavalry.

Marion's Faith is another story about the Fifth cavalry, in which are found many of the same characters that are in The Colonel's Daughter. It is about frontier army life and the military affairs

of the west at that time. The beginning of the story is located at Fort Hays. There is very little description of the country, but a very good idea is given of the military life at the Fort. While the regiment was here, it received an order to proceed on the Indian campaign of 1876 that took it into the far northwest. The wives of many of the officers remained at Fort Hays, while their husbands were following the trail of the Indians in Montana.

CHAPTER VI

Pioneer Life After the Civil War

During the years following the Civil War, the eastern states were in an unsettled condition. As a result of this condition and the restlessness of the soldiers from the different armies, Kansas received many settlers, who were seeking homes for themselves in a new and undeveloped country, where opportunities to acquire land were greater. Kansas, noted for its fertile soil and mild climate, received much of this emigration.

Kansas also witnessed the coming of many groups of different nationalities, seeking homes for themselves in a country where they might own the land that they farmed. Following the attempt to form a landed aristocracy of the second sons of English nobility at Victoria and again at Runnymede, the Kansas Pacific railroad fostered the immigration of a large number of peasants from the region of

the Black Sea in Russia. It was these immigrants, who settled on the land at Victoria, after the English colony had failed. At other places in the state may be found settlements of French Canadians, Swedes, and Germans. It was during this period also that Kansas received the exodus of the negroes from the South. They sought a place where they would have a better opportunity and more sympathy than they felt they would receive in the land where they had once been slaves. They had heard of the wonderful opportunities in Kansas, and the result was the exodus of 1879.

These early settlers, following the Civil War, suffered many hardships, while establishing homes for themselves in this new territory. The Indians still menaced the frontier settlements, this danger not being eliminated until 1878. As the settlers took up the land farther and farther toward the western portion of the state, they suffered from the long periods of drought for which Kansas in those days was especially noted. However, they held tenaciously to their claims and resorted to every expedient possible to make a living, during these trying years, for they felt sure that better times would soon come.

It was during this period of the development of the state that organized bands of grafters

promoted fake towns and voted bonds for which the settlers later paid heavily in taxes. After getting as much of the settler's money as they could, these grafters moved on to new territory to repeat the same scheme. Many of the counties in central and western Kansas were organized and heavily burdened with debt by men of this type. Some of these counties lost as much as forty thousand dollars through schemes of this kind. It took some of them years to pay for court houses and school buildings that were never erected. It was during this period also that trouble arose over the location of many of the county seat towns and developed into numerous "county-seat wars". There was much fighting and often bloodshed before these difficulties were settled. But, in spite of the difficulties of this after-the-war period, Kansas developed slowly but surely into the prosperous state that she is today.

The Story of a Ranch, by Alice Wellington Rollins, is a story of early ranch life in Ellsworth county. The author brings out the difference between what was there and what easterners thought was there. The story is mostly description. It can hardly be called a novel, although that is what it was intended to be. The owners have their ranch stocked with sheep and raise

very few cattle or hogs. The life, as it is described, was extremely delightful. In fact, it was so delightful, that it was impossible for some friends and relatives from the Atlantic coast states to leave, after once visiting the county.

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The Ranch on the Oxhide, by Colonel Henry Inman, is a story of the late sixties and the early seventies in Ellsworth county, near the town of Ellsworth. This story gets its name from the creek on which the Thompson family settled, when they came to this part of Kansas. The creek was called the "Oxhide" because a yoke of oxen had been found dead with the yoke still on them, as though they had been tied to a tree and left to starve. It was supposed that the owners had been killed by Indians, who left immediately without looking for the oxen. The author gives a very full description of the country at that time, and tells of the dangers that faced the early settlers. The Indians were especially troublesome, during this time, but went peaceably to their reservations after the long winter campaign of 1868. It was during these early years that the Indians massacred a settlement about twenty miles from the Thompson ranch. The settlers in the neighborhood gathered

at.....

1. The boy scout edition of this book (1898) was used for the present paper.

at the Thompson home and the men formed an expedition to go in pursuit of the band that had committed this atrocity.

When the Thompson family first came to Ellsworth county, they found large herds of buffaloes and antelopes. The streams were full of fine fish. The family at first lived upon game, which the boys were able to kill. As the settlers came into the territory, they ruthlessly killed the game and soon almost none could be found.

One of the girls was carried off by the Indians and kept by them for five months before she finally made her escape. The family was prosperous and was always able to raise good crops; their only danger seemed to be from the Indians and from the wild animals that infested the neighborhood, particularly the fierce timber wolves. The boys enjoyed hunting and fishing and one time caught two small Indian ponies and five small buffalo calves that happened to enter their corral during a buffalo stampede. The story is simple but well written and very interesting.

The Last Frontier, by Courtney Ryley Cooper, is the story of the building of the Kansas Pacific railroad across Kansas. The road was built as far as Fort Riley when the story opens and is carried on from there to the Rocky Mountains. The author tells

of the attacks that the Indians made on the wagon trains and the stage coach lines and of the massacres of the workers on the railroad. After considerable difficulty, the road finally reached Salina, where the people for miles around gathered and held a rousing celebration to welcome the first train that entered the town. A similar celebration was held by the citizens of Hays when the railroad finally reached that place.

With the coming of the railroad came every known kind of grafter, and all seemed to get a share of the money that was then being spent in Kansas. Army contractors and traders practiced every form of roguery to fleece the settlers and the builders of the railroad of their money. They sold the Indians arms and ammunition and gave them information concerning the wagon trains and the workers on the road so that the savages were able to attack them at opportune times.

The author pictures vividly William Cody and his method of killing the buffaloes. It is this time that Cody earned the title of "Buffalo Bill". Wild Bill Hickok is pictured, and his skill with his two pearl handled revolvers is shown as he swings into action, during the progress of the story. Hickok, Cody, and Tom Kirby did scout duty for General Custer. The army leaders at this time

had considerable trouble because they were not able to obtain definite information from Washington in regard to the action that they should take with the hostile Indian tribes. The author mentions all the old forts that were located along the line of the railroad, and tells of General Forsythe's battle with the Indians at Arrickaree. The Indians at this time were taken to reservations, which had been established in the Indian Territory. The author tells of the crookedness of the Indian agents and suggests something of the unfairness of the policy that the government followed in its dealings with the Indians. The settlers in those days had a very hard time, especially the women, but the courage and the fortitude of both the men and the women, who had come to make their homes upon the prairie, finally won. They were rewarded when the lawless element left and law and order were ushered in.

The setting of the story, The Kansan, by Mack Cretcher, is located at Bison City in the early sixties. It is a story of the early pioneers of the state. The novel opens with an account of Jim Brandon and his mother on the trail to Bison City. Jim's father was in ill health when the family started for Kansas. He died when they reached Baxter Springs, Kansas. Jim and his

mother continued their journey to Bison City. There, with the help of Jonathan Butler, the optimistic booster of the town, and Jason Hull, the banker, they finally located on a claim and for a time were quite happy. Soon an Indian uprising forced them to take refuge in Bison City. During the siege, the Indians burned the buildings that Jim and his mother had erected on their claim. When the siege was especially oppressive and when it looked as though the settlers would be taken by the Indians, Jim Brandon slipped through the Indian lines and went to Fort Harper for help. After the Indians found that the soldiers were coming, they left the town and Jim joined the soldiers in the pursuit. As they were returning, after a fruitless effort to capture the Indians, the soldiers came upon a herd of buffaloes, and Jim took part in the hunt that followed. While on this trip with the soldiers, Jim met the scout, Dave Fallon, who became his steadfast friend and remained with him through the rest of the story. Jim proved himself a hero in every emergency. After his mother's death, which occurred soon after the Indian raid, Jim made his home with the family of Jonathan Butler. He and Marion Butler pledged their troth while they were yet children in school.

