

Development of a Kansas
Town

by Henry Walter Thompson

1913

Submitted to the Department of Sociology of the
University of Kansas in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts

DEVELOPMENT OF A
KANSAS TOWN

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The Social Development of a Representative
Kansas Town.

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PART I.

Social Origins.

Chapter I.

Introduction.

There are three reasons why I have chosen the particular town of McPherson as the subject for this treatise. (1) I am better acquainted with conditions there than I am with conditions in any other place. Having been born and raised there I hope I have imbibed some of the social atmosphere of the place, and having been away from the town at different intervals and thus having had a chance of comparing it with other places, I feel that I can discuss its development in a fairly unbiased manner. I can thus give an introspective and retrospective analysis to this place as I could to no other. Being intimately acquainted with the people of the town in my intercourse with them I have been able to obtain information such as I could never have obtained had I acted merely as a passing statistician. The saying that figures don't lie will not always hold true. They do not lie and yet they often fail to speak the whole truth. Figures often misconstrue actual conditions and thus tend towards confusion of thought. Nowhere is this more true than in a sociological study of this kind. Here meanings must be obtained thru a variety of avenues and by sociological interpretation. Mere statistics will not answer the purpose. When Mr. T. smilingly tells you how "we routed the rebel Democrats" he unconsciously gives you an insight into the political attitudes of a generation ago. Mr. T. is an old man now. His political dreams and

ambitions have long since vanished in the changing order of things. A younger army with newer ideals are assuming control, but the old man views them with an attitude of skepticism. He wearies of watching the ranks of younger men enlisted under newer standards endlessly filing past and loves to call forth the phantoms of yesterday. By conversing with Mr. T. on the "good old times" one can receive a fund of sociological information. Mr. L. enjoys telling you of the "early days". He tells about the early entertainments, the dances, picnics, etc. He is also acquainted with the municipal affairs and can give you information regarding this or that enterprise. He "grew with the town" and takes an old man's pride in narrating the hardships and inconveniences of the time "before the railroads came in". Intercourse with these old people is not only entertaining and stimulating, but their conversation is a real index to an understanding of social conditions during the time "when we all were poor, and yet so neighborly and happy".

Another source of information in this town are the newspaper files. The files of the leading paper in the town go back without a break to 1879. Here, again, one has to arrive at meanings by a method of analysis and comparisons. To seek direct information on any subject in a newspaper file is almost like hunting for a needle in a hay stack. The things which one deems of vast importance received perhaps very little attention in the newspaper of thirty years ago. But if one

studies the topics that did receive attention one will discover what were the interests of the community at any given time. A newspaper in a way reflects the ideas and interests of its readers. In my case I found it far more profitable to read the files with the idea of receiving impressions than for the purpose of obtaining authentic data.

These two sources, the old people of the town and the files of the newspapers I deem the most fruitful sources of my information. By being acquainted with the people I was able to interpret the contents of the newspapers as I would not have been able to do had I not had this acquaintance.

(2) The age and size of McPherson make it convenient and accessible for a study of this kind. Facts regarding the early development of an older town are often confused with tradition. But in a town as young as McPherson they can be credited with a certain degree of authenticity. We have at least some means of verifying them. In this town many of the pioneers who first settled the place are still living. Some of these having lead a more secluded life than others actually show signs of having the habits and ideals of a generation ago. We thus have real living examples of the changing order.

Having a population of not more than four thousand, from a sociological point of view, McPherson may be treated more scientifically and with better results than it would be possible to treat a city of fifty, a hundred, or five hundred thousand. In our larger cities the social mind is never so intense as it is in our smaller towns. Very often in a large

community development of the social mind has hardly begun. We could with a certain degree of truth say that intensity of the social mind to a certain point varies inversely to the size of the community. In a small community we are able to view the field as a whole. This in my opinion is of immense importance as no group of social facts can be studied alone apart from the social problems with which they are intertwined.