The author tells of the grasshopper year, and

the evils and outlawry that accompanied them. The stern justice of the frontier is enacted when Skinner Smith and a party of the settlers set out to recover their horses that had been stolen by a band of outlaws. The settlers faced prairie fires, Indian raids, and drought; many left and returned to the East, while a few stayed and faced the hard times. Jason Hull, the banker, and Jonathan Butler, the optimist, remained because they had faith in the country, or because they could not get away. In the meantime, Jim Brandon got some schooling and established the "Bugle". Through its columns he fought for law and order and sound business methods. He always stood for the right and made sacrifices himself in order to help others. He was mobbed for his efforts when he exposed the perfidy of the officers of the Western Trust Company. However, he kept up the fight and finally won. Jason Hull, who had been representing the district in congress, lost the nomination for reelection, and, in an impassioned speech, he nominated Jim to fill his place. Jim won in the election by an overwhelming majority.

This novel vividly portrays the unyielding spirit of the early pioneers in the face of grave difficulties. The faith of Jim Brandon, as he trudges along beside his wagon, with his rifle

on his shoulder, on the way to Kansas, when he is only twelve years old, and after he has just buried his father, is evidence that he cannot fail. That sort of spirit is bound to win, and it was that spirit that carried the Kansas pioneers through long years of doubt and worry to prosperity.

A Son of the Plains, by Arthur Paterson, is a story of the frontier days of 1873. The story opens with the driving of a herd of two thousand sheep across Kansas to the eastern part of the state. While Nat Worsley, the owner of the sheep, and his herder were in night camp, they heard the sound of a running horse. They kept watch and, as the horse and rider approached them, they stopped the horse. The rider was a cowboy, who reported that back on the trail twenty men had been scalped and two white girls stolen by the Indians. The cowboy was so badly frightened, he refused to return, but Nat forced him to accompany them in an effort to save the girls. Nat, who had been stolen by the Indians when he was a boy and kept by them for five years, disguised himself as an Indian, entered the Indian camp, and rescued the girls. After Nat sold his sheep, he accompanied the girls to their home in New Mexico and later he married one of them. He continued to follow the sheep business in New Mexico.

Life at Laurel Town, by Kate Stephens, tells of the early times in Kansas, following the Civil War, and particularly of life at Laurel Town, which is Lawrence. The author tells of the founding of the University and its early struggle for life. The crooked schemes of the grafters are shown in the county seats fights and in the efforts of bands of fake promoters, who induced many counties to vote bonds to railroads in order to have the roads cross the respective counties. After the counties had voted the bonds and delivered them, the surveyors nearly always found a better right of way for the road. The women of Laurel Town resort to many expedients to furnish their churches, but they always succeed. Political movements of the day are discussed, especially the grange movement. The later part of the volume discusses University life and the pranks indulged in by some of the students. The main interest of the author seems to be in the farm life of the early pioneers of the sixties. Her father was a lawyer in an eastern city. Coming west for his health, he settled on a farm near Paola, Kansas, and took a lively interest in the life of the community. The author mentions the early struggles of the free state settlers at the time of Quantrel and his border ruffians.

Dust, by Haldeman-Julius, is a story of the

early settlers, who came to the vicinity of Fort Scott in the seventies and settled on land about thirty miles from the town. The father was sick and about ready to die, when the family of three children and the parents came to Kansas. The baby died from under nourishment and the father soon afterward. The burden of the support of the family fell on the shoulders of the fourteen-year-old boy and his mother. The boy was unfeeling and seemed to have little sympathy for anyone, but he was an excellent worker and very successful in his management of the farm. The mother died about the time the daughter was old enough to marry, which the girl soon did. Martin Wade bought his sister's interest in the farm for thirty dollars an acre, although he felt at the time that she was not entitled to the money, as she had done very little to help pay for the land. Martin continued to prosper, since he had a good farm and fine stock. After much haggling, he finally leased the coal right on his farm for which he received sixteen thousand dollars. When he was closing the deal with his banker, the banker told Martin that he needed a wife. Since his sister had been telling him the same thing, Martin decided to marry. He felt that any girl would have him, now that he had money, so he went to town to look over the eligible

girls and select the one he wanted. It was a purely business proposition with him. He chose Rose Conroy, proposed, and was accepted. Rose was a girl of taste and refinement, but thought that she could make Martin happy in spite of the difference in their tastes. Although they prospered on the farm, neither of them was happy. Rose lost sympathy for Martin, who expected her to bear children and do all of her work without any help. The first child died at birth for which Martin blamed Rose. He was rough and inconsiderate. Later, another child was born, but Martin was cruel and unsympathetic toward the boy because his interests were not the same as Martin's. The boy was killed in the mines, where he had been working as a shot firer, so that he could have money to buy books and leisure to read them, which he did not have at home. Rose became more like Martin every day. Martin finally died from blood poisoning that he contracted from a sick cow. After his death, Rose moved back to town.

This sordid book pictures only the low and mean things in the life of its two chief characters. Novels are probably interesting when they depict life, but a good novel does not necessarily need to emphasize the drabness in life to the exclusion of the little joy and happiness that may be found in

even the poorest lives. Martin Wade was not necessarily a product of the life that happened to be his. Many Kansas boys have gone through more than he had to contend with and have developed into good men. While this novel might be true of a few isolated cases, it is not true of the typical farm life of Kansas.

Trail's End, by G. W. Ogden, is a story of the little town of Ascalon in middle western Kansas in the days when the railroad companies were trying to get men to settle in the state. The story opens with Calvin Morgan, a young professor of agriculture from Iowa, tramping across the prairies of Kansas in search of a place where he could settle and raise wheat, for he felt that that was what would save the state. As he tramped across the prairie, he met old Joe Lynch, the bone man, who had made his living for years by gathering bones, following the slaughter of the buffaloes by the railroad companies. Old Joe told Morgan that he never lacked for bones to gather. The settlers, who came in groups, starved out, and then he found a new crop of bones from the horses and cattle that died during the periods of drought.

Morgan rode into Ascalon with Joe Lynch. There he saw Judge Thayer with whom he expected to go to look at some land. The judge had just

appointed Seth Craddock town marshal. Craddock ordered Morgan to leave town, but instead of leaving town, Morgan took the new marshal's gun away from him. From that time on, Morgan's troubles began. Craddock had just come up over the Chisholm trail with a herd of Texas cattle. Between him and the cowboys, who came with him, they tied Morgan to a freight train, thinking that he would be killed, as he was forced to run along beside the train. Through good fortune, Morgan escaped with his life. Later, he returned to town, became city marshal, and cleaned out the gun toting element of Ascalon. In his work as city marshal, Morgan killed some men whose blood he felt was on his soul. This prevented him from telling Retta Thayer that he loved her. Retta Thayer also felt that he was guilty. Later, when the town was threatened by Seth Craddock and his gang, she asked Morgan for help. She forgave him, for she saw that he had only done his duty as city marshal. Morgan and Retta were married and had a fine home in Kansas. The town of Ascalon disappeared, but another was built on the same site. This novel presents a good picture of early life in Kansas, during the years following the Indian troubles in the state. The town of Ascalon existed only during the later years of the cattle drives from

Texas.