In spite of our many means of communication each community still retains a certain degree of individuality. To use the words of Prof. Gillin in the American Journal of Sociology for March, 1912, "It is this difference between the various communities of the country which gives the rich variety to our social life and which creates the difficulty of political unification and action. It is because of these social differences that the politician so often misjudges the opinion of the country. Because of their blind adherence to the idea that every part of this country is exactly like every other in its methods of thought, in its ideals, in the process of making up its mind on public questions of every sort, and in its quickness or slowness of coming to a decision politicians, statesmen, social students and philosophers so often misjudge the temper and attitude of the people upon questions of great moment. " While students of statecraft are not the only persons who would profit by a more intimate acquaintance with our different communities we might use one or two such persons as illustrations. Lincoln was a man who understood the people of the Middle West and later

became acquainted with the Eastern people. His knowledge of public opinion in these different sections of the country served him as nothing else did during the period of impending crises. Roosevelt is an excellent illustration in present day politics. His knowledge of conditions in different sections of the country enables him to anticipate movements before they actually occur. Such an accomplishment, however, is the work of a life time and requires close study and personal contact. While we can never eliminate the necessity of personal contact we can, nevertheless, by systematic sociological study of communities in different sections of our country obtain information in some tenable form which will enable those who are not able to get this information at first hand to know our country with a greater degree of accuracy. During the last few years there have been a number of books published on American life and American ideals. In reading them we feel that they are superficial generalities and need to be backed up by more specific data. We feel the synthesis is not complete. In the composite photograph some features of which each of us is cognizant is lacking. A more perfect delineation of the soul of the whole people waits upon the gathering of a more comprehensive and more accurate body of facts bearing upon the spiritual life of our people. We cannot obtain such facts by studying only our larger communities. If we desire to know the country we must not neglect the study of our smaller centers. The "block unit" in our census must

somehow be modified to fit the exigencies of our diversified American life. Our small towns and rural communities are typical of a very large part of our American life. In 1910 more than one half of our population lived in rural districts and towns of less than 2500 population.

With these considerations I feel perfectly justified in taking up a country town as a subject for study. An investigator in a small community can have a greater personal knowledge of the people and of conditions coming under his observation than it would be possible for him to have in a large city with its composite population and diversified interests. This personal acquaintance is conducive to a truer presentation of actual conditions and aids materially in photographing those elusive spiritual facts which are too often disregarded by the tabulator of statistics and which are so essential to a correct understanding of any social situation. Sociologists are often charged with the sin of not having a science. Nor can we say that the charge is entirely false. In spite of professional pride we are forced to admit that sociology as a science is supported by a too meagre array of facts. These facts can only be obtained by a systematic investigation and observation of the actual workings of society. Such investigation and observation can best be carried on in a small community because there we can observe the activities of the social body as a whole.

(3) McPherson is representative of a certain type of

social life. In the main all minds are alike. Gumplowicz voices this idea in his "Grundriss der Sociologie". "Der Intellekt des Menschen ist immer derselbe-----Ein scheinbarer Fortschritt aber entsteht dadurch, dass örtlich und zeitlich der gleiche Intellekt auf einer Summe von Errungenschaften seiner Vorgänger fusst und dieselben als Ausgangspunkte weiterer Errungenschaften benützt. So arbeiten spätere Generationen nicht etwa mit höheren----Intellekten, sondern nur mit grösseren ---Mitteln,---Ein findiger Greiche---würde wenn er der Nachfolger Watts wäre, die Lokomotive auch erfunden haben---und wenn er die Einrichtung des elektrischen Telegraphen kennen würde, konnte er gewiss auf den Einfall kommen, ein Telephon zu konstruieren."