The Wind before the Dawn, by Dell H. Munger, begins with the grasshopper year in Kansas. It tells of the hardships of the early settlers during the years of drought. The plot of the story is the struggle of Elizabeth Farnshaw to get along with her husband, John Hunter. Hunter was a University of Illinois man, but was greedy and owned everything on the farm, including his wife. He mortgaged everything that he had to buy cattle, for he thought that he could make money by doing so. He told his wife nothing of his business affairs. Finally his business methods got him into difficulty and he left his family. Then Elizabeth took over the management of the farm, making a decided success of the business. After she had things running smoothly, her husband returned, a reformed man. This is a drab story without any note of cheer or brightness in it.

The main character in His Love for Helen, by J. B. H. Janeway, crosses western Kansas seeking a place to settle after he had sold his business in the East. The author gives a very good idea of western Kansas, although not much of the story is located in the state.

In Sunflower Land, by Roswell Martin Field, is a volume of short stories, many of which are

about Kansas. The author tells of the grasshopper year, the periods of drought, the cyclones, and the help that the settlers received from the eastern states, during the hard times. Also, he discusses the general political situation, to a certain extent, and shows something of local politics in the early days. Some of the stories are quite humorous.

The Passing of Jack Thompson, in A Colorado Colonel and Other Sketches, is a story of a horse thief, who is cleared on the testimony of his wife, who thought him innocent. On the way home, he confesses his guilt to her. When he is shot in the back, as they journey homeward, she finds that she is not at all sorry. She leaves immediately with the assassin, who is the man she really loves. A Kansas Emigrant, in the same volume, pictures the hardships of the early settlers, during the dry years in the state, when many of them found it necessary to return "to the wife's folks" in the East.

Sons of the Border, by James W. Steele, is a collection of stories and sketches that he published in the Kansas Magazine, during its first year, when Henry King was its editor. The volume contains nine short stories and nine sketches most of which relate to the western border during the

years preceding 1870. Only one of the stories relates to Kansas. That one is about the suffering of a family, following an Indian raid. The heroine of the story dies of grief on account of the loss of her lover, who was killed by the Indians. Her mother and two sisters were carried away at the same time and never heard from again.

The Real Issue, by William Allen White, is a volume of fifteen short stories, and although they do not mention Kansas directly, they are all written with a general background of Kansas material. The Story of Aqua Pura and The Story of the Highlands are both about the hard times in western Kansas. They give the reader an idea of the Kansas droughts and the suffering of the settlers in that part of Kansas. The Real Issue and The Regeneration of Colonel Hucks are both stories that are concerned with politics. All of the stories in this volume are very interesting and make delightful reading.

Stratagema and Spoils, also by Mr. White, is a group of five stories of love and politics. The author, in his preface, says that the love note may not be dominant enough for some, but that he set them in the field of politics because all the passions of man may be found in that field.

The following short stories, up to and including The Rise and Fall of Barber, were published

from time to time in the Kansas Magazine, during the different periods of its publication. They are all interesting, as most of them treat of the early life in the state. They give the reader a very good perspective of the life in different sections of the state at different periods in its development. They are all about incidents that happened following the Civil War.

On the Trail from Dobe Wall, by Wilson Howard, is a story of the early day lawlessness near Dodge City. A cowboy was driving a herd of mules into Dodge City when he was attacked by a band of robbers, who attempted to drive off the mules. The cowboy finally escaped with his life.

Uncle Tom's Indian Raid, by L. G. Turner, is a humorous story of an Indian scare in western Kansas in the year 1884.

Ezekiel Nubbins of Podunk, by Claud Alfred Clay, tells of the visit of an old farmer to the University of Kansas, what he thought of the students, and of the things he saw while there.

When the Flood Came, by Laura Alton Payne, is a story of the flood in North Topeka, when the Kaw river overflowed its banks in May, 1903.

Out in the Flood, by Clerin Zumwalt, is another story of the flood in North Topeka in May, 1903. The author tells of the great destruction

of property and the loss of life resulting from the flood.

Navgody Squaw, by Elizabeth Robert, is a story of the trouble that the Indians caused the early settlers. A woman was at home alone and ill when an Indian came to the house and wanted her to cook a meal for him. A neighbor woman and her husband arrived just in time to save her, although it is doubtful whether or not the Indian would have harmed her, as he was only hungry.

Redeemed, by "Buell", is a story growing out of an incident that happened in Kentucky during the first year of the Civil War. The author tells of the vengeance taken by John Coffin against the Home Guards, who killed his father, burned his home, and outraged his wife. Eight men were implicated in this affair. John Coffin killed seven of them in Kentucky and followed the eighth man to Kansas. Here, in a saloon, he met this eighth man, Jack Norton, and shot it out with him, but was badly wounded. His bride of 1861 found him later, after the shooting, and had him carried to her lodgings, where he stayed until he had recovered. His wife had become a woman of the streets, but she and John Coffin decided to take a new start in life. They homesteaded in the Solomon Valley. The story ends by telling about

their baby.

Kawsmouth Sketches, by Sydney Quarles, is a story of the unscrupulous greed of the speculators, who lived in the new town of Kawsmouth. Kawsmouth is probably Kansas City.

H. H. is a romance of the prairie. The main characters lived near Dodge City in the early days.

The setting of the story, The Prince, by R. Jay Kay, is at a temporary army post near Wichita. It is about a German officer, who enlisted in the United States cavalry in order to obtain information for his own government.

A Kansas Serenade, by Grace Galloway, tells of the merrymaking of a group of young people of central Kansas, who serenaded a newly married couple of their neighborhood.

Constitution to the Rescue, by A. B. Reeves, describes the fun a group of men have at the expense of a man, who thinks that he has been admitted to the bar. The man felt sure that because he had been admitted to the bar, he knew how to practice law. The setting of the story is at Dodge City in the early days.

Stealing a White Squaw, by J. W. Lawton, is an account of the depredations of the Indians in the early days in Kansas. The author tells of a raid made by the Indians when they stole two white

women from farms in the Solomon Valley, and of General Custer's powwow with the Indian chiefs, which resulted in the return of the women. The story is not very accurate in regard to historical facts.

In The Rise and Fall of Barber, Ralph Tennial describes the hard times in western Kansas. It is mostly a story of Kansas politics and particularly of the populist movement.

These stories give the reader a very good idea of the quality of fiction published in the Kansas Magazine during its different periods of publication. The stories found in the first series are probably better than those which appeared in the two later series.

At Kawsmouth Station, by Henry King, is about an incident that happened in the railroad station at Kawsmouth. A young man, who lived fifteen miles out in the country, was waiting at the station for his sweetheart, who was coming to Kansas to marry him. The young man was uneasy and somewhat perplexed because his lady did not arrive on the first train from St. Louis. He told his worries to a little old lady in black alpaca. While the young man conversed with the little old lady, a bombastic real estate man was telling the narrator all about Kansas and how far the state outshone

ancient Greece. Finally the train arrived from St. Louis with the bride-to-be and the young people set off into the country to be married, while the narrator boarded the train that was to carry him into the wonderful country that the real estate man has been telling him about.

Retribution, by S. W. Brewster, is a story of an old man, who called himself "Old Tip" and who had assumed the responsibility of keeping law and order in his community according to his own ideas. He failed to follow his own code once and in his anger killed Chetopa, an Indian chief. Old Tip regretted his rash deed, but was unable to make amends. Minoma, the wife of Chetopa, mourned his loss and sat daily upon his grave, which angered Old Tip, but he could do nothing about it. One day, about three years after Old Tip had killed Chetopa, he was returning home in the evening. As he approached a hillside, he heard the twang of an arrow. A second later, he fell mortally wounded. Minoma had avenged her chief. As Old Tip died, he whispered "retribution".

Wild Oats, by John Thomas Vanderlip, is a group of sketches of the author's experiences. They are all very frankly written and tell of the author's wanderings from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast and as far north as the Dakotas.

Many of them are about Kansas during the years from 1860 to about 1900. The author mentions Carbondale, Kansas, and the "Jerkwater" railroad that ran from there to Lawrence. A very good idea is given of eastern Kansas, particularly that part around Carbondale and Lawrence. He thus dedicates his book: "To my Future Wife or Affinity, this Sheaf of Wild Oats is Cheerfully Dedicated".

The Year of the Exodus in Kansas, by Henry King, pictures vividly the trials and hardships of the negroes, who came to Kansas from the south in the spring of 1878. They arrived with nothing and had to be cared for. They were, however, willing to work, and many of them, with a little assistance, took up land and became solid citizens. They came here into a different climate, to a new country, and to different farming conditions. They were not able to begin work until they were furnished horses and implements and shown how to use them. The negro women, who went to work in northern homes, also had to learn new ways of service.

In the preface to her story, The 'Passin' - On Party, Effie Graham says: "This is a story of a people, one time slaves and bondsmen, now free-tongued freeholders in a western land; the old new type, adopted and adapted. They combine all the

'heat-tellin's' and simple faith of slave days, with the oratorical habit and view-holding propensities of their environment. It is to be expected, therefore, that these Kansas 'Jayhawkers' - full-pinioned, though of a duskier hue - should deapraise fearlessly many of their own race frailties, as well as those of 'dem white folks dey circles wif'."

The author draws a true picture of the old southern negro and his desire to have the things that the white folks have. Aunt June's party is touchingly described. The wisdom that these old negroes have gathered through the passing years is very sound. The setting of the story is laid in Topeka. The story is very interesting and well worth reading for the glimpse of the life of the old time negro that it gives.

Aunt Liza's 'Praisin' Gate, by the same author, is a story of the suffrage campaign of 1912 and the trouble that is caused in a colored family. They were an old negro couple, who had been slaves in Tennessee and who had come to Kansas after receiving their freedom. The old couple became estranged over the suffrage question, but were finally reunited. Although the story is very humorous, there is much truth in the speculations of the old negro couple. The setting of this story

is also in Topeka.

Westward, by Mrs. J. McHair Wright, tells the intimate details of the life of two, who were dissatisfied with their life in Ohio and who built a house boat and drifted down the Ohio river. Then they worked their way up the Missouri river, and finally entered the Kansas river. They journeyed up the Kansas river to a little distance east of Topeka where they bought a claim. They dragged the houseboat up on shore and lived in it for a time. They soon tired of the life here and left for a mining district in the far West. The religious element is dominant in the story.

Tenderfoot Tales (number two), by Lulu R. Fuhr, is a volume of stories describing the Indian scares, the cyclones, and the ever present drought of western Kansas. The suffering, especially that of the women and children on the lonely barren prairie, is vividly brought out. The last few stories really show the progress that the western part of the state has made and the foresight of the settlers, who remained on their claims in spite of the hardships and suffering of the early years.

In Letters from a Prairie Garden, by Edna Worthly Underwood, the author of the letters begins writing them to an unknown artist, living in

the same hotel in which she lives, in the East. At the end of the story, she is writing from the plains of Kansas to the artist, now across the sea. She mentions the hot winds, the hard, dry prairies, the sharp featured immigrants, the Indians, and the waving fields of wheat, although she seems to have very little interest in any of them. To her, they are only some more of the people and things she has met in her travels over the earth. They tell their own story and have an influence of their own upon all persons with whom they come in contact.

Margaret Hill McCarter has written seven stories that give the reader an idea of the pioneer life in Kansas, following the Civil War. The Price of the Prairie describes the difficulties that the Kansas settlers had with the Indians in the years immediately following the Civil War. The author does not seem to be of the opinion that the Indians were mistreated, but believes they received more than they deserved at the hands of a trusting government. The Indians were cruel and practiced every kind of deceit. They accepted rations during the winter when it was impossible for them to get a living from the barren prairie, but during the spring and summer, they became "bad Indians" and ravaged the homes and outraged the wives and daughters of the homesteaders, after

murdering the men and boys and torturing the children before the eyes of their mothers. The women were then carried off into slavery.

The early settlers suffered terribly for the homes they were trying to establish in the prairie country. Many of these early settlers were soldiers from the Union armies of the Civil War. The author gives a fairly full account of Quantrel's raid on Lawrence, and of the march of the Nineteenth Kansas Cavalry to the Washita river in the southwest in an attempt to rid Kansas of the Indians.

The Reclaimers is a story of the reclamation of twelve hundred acres of Kansas land from drifting sand that was ruining the soil, as it blew across the fields. The land belonged to a girl from Philadelphia, who thought it was a fine ranch until she saw it. She could have returned to Philadelphia and lived in luxury and ease, if she would only marry the man her aunt had picked out for her. Instead, she chose to remain and earn her own living in preference to marrying one whom she considered a molly-coddle. She fell in love with and married the man, who reclaimed her twelve hundred acres from the drifting sand. The story gives the reader a very good idea of the difficulties that confronted the early settlers in Kansas.

Winning the Wilderness shows development of the state from barren prairie, that is scorched by hot winds and hardened by long periods of drought, to the prosperous farming country that it is today. The settlers lived through years of drought and hard times, but in the end, they were rewarded for their faith in the future of the state. These settlers were men, who fought with both of the armies, during the Civil War, but who later became neighbors on the Kansas prairies. The author shows the false promotion schemes that many of the grafters, in those early days, tried to force upon the settlers. Sometimes, they did get the attention of the homesteaders, but their schemes never succeeded any further than to swindle the settlers of their hard earned money.

The Peace of the Solomon Valley is a story of the prosperous farming conditions that are found in the Solomon Valley. This part of the state is pictured as being very fruitful.

The setting of The Cottonwood's Story is probably somewhere between Lawrence and Topeka. This story shows the development of the state. It pictures the life of a family, who came to Kansas with only a horse, a mule, and a cow. They were rather swiftless and decided many times to return to the East, but did not have ambition enough to

start. One boy of the family managed, through his own efforts, to acquire an education and became a prosperous business man. He made a confidant of a cottonwood tree on his father's claim. This tree kept him in the path of righteousness throughout his life. The story gives a rather vivid picture of the emigration into Kansas in the early days and the shiftlessness of many of the early settlers.

In Cuddy and Other Stories, the story "Cuddy" tells of the struggles of a pioneer woman to keep the claim that she and her husband had taken in Kansas. The husband, while trying to save their stock in a flood, was drowned. When they came to Kansas, they had two children, but both of them died of pneumonia, and the mother was left with the one child that had been born since they came to Kansas. She labored through the long years to make the payments on the farm, finally succeeding in paying for it. In addition to paying for the farm, she managed to save enough money to send her son to the University. The boy returned to the farm and by careful management he accumulated one thousand acres of land. Then he built a fine home for his mother, overlooking the valley that his mother was so fond of viewing. The story is called "Cuddy" because the little boy called his mother "cuddy" on the night that the

father was lost in the flood.