But when I mention that the town which we wish to study is representative of a type of social life I do not have this broad meaning in mind. The emphasis is placed on the word, type. The mind of a people in any community depends upon their social environment. This, again, depends upon a physical and broader social environment. The more similar the environment, the more alike will be the habits, ideals, and social life of people of different communities. O'Henry's "Voices" of different cities is not entirely fictitious, but is based on the soundest social psychology. In understanding a town like McPherson we will have a key to a more correct understanding of social life in general and especially of the social life of those communities which have an environment somewhat similar to that of this town. I think it is safe to assume that most of the towns in Central Kansas have developed under quite similar conditions.

Many of these towns were founded at about the same time. The causes which brought about their origin were similar. They have more or less depended on similar sources for their existence. It is true the sources from which they have received their population are somewhat varied. This might seem to have a greater influence towards individualization and differentiation than it really has. The other factors working towards homogeneity have counteracted this influence to a very marked degree. These towns, then, have had more or less common origin, development and source of livelihood. They have gone thru the same period of prosperity and stress. They have had similar ideals, hopes and ambitions. An understanding of one thus aids materially to an understanding of all.

I might also add here that it is not the purpose of this study to narrate the sequence of events in the town. This is work for the chronicler, but not for the student of sociology. What I purpose to do is to trace the social development of the community and only such facts and conditions as I deem influential in shaping the social life of the community will receive mention. I also wish to add as an explanation that on account of my intimate acquaintance with the people of the community I have withheld the mention of any names in connection with this study.

Chapter II.

General Facts Concerning Migrations and Settlements.

During the nomadic or pastoral stage of civilization when migrations and invasions were common there were certain features about a country which made it attractive to the invading hordes. Using a broad and general system of classification we might classify these features into three groups, (1) Convenience of approach, (2) adaptability of the country to satisfy the wants of the invading forces, and (3) social influence. History has recorded any number of facts which bear witness to the tremendous importance of these features upon the social and political life of different countries and we might name one or two such facts for the purpose of illustration and elucidation. The countries of Asia Minor were easy to approach. The land was fertile, Consequently we find these countries incessantly subjected to invasions and conquests. Greece, on the other hand, was a country difficult to approach. To approach by land the invaders would have to pass through narrow mountain passes. Its shore line being steep and rugged approach by sea was almost equally difficult. It was largely due to these facts that Sparta was spared the humiliation of an invasion until the latter days of her illustrious history. Israel being easy to approach became the bivouac of invading armies and the camping ground of the powers of the time. But we need not limit ourselves to a consideration of these features as merely determining the course of invading