The Corner Stone is another of Mrs. McCarter's gift-books. It gives the reader a good picture of the last of the great wheat ranches near Pawnee Rock. It is a story of the twentieth century, giving a very clear picture of the passing generation that was fond of the open plains and also of the generation that is now making the life of the state.

The Goddy, by Sarah Comstock, presents a well drawn picture of the homesteader in western Kansas. The author tells of the years of drought and the suffering of the settlers. They had to resort to all sorts of expedients to make a living, while they waited for a crop. Many times the crops failed on account of hot winds or drought, but the settlers did not give up. There was a possibility of irrigating the land in this particular community but the settlers did not have enough money to put up the plant. Finally a wealthy man decided to build the plant. When it is about finished, it was blown up by a land speculator because it would interfere with a development of his own. The heroine of the story was reared upon the prairie and she refuses to give up her faith in it. Finally, she is justified for having stayed on her claim. She is especially happy, since her first

child is born upon the plains, where she has struggled for so many years.

Lois Morton's Investment, by Eva Morley

Murphy, is essentially a temperance novel. It was written for the purpose of showing the curse liquor is to anyone, who has acquired the habit. The family in this novel came to Kansas to get away from the open saloon, but here they found the illegal 'joint', which was much worse. The family remained about nine years in Kansas. During this time, they had to contend with the same trials and difficulties that faced the average settler in those times, but, in addition, the family suffered on account of the father's drunkenness.

When Kansas was Young, by T. A. McNeal, gives the reader a very good picture of Kansas from the early days down through the years and into the twentieth century. The book is made up of a series of light but very interesting sketches. They have that personal touch that can only be given by one, who has lived through the times about which he writes. The author mentions the names of many prominent Kansas men and women. Here one may meet the politician, the early day gambler, the gunman, the English dude, who came to Kansas to settle at Victoria and Runnymede, and the Russian immigrants, who followed them and are

still found today at Victoria and many of the little inland towns in that part of Kansas. Here one may read of the dance halls, the gambling dens, the saloons of the early days, the fraudently organized counties and the schemes by which many of them were robbed. The author tells of the early day law violators and of the many crooks, gamblers and politicians, who got away with thousands of dollars from honest Kansans. Here, too, may be seen the early day cattle towns to which were driven large herds of the long horned cattle from Texas. These towns were lawless. Saloons, gambling dives, and dance halls ran wide open. S. C. Pomeroy's fall from favor is told; also, the corrupt practices of some of the early day politicians are described. These were the days of the county seat troubles, which were accompanied by fighting and often by bloodshed. The author tells of the grasshopper year of 1874, the bad cattle year of 1886, and the bumper corn crop that was harvested in 1889 for which the farmers received ten cents a bushel. Something is also told of the early day school teacher and editor. Carrie Nation is mentioned in one sketch and ex-Governor Allen in another. The book gives a great deal of the real history of Kansas in the days when the state was being settled, following the Civil War.

The Story of a Country Town, by Edgar Watson Howe, gives the reader a picture of a typical western town in the early days. As one reads the book, he can see the town grow from its small first beginnings to the usual size of country towns today. The author has not only drawn a true picture of the town, but of the inhabitants and the settlers of the surrounding territory as well. It is a simple story well told and true to the conditions that one may find in any country town in Kansas, or in any part of the middle west. Mr. Howe is one of the better Kansas authors. This particular novel made a national reputation for Mr. Howe.

William Allen White has written two books about the years immediately following the Civil War. Both give the reader a very definite idea of the development of the state.

A Certain Rich Man tells of the coming of the early settlers and the hardships that many of them had to contend with. The men are called to fight for their country, during the war. The love of country is so strong among some of the young boys that they steal away to war. Quite a little is told of the corrupt politicians of the time, and how they are able to get anything that they may want so long as they have plenty of money.

In the Heart of a Fool is of the years

following the Civil War and tells of the arrival of the settlers. Many of them have been soldiers in the Union Army and now have come to Kansas to take up homesteads in the state. A very good picture is given of the development of the town of Harvey. The citizens were peaceful and happy until coal was found in the neighborhood. Then the division of the people into social classes creeps upon the city. The author tells of the labor troubles and the difficulties that arise between labor and capital. The town of Harvey would have been much happier if coal had never been discovered in its vicinity.

In these two books, Mr. White is not primarily concerned with the state of Kansas. He is writing for a larger purpose. Where a minor author would spend much time on state affairs, Mr. White is concerned with life not only in Kansas, but also with life as it is found in any community of the type which he describes in his book. He pictures the weakness of the man, who wants only money and cares nothing for his fellow men, the strength of the man, who has the love of God in his heart and who is ever mindful of the welfare of his brothers.

CHAPTER VII

The Cattle Industry in Kansas

The development of the cattle industry in Kansas was a picturesque one. In the early days, even before many cattle were raised in the state, herds were driven up from Texas, loaded at Kansas towns, and shipped to eastern markets. Drivers from Texas discovered that their cattle thrived better on the Kansas grass than they did on any that was found along the trail from Texas to Kansas. As a result, the more enterprising among them began to winter herds in the state, putting them on the market in the fall after they had become well fattened. It was not long then until ranches were established and many thousands of cattle were raised within the borders of the state.

Emerson Hough, in The Story of a Cowboy, gives a very good idea of the sweep of the cattle industry across the country from the plains of

Texas to the far northwest. For a time, Kansas towns were shipping points for the great herds driven up from Texas. But, as the railroads extended into the southwest, the drives from Texas became fewer and fewer, for the railroads were seeking the cattle trade and going to meet it. For a time, too, the western part of the state had its own great ranches, but after a while the settlers moved in and the ranchmen were pushed on into the northwest, as the land was homesteaded and broken up into farms. The following quotations from The Story of a Cowboy gives a very good idea of the coming of the cattle trade to Kansas and its subsequent development:

"As early as 1857, Texas cattle were driven to Illinois. In 1861, Louisiana was tried as an outlet. In 1867, an attempt was made to take a herd across the Indian Nations to California, but Plains Indians prevented it. In 1864, several herds were driven to Nevada. But these were all side trails of the main cattle road. The Civil War stopped the cattle trade of the west . . .

"In 1866, a quarter of a million cattle crossed the Red river and came up to the railroads. In 1871, only five years later, six hundred thousand cattle crossed the Red river for the northern markets. Abilene, Newton, Wichita,

Ellsworth, Great Bend, 'Dodge' flared out into a swift and sometimes evil blossoming

"The American cowboy and the American cattle industry have been and are one and inseparable. The story of one is the story of the other

"The young man from Iowa, or New York, or Virginia, who went on the range to learn the business, taught the hardy men, who made his predecessors there very little of the ways of Iowa, or New York, or Virginia. It was he, who experienced change. It was as though the model of the cowboy had been cast in bronze in a heroic mold to which all aspirants were compelled to conform in line and detail. The cowboy had been born. America had gained another citizen, history another character. It was not for the type to change, but for others to conform to it.

"The story of the west is a story of the time of heroes. Of all those, who appear large upon the fading page of that day, none may claim greater stature than the chief figure of the cattle range. Cowboy, cattle man, cowpuncher, it matters not what name others have given him, he has remained - himself. From the half-tropic to the half-arctic country, he has ridden, his type, his costume, his characteristics practically unchanged, one of the most dominant and self-

sufficient figures in the history of the land. He never dreamed he was a hero, therefore perhaps he was one. He would scoff at monument or record, therefore perhaps he deserves them."

This book is interesting because it gives a record of the development of the cattle industry in the United States. Kansas played a very important part in that development. If it had not been for the Kansas markets, the cattle industry of Texas at that time would have failed.