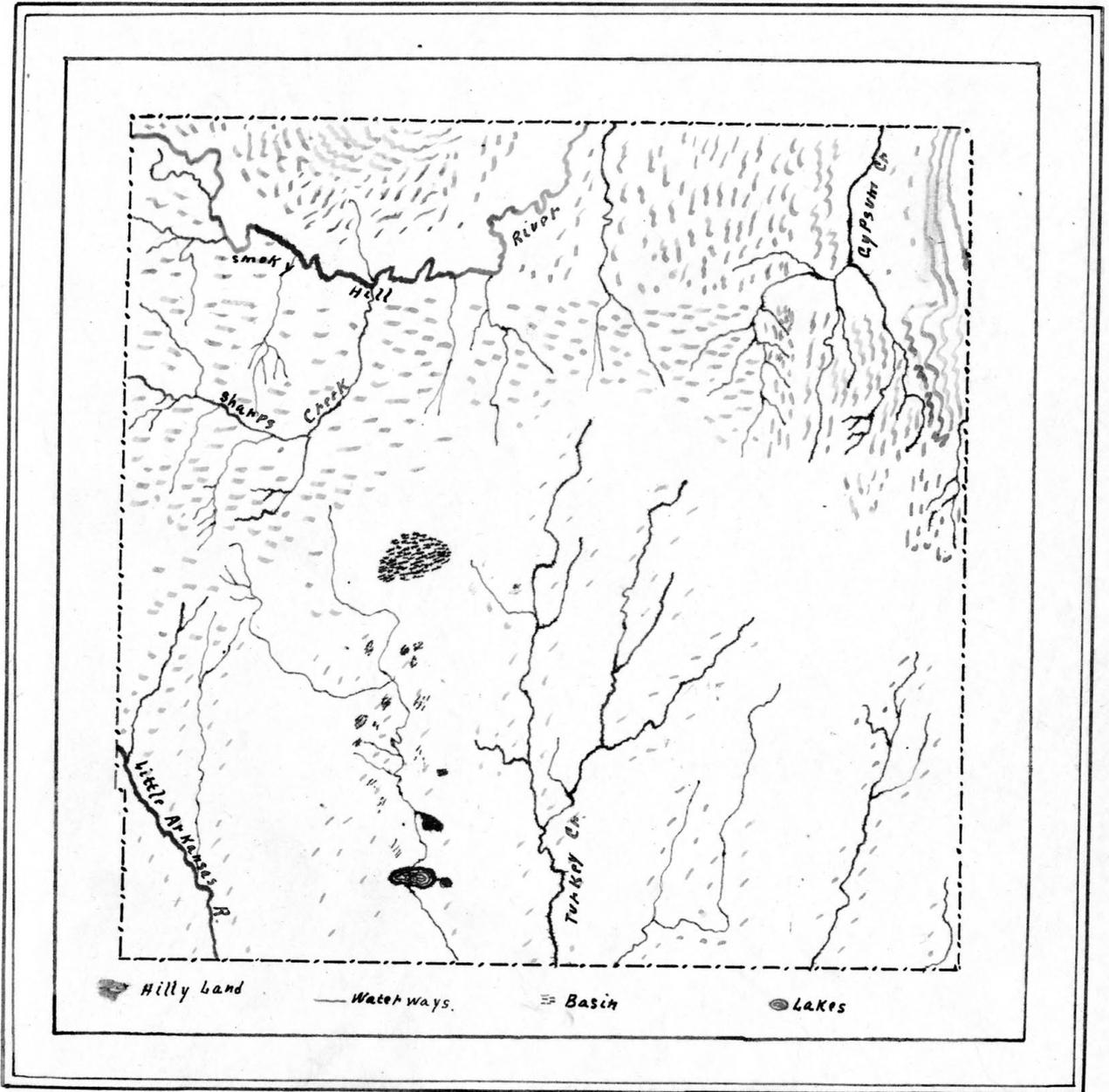
hordes during the nomadic period of civilization or of belligerent forces in military history. The influence of these features is very marked in the settlement of any territory. That Kentucky and Ohio should be settled at so early a date is due to the fertility of the land and to the proximity of these states to the Cumberland Pass which was one of the gateways to the West. Any community or any city owes its origin and existence to the presence of these features in its vicinity.

Thus far we have only considered the first two factors in our classification. Let us now consider the social and economic influence which is brought to bear upon the settlers in any country. That portion of a country which is nearest to an already settled community will necessarily be settled first. With nomadic and migratory peoples this was not of so great importance. Frequently the entire nation or tribe would migrate from one territory to another. They would thus bring with them all the necessary means for satisfying their meagre physical, social and spiritual wants. But with civilized peoples it is very different. Bare necessities of life are not sufficient. Their wants are multiplied and the cooperation of other communities is needed if they are to be satisfied. Facility for transportation, nearness to market, and social intercourse are vital factors. Hence each new colony must more or less depend on some more settled community for the satisfaction of many of its wants until it is sufficiently developed and organized to depend on itself. It is, then, only

natural that a new colony will settle as near as possible to a more established community. To be sure, there are exceptions to this general rule. We have examples where an interest in a certain locality seizes upon individuals to such an extent that other interests are forced back and these people are carried away on the wings of their desires. Examples of this are the "49 Rush" and the "Klondike Rush". Here gold was the end to be attained. To "make a stake and go back home to live" was the desire of every one. But if we consider a colony with residence as an end; with home instead of fortune as an end we will find the location of such a colony is governed largely by other colonies which are more established.

In America as the migration has proceeded westward it has usually been preceded by a class of people for which we can find no more suitable name than that of "pathfinders". These people have been the vanguard of settlements. The pathfinder was often a sort of habitual pioneer. He always preceded civilization. His delight was in conquests of wildernesses. Sometimes he brought a family with him and was then forced to clear some land and make enough improvements for their sustenance, but more often he was single and a rude cabin was all he needed. He made his living in the new country by hunting, trapping and bartering with the natives. In his communication with his friends and acquaintances he extolled the opportunities of the new country and advised them to come. But when population and with it civilization and culture did come he again grew restless. He had heard of greater oppor-

PLATE I



Topographical Map of County.

tunities farther West. The "wander lust" again gains possession. He moves again beyond the hum of civilization and repeats his operations. Often we find a pioneer would stay and develop a country, or would return home, but more often the description we have given here is a true picture of the American pathfinder.

Summarizing: There are three factors which determine the settlement of a country: (1) accessibility, (2) fertility and (3) convenience for social intercourse. In America a pathfinder has usually predated the coming of home-seekers and hastened their settlement.

Chapter III

Early Settlements in McPherson County.

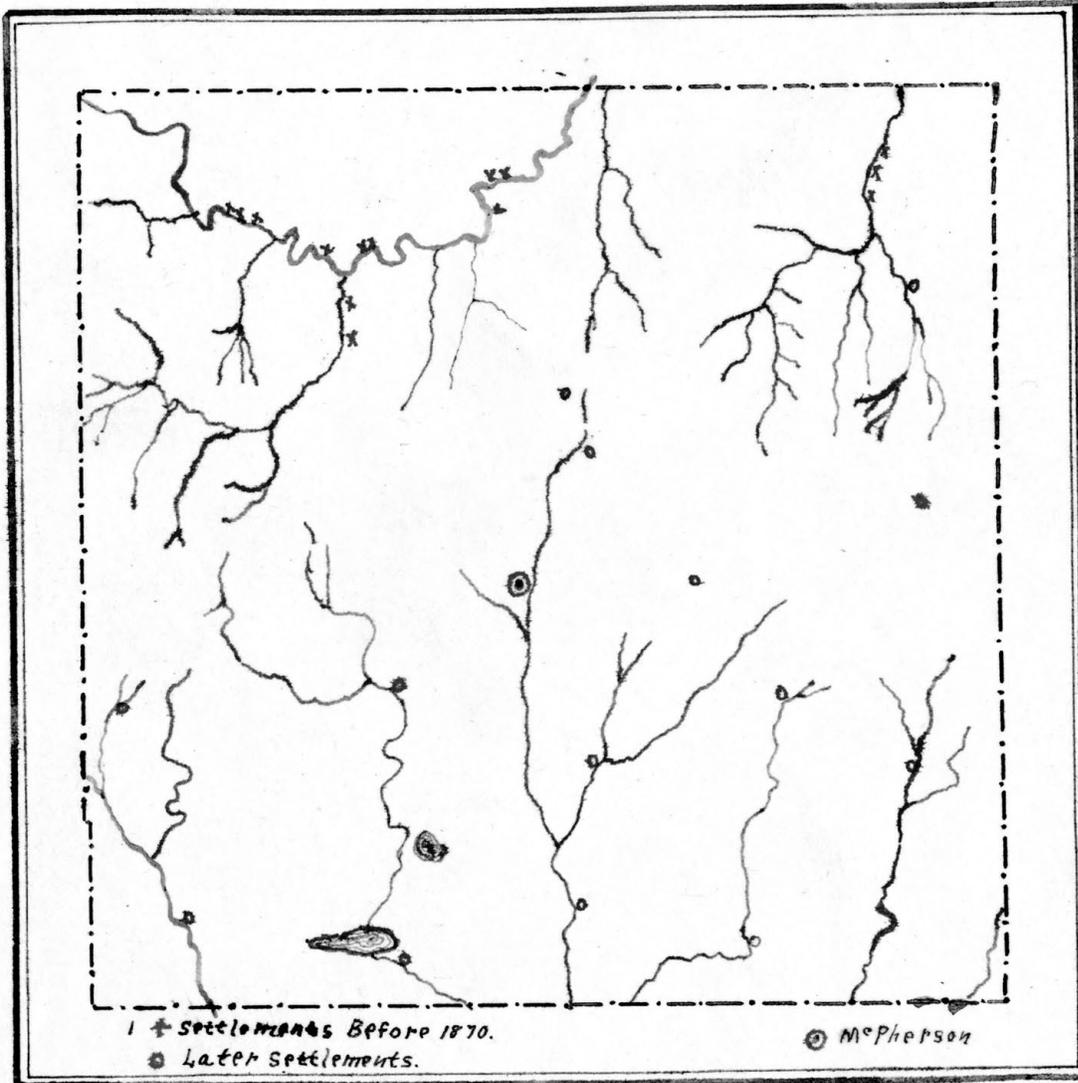
In Chapter II we endeavored to make a summary statement of some of the determining factor governing the location of homeseekers in a new country. It is the purpose of this chapter to test the applicability of these factors in the settlement of the community under consideration. While it is the main purpose of this treatise to trace the social development of a country town it will readily be seen that to do this would be impossible without a consideration of the territory surrounding the town. The country town and bordering rural territory are so closely intertwined in their economic, social and political relations that it would be next to impossible to give an intelligent discourse on one without a consideration of the other. The very location, origin and growth of such a town depend on the influence of the surrounding country. Thus a town both directly and indirectly is influenced by the factors enumerated in Chapter II.