Ten Years a Cowboy, by C. C. Post, is a story of a boy of fourteen, who ran away from his home on the Wabash river in Indiana and went west to Kansas. From Kansas, he drifted down into Texas and entered the employ of the Maxwell Cattle Company. While with this company, he spent most of his time helping to drive great herds of cattle over the long trail from Texas to Caldwell, Kansas, for shipment. He finally tired of this sort of life and decided to take up land and make a home for himself somewhere on the plains. After arriving at Caldwell with a herd, he drew his money - three hundred dollars - and entered into partnership with a man from the east. They returned to Texas and started in the cattle business for themselves. At this time, the Indians were especially bad in the western part of Texas and they lost most of their herd in an Indian

raid. However, they collected what cattle they had left and brought them to Caldwell. His partner returned to the East. While there, he decided not to return to the West. It was then that Philip Johnson decided to take up a claim in Oklahoma. Through the machinations of the cattlemen in Oklahoma, the settlers were three times driven from their claims. Each time that they were driven out of Oklahoma, they were escorted to the Kansas line and allowed to go free. On the second attempt to resettle on his claim, Johnson met his old sweetheart from Indiana and her family. He persuaded them to accompany him back to his old claim where they would find good land. They were again driven out by the military authorities, who treated them very badly on the way from their claims to the military post in Oklahoma. They were once more escorted to the Kansas line near Caldwell. This time it was too late for them to prepare for winter, if they returned to their claims, so they decided to remain in Kansas for the winter. Many of the men husked corn for the Kansas farmers. Later in the winter, they worked on the railroad with their teams. Johnson's sweetheart taught a country school during this winter in Kansas. In the spring, they were able to return to their claims, and this time

they were allowed to keep them.

The Log of a Cowboy, by Andy Adams, is a story of the old western Trail from Brownville, Texas, to the Blackfoot Agency in Montana. The cowboys left Brownville with a herd in 1882 and travelled north, crossing Kansas from the south, through Dodge City, up to Grinnell on the Kansas Pacific railroad, and left the state in the northwest corner.

The author pictures the wildness of the early frontier cattle towns. "Dodge" was a wild town in those days, but it had some very good police officers, such as the Masterson brothers and "Mysterious" Dave Mather and others. The drivers of Adams' story had a very narrow escape at Dodge. It was against the law to fire a gun in town, but someone in this outfit did, and the officers sent lead whistling about them, as they left town. The story gives a very good idea of western Kansas at this time.

The Settling of the Sage, by Hal G. Everts, is a story of cattle ranching in Wyoming. When he is discussing the war that always came between the cattlemen and settlers when the land was homesteaded, the author mentions Kansas. Abilene, Dodge, and Hays are mentioned as cattle towns. The setting of the story might as well have been

in Kansas as Wyoming, for the same conditions prevailed in western Kansas when the homesteaders pushed the cattlemen from the range.

Tumbleweeds, by the same author, is a story of the opening of the Cherokee Strip for settlement. All the herds that were being driven up from Texas at this time were loaded at Caldwell. The owners pastured their cattle in the strip for a time before they shipped them, but at the time of the story, they had been ordered by the United States government to remove them. The cattle owners united to collect all the cattle that were on this range. These cattle added to the herds, that were arriving every day from Texas, made Caldwell a great cattle center for a time. For the time being, Caldwell was as rough and as wild as any frontier cattle town could be. Land values rose to unknown heights and money was spent freely by all, who had it. Fortunes were made and lost in a day. The old wild, free days of the west and the open range were soon to become a thing of the past. Cowboys and ranchmen could not believe that conditions could possibly change so suddenly, but they did. Ranchmen were either forced to move on to new ranges or to quit the cattle business.

The author gives a very vivid picture of the gathering along the Kansas line. Here all sorts of

vehicles and all sorts of people were gathered for the final rush into the strip when the signal would be given. The whole scene was picturesque and uncertain. Here might be found those, who were seeking homes, as well as the cowboy, who knew the country into which he was going and who would stake a claim only to sell it to the first buyer. For a time, lawlessness reigned, but soon law and order prevailed.

North of 36, by Emerson Hough, is a story of the cattle trail from Texas through Abilene. In the first chapter of the book, the author mentions Abilene and the necessity of a northern market. He really has very little to say of Kansas until the later half of the story, when the large herd, around which the story centers, enters Kansas near Caldwell and crosses the state to Abilene. It was the first herd to reach Kansas and it revived the Texas cattle country, which was impoverished until this herd broke the trail and found a northern market at Abilene. The drivers had to contend with carpet bag politicians, outlaws, and Indians. They crossed swollen streams and had stampede after stampede, but they finally reached Abilene, where they sold their cattle for twenty dollars a head straight. Ranching began in Kansas with the arrival of this herd. The female stock

was cut out and sold to stock a ranch on the Smoky Hill river.

Ellsworth, Newton, Wichita, Dodge, and Great Bend are mentioned as possible shipping points. Junction City is mentioned as a possible meat-packing center, as is also Kansas City.

The Osage, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Indians begged cattle of the drivers, as the herd crossed the holdings of these different tribes. It was here that the drivers met Jesse Chisholm, half-breed trail-maker of the southwest, who furnished the government with much of the meat for army rations and for the Indian reservations.

Joe McCoyne, erstwhile mayor of Abilene, who is going to have a church, a jail, a graveyard, and a bank for the other drivers, who may later come up over the trail from Texas, met the herd with a brass band, which caused the last stampede of the trip. McCoyne is a typical Kansas braggart in his efforts to show everyone what Kansas has and what it will have. Here the cowboys also met Wild Bill Hickok, the famous marshal of Hays and Abilene.

The author says that the commerce between Texas and Kansas will do more to break down the strife between the North and the South than all the politicians in both states. The story

concerns the period just after the Civil War.

As the cowboys crossed Kansas with their herd, they saw buffaloes, antelopes, deer, wild elk, horses, prairie chickens, and wild turkeys. They also met some of the men, who were slaughtering buffaloes for their hides. This practice soon depleted the buffalo population of the state, which the author very much regretted.

George S. Ogden has written two stories of the cattle trade in Kansas. The setting of The Trail Rider is at Cottonwood, Kansas. The story is mostly about the difficulties that Kansas cattlemen had in attempting to keep the herds of Texas cattle within definite limits, as they were driven through the state to the different shipping points. The Kansas cattlemen did this to keep down the danger of spreading the fever among their own herds. The Texas fever is not fatal to the Texas cattle, but it is fatal to cattle raised in Kansas.

The Cow Jerry is a story of the last cattle loading town in western Kansas for the herds driven up from Texas. The town sprang into being on account of the cattle trade and everything, that it had, came as a direct result of this cattle trade. Finally the railroad built a division point there and the town became a railroad center. In

his preface, the author thus sums up his story:

"Perhaps the most remarkable battle ever fought on Kansas soil was that between the railroad and the range at the town of McFacken. It was the short gun of the hip-pocket against the long gun of the holster, like the Roman sword against the long blade of the barbarian. A ton or so of ammunition was discharged, with results so astonishing they still marvel over it in western Kansas to this day. It all came out over Tom Laylander, a Texas cowman, who had brought his starving herd to pasture on Kansas grass. Treachery and crookedness reduced him from his high estate to a job on the railroad section, where he came to be famed far and near among hogheads, shacks, and clinker-pullers as the "cow jerry", the only cowboy section hand ever known. But when the crucial day came, the railroaders lined up with the cow jerry, their bulldog pistols in their hands, to help him regain his lost rights. There was a lady in the adventure, also, who did some shooting, but that was shooting of a different kind."