For convenience we shall take the county as a unit in our discussion of topographical influences on early settlements. The county is thirty miles square and since the city of McPherson is located near the center it bears, not only a political relation to the rest of the county as the county seat, but is influenced and influences economically and socially as well. To understand the influence of those factors which we have enumerated we must first get a notion of the topography

of the county. In the early reports sent to the State Board of Agriculture we find the following description of McPherson County. "The face of the county is thus divided: Bottom land, 5 per cent: upland 95 per cent. Average width of bottoms one mile. The surface of the county is generally undulating, sufficiently rolling, in short to drain well. In the northern part along the Smoky Hill River and Gypsum Creek the country is somewhat hilly. Besides being drained by the rivers and streams heretofore mentioned, the water supply of the County is maintained by a tolerable supply of springs. Well water is obtained on the bottoms, at a depth of from ten to forty feet; on the high prairie from twenty to one hundred feet. Native timber is very scarce, the principal varieties being cottonwood, and elm willow and oak. ---The average width of the timber belts is not more than five rods. The soil of McPherson County is of a dark loam, from two to three feet deep. The subsoil consists of porous clay, which retains moisture and stores it away for use in hot weather when it is drawn to the surface."

If we make allowance for the advertising tendencies of the people making these reports we can get a general conception of the physical features and resources of the county. However, in these reports the county is treated too much as a whole to give us a definite idea of the lay of the land. Plate I taken from the United States Topographical Survey illustrates this in a crude form. The brown dots represent the hilly and undulating portions of the county. The violet lines represent