From the above quotation, one may get a very fair idea of the quality of the story.

The Blind Goddess at Dodge, by Albert Reeves, is a story of the early cattle days at Dodge. A few crooked cattle men make an attempt to fasten

the theft of a calf on a simple, good-hearted boy, who had been reared on the plains. The penalty for such a crime, in those days, was hanging. The boy was finally cleared of the charge, but in the trial that followed, the author shows the attitude of some of the grafting lawyers of that day.

In Over Sunday at New Sharon, Henry King describes Dodge City of the early days. The town was less than a year old and was a shipping point for the herds of Texas cattle that were driven up over the Chisholm trail. The author describes the scattered town, with its dance halls, saloons, and the free and easy comradeship of the cowboys, who "take the town" as soon as they are free from duty with the herd they have driven up from Texas. There are few women in the town. The buildings are only board shacks with board walks in front. At night, the jangling music of the dance halls and the click of dice can be heard everywhere. The town boasts of a minister, who holds church services regularly. The author seems to be of the opinion that, with all his wildness, the cowboy is not wholly bad. The story gives a true picture of the early frontier town of the cattle trade days.

CHAPTER VIII

Stories with a General Background of Kansas Life

The fiction discussed in this chapter has all been written since 1878 and covers no particular period in the development of the state. The authors have discussed many different topics relating to life in Kansas. Nearly everything, from politics to theology, has been given consideration. Some of the books do not directly mention Kansas, or events that have taken place in Kansas, but have simply been written against a general background of Kansas material. Many of the authors are Kansans, or have lived for a time in the state. In writing their stories, they have colored them with the spirit of the West as they saw it in Kansas.

Concerning a Certain Prodigal, by Henry King, is a story of the western tramp printer and is

admirably told. King pictures well the restless tramp printer and his waywardness. The story is really very touching and is told as only Henry King could tell it.

Picturesque Features of Kansas Farming, by the same author, is an essay of the corn farmer of eastern Kansas, the wheat farmer of the middle eastern portion of the state, and the homesteader of the western part of Kansas. The author mentions the Mennonite emigrants, who at first lived in villages and went out to their farms each day. They soon abandoned this practice. Also, he tells of the large ranchmen of the extreme western part of the state. He gives the conditions under which these men and women lived and the progress that they have made, as the years have passed.

The Man with a Hobby, also by Henry King, is a story of a man with a hobby during the days when the Grange was influencing politics so strongly in Kansas. He had hobbies - economic policies - about the corn crib, the ash barrel, and the store. The real interest of the story was the love of an old maid, Miss Abigail Mungler, for the hobby-rider, "Joshua Craybill".¹ She was unable to make him

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 1. In his Annals of Kansas, O. W. Wilder says: "It is the late John Grable of Doniphan county that King rescues from oblivion and gives forever to Kansas Literature."

see that she was perfectly willing to marry him, even after he failed to be elected county coroner.

The setting of the story, The Free Soil Prophet of the Verdigris, by M. E. Heller, is in the Verdigris valley in Montgomery county, Kansas. It is mostly a discussion of taxes and the division of the results of labor done on the land. The main character is an old seer, who attempts to have a book on these subjects published. He cannot get any of the regular publishers to accept it, so he attempts to get the assistance of a wealthy farmer, Mr. Worth, in order to have his book published privately. Mr. Worth decided to look over the manuscript, but his son suggests that the old seer read the book to the assembled company, which consists of Mr. Worth, his son, and Professor Field of the University of Kansas. They discuss the old man's theories, as the reading progresses.

The first few chapters of the story, The Belle of Wyandotte, by James B. Goode, are of the early days in Kansas, then the story jumps to England, but in the closing chapters it returns again to Kansas. There is very little Kansas material in the story, aside from the mention of the sunny plains of Kansas and the Indians. It is a story of love and adventure. The hero was born in Kansas, but went to England, where he worked in

the interest of women's rights and better living conditions for the working classes. He was elected to a seat in Parliament on account of his efforts, but was kidnapped by wealthy coal barons and placed in a deep dungeon. He was finally rescued and turned out to be the grandson of an English lord.

The Dead Line, by Gideon Lane, D.D., is a story of the people's party movement in Kansas during the nineties. The story is strongly tinged with socialism and the sense of injustice of the police and the capitalists. The money lenders of the east come in for their share of censure in regard to the methods that they use in Kansas. They are guided in this by the Republican party, which is endeavoring to down the peoples' party by not renewing loans for any of the men favoring it. The different castes of society are duly flayed and held up to ridicule. The author feels that money is the God of the people and that when a person has no money or loses what he did have, he is then not fit to be noticed by those with worldly goods and is accordingly "cut". The author severely criticizes this condition, which he feels exists in Kansas.

The Kansas Farmer in Politics, by Nick T. Hunt, is a story of an old Kansas farmer, who got a

political bee in his bonnet and decided to run for county treasurer. His son attempted to dissuade him, but, having made up his mind that he wants the office, he will not listen to his son's arguments. He sought out some of the local politicians only to discover that he must buy the office by contributing to the party fund in one way or another. Farmer Poolittle has always been a Republican, but the Republican leaders of the county do not seem to remember him, although he has lived in the county for forty years. Then he turned to the new people's party, but with no better success. Finally, he received the nomination from Republican party leaders by consenting to put up the money. He was elected to the office, but, as the time went on, the salary that he received was eaten up by contributions for the good of the party in the county. At the close of his second term, he left the office a poorer but a wiser man. On the advice of the banker of the town, he made some investments that turned out badly, and he lost all but the farm, that he gave his wife, when he became county treasurer.

The New Wizard of Oz, by L. Frank Baum, is a modernized fairy tale that begins and ends in western Kansas. The little girl, who is the heroine of the tale, is carried away in a cyclone and returns to Kansas with the help of the silver

shoes of a bad witch that she unintentionally helped to kill. In his preface to the story, the author says: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was written solely to please children of today. It aspires to being a modernized fairy tale, in which the wonderment and joy are retained, and the heart-aches and the nightmares are left out."

The Miracle of the Smoky and Other Stories,

by Eva Morley Murphy, is a volume of short stories. The Miracle of the Smoky is a romance of the prairies and gives some idea of homesteading in western Kansas. The other stories are written simply, with a background of Kansas material.

The setting of the story, A Master's Degree, by Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter, is at Lagonda Ledge, Kansas, which is the home of Sunrise College. The institution was started by Dean Lloyd Renneben, who had come out from Harvard to start a college in the western country. He began the college under difficulties, but after seeming failure it was finally established. The money to endow the school was furnished by Joshua Wrean, Professor of Ancient Languages at Harvard. Renneben did not know where the money came from, but found out later that it was not Joshua's to give.

The author mentions the Kickapoo Indians, telling an Indian legend about the Kickapoo corral

near the college. The legend is about the whirlpool in the bend of the walnut river, which forms an "S". In the bend is a treacherous whirlpool, which sucks under everything that gets into it. Chief Lagonda laid a curse on the place, when the white men forced him to sign a treaty, giving up the land to them. Every year the whirlpool took a life. It was the scene of a battle between the Kickapoo Indians and another tribe over a Kickapoo maid, who was coveted by one of the braves from the other tribe.

The story tells of the early struggle of Victor Burleigh to obtain an education, in spite of difficulties, and his efforts to cast off the idea that brute strength could get him everything that he wanted. Vincent Burgess, a young professor from Harvard, also has quite a trying time attempting to keep caste and at the same time not mingle with common people. Both have battles to fight within themselves, but both win out. In the end, they have their respective square corners nicely polished off. Something is told of the early plains struggles. Burleigh has a claim out on the plains. Old Trench has a girl out on the Cimarron to whom he is true, in spite of the charms of the college girls.

Widening Waters, also by Mrs. McCarter, is a

story of New Mexico, but the author takes her hero, John Baronet, from Kansas to build a dam in New Mexico. He succeeds where many have failed. The story covers a great deal of the United States and part of England. It can hardly be called a Kansas novel, but does have a Kansas character in the hero and includes some notice of the Kansas prairies.

Paying Mother and The Candle in the Window

are two of Mrs. McCarter's gift-books. Both stories give the reader a view of the social and religious life of small communities in Kansas.

The setting of the story, The Cresap Pension, by Emma Upton Vaughn, is on the Missouri border and in Europe. The man, who finally married the heroine, was a judge of the supreme court of Kansas, operated a ranch in western Kansas, and owned land near Pittsburg, Kansas. The book contains very little direct Kansas material. Senator Curtis is mentioned as being the only Indian, who ever amounted to anything.

The setting of Banished for Reformation or August's 'Coming Back', by J. Timothy Carrington, is at Lansing and Leavenworth. It is a temperance novel, the story of a young man, who was banished by his sweetheart on account of his liking for drink. She banished him for one year, at the end of which time he could come back cured and she would

marry him, or he could stay away forever and she would give him no further consideration. He not only reformed, but became one of the most wonderful church workers ever known. He had been a student at the University of Kansas, playing on the base ball team there. After his marriage, he became a successful farmer near Lansing. The story pictures the sordidness of a drunkard's life and the misery that it brings to his family. Something is hinted of the legislators getting a "rake-off" for letting liquor into the state and of the crooked politicians, who connived at the practice.

Her Change of Heart, by Anna Morgan Allen (Mrs. F. S. Baldwin), is a story of the life of a girl, while she is a student at the Kansas State Agricultural College. She found happiness there where she least expected it. Miss Allen was at one time connected with the college.

The setting of the story, Tommy of the Voices, by Clifford Reynolds Knight, is at Baxter Springs, Kansas. From this place the main character goes to every distant part of the country, but finally returns to Baxter Springs. The story tells of the unrest of the hero, Tommy Wardell, and of his final finding of the voice of authority.

The Court of Boyville, by William Allen White, while it does not contain any direct Kansas material,

is nevertheless written against a general background of Kansas life and experiences. It is a very delightful story about boy life.

God's Puppets, also by Mr. White, is a volume of sketches and short stories. The first four are about boom periods and hard times in Kansas in the early days. None of them tell about times later than 1910. The author has a deep insight into human nature and takes the attitude that a belief in God is necessary for success. The man without faith is an empty shell. The last selection in the book contains the musings of one, who is looking back on his boyhood days and comparing them with the life and interests of the present day boy with his ready made play and modern interests. The author calls them "canned" boys.

Between Two Fires, by Ella Littler Vale, is just another of the poorer sort of love stories. It is full of coincidence and impossibilities. The setting of the story is in Iowa and Kansas. Mention is made of the sunny skies of Kansas, Pawnee Rock, and the old Santa Fe trail.

Kansas, by Irvin S. Cobb, is a humorous story in which the author pokes fun at Kansas for some of her institutions and practices. At the same time, he compliments her citizens on their intelligence and sound common sense. He really gives Kansas

credit for being one of the most progressive states in the Union.

The Prosy Romance, by T. M. Sproul, is a discussion of love, logic, religion, and sociology, through the exchange of opinions between a lady school teacher and a rich young bachelor. They carry on the discussion at first hand for a time, but later the lady takes up her residence in Topeka. This discussion is all brought out because the bachelor has asked the school teacher to marry him. She says that she must know the man that she marries from A to Z, and so the exchange of opinion follows.

While Dorothy Canfield's novel, The Bent Twig, cannot be definitely classified as a Kansas story, it has been written from a general background of Kansas material. The story is mainly of university life in some western school. Miss Canfield, now Mrs. Fisher, was born at Lawrence, Kansas, where she passed through the grades, graduated from the Lawrence high school, and began her university work. Therefore, it is not at all improbable that she had this experience in mind when she wrote her story.

Home Fires in France, by the same author, contains one essay about a Kansas girl, who went to France, during the war, and put into relief work

some of the business efficiency that she learned in her home town in Kansas. She was a 'nobody' at home until she decided to do her bit in the war.

In Edna Osborne Whitcomb's Five Little

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Jayhawkers on the Farm, we have a type of work, which seems rather rare in the prose fiction of Kansas - that written about young people for young readers.

It has, of course, been impossible in this study to take account of works as yet entirely in manuscript form. One such work is the master's thesis, at the University of Kansas (1925), of Miss Esther Freese. Miss Freese gives a picture of girlhood on a Douglas County farm, and of student life at the state university, in very recent years. Her narrative is realistic, of autobiographical quality. There is, perhaps, nothing in print about life in Kansas in our own day, which closely resembles this work.

Practically all the fiction about Kansas has been written since the Civil war, and the bulk of it about strictly Kansas subjects was produced in

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1. This title covers a collection of short stories, about two-thirds of which have already been printed in magazines. The collection has not yet appeared in book form.

the seventies and eighties. Although nearly everything that has happened in the state, or that has affected the state in any way, has been used in novels and short stories, there are three topics that stand out prominently around which many novels and short stories have been written: the Santa Fe trail, the border warfare, and the cattle trade from Texas. These subjects are unique in that they affected no other state as they affected Kansas, largely, no doubt, because of the geographical position of the state.

A few authors have used the romance of the long trip across the plains of Kansas in their treatment of the Santa Fe trail. These stories are all of the very early years and seldom consider incidents that have happened within the state, following the Civil War.

Probably more novels have been written about the border warfare than about any other episode connected with the state of Kansas. This is probably due to the fact that the struggle in Kansas affected not only the state, but also the whole nation as well. The novelists, who write about the border warfare, all emphasize the struggle between the proslave and free state elements, and the heroic role played by John Brown in his championship of the freedom of the negroes.

Every novel about this period merely repeats these things in a slightly different setting. So much historical material can be found about this period that most of these novels deteriorate into a mere recital of historical facts.

A few novelists have used the cattle towns and the Texas cattle trade in their stories. This type of fiction, however, is rather sensational and is usually of very poor quality. It smacks too much of the 'wild' days of the West. Often it is merely a narrative of events that the author has been able to piece together from the experiences of men, who were closely associated with the cattle industry, during this period in the history of the state.

Not much of the literature that has been written about Kansas has any enduring worth. It is true that Kansas has produced authors, who have been accorded a place in the literary annals of the nation; but, as a rule, these men and women have done their best work with subjects other than those that deal directly with Kansas material.

The best short stories written about Kansas were those written by Henry King. Some of these were published in the old Kansas Magazine, although many of them appeared in other magazines. King never published a collection of these stories, so

the average reader knows nothing about them. They are stories of real worth and should be preserved, for they show the ability of Henry King as a writer. King's name should be included among those of the western writers in American literature, who wrote during the seventies and eighties.

Kansas literature, or literature about the state of Kansas, sprang suddenly into prominence during the years immediately following the Civil War. For the next twenty-five years a great deal was written about the state. However, since that period, very little has been written that is directly about Kansas, although many writers have used Kansas material more or less indirectly.

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