PLATE II

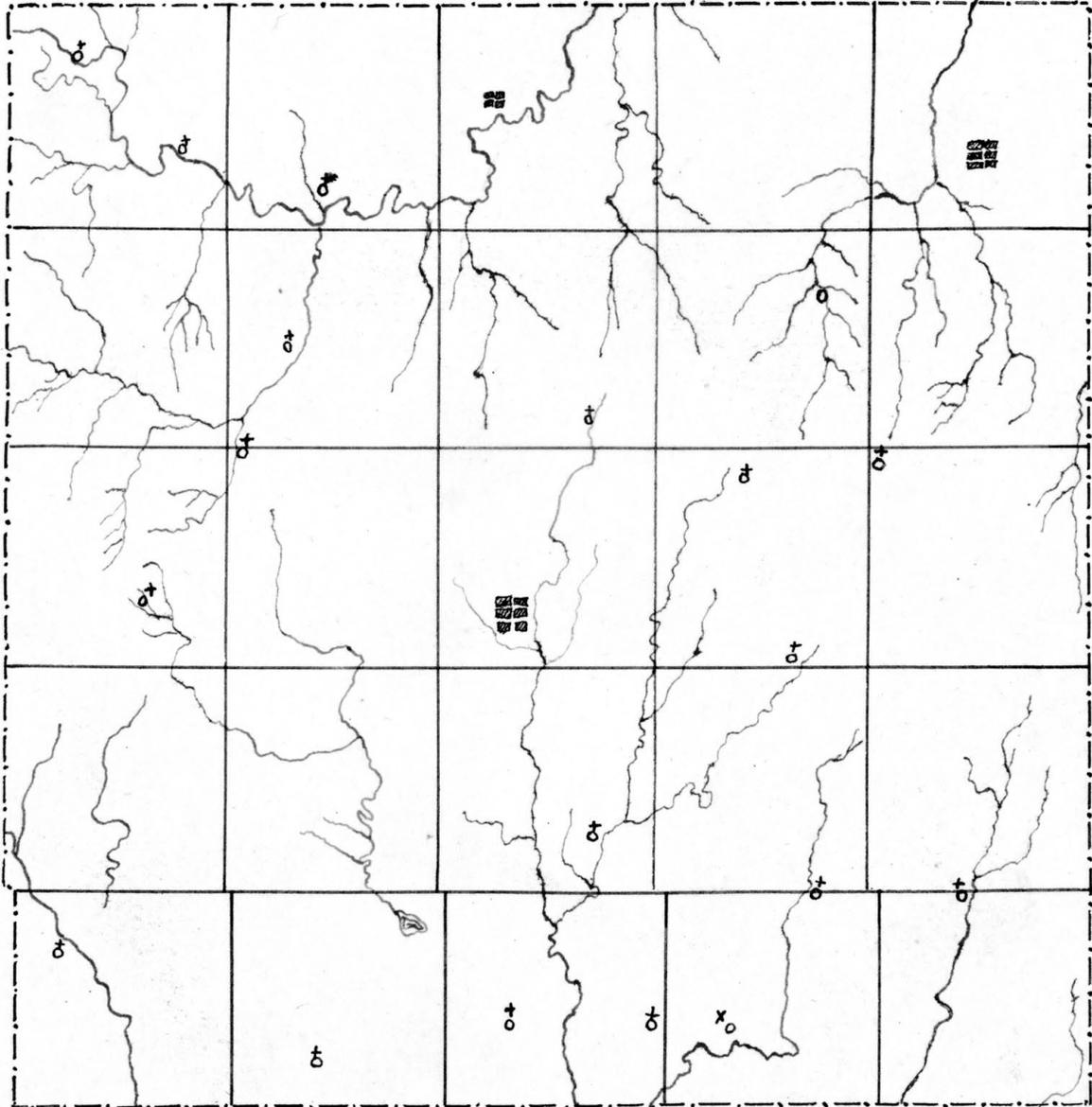


MAP SHOWING EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

the waterways. The violet dotted places represent the low and uncultivable portions, and the violet circular lines represent the lakes and places under water the greater part of the year. It will be noticed that the northern part of the county is more or less hilly. A portion of the western part is also hilly. The rest of the County, while it is undulating, is comparatively level. The county is drained in the northern part by the Smoky Hill River and its tributaries. Along this river is a considerable stretch of bottom land, the most fertile in the county. Gypsum Creek also has broad and fertile bottoms. The other tributaries have bottoms to a greater or lesser extent. Outside of this bottom land the northern part of the county is poor land for cultivation. The central part, while not so productive as the bottoms, is fertile and easy to cultivate. The southeastern part of the county is very productive and well drained. The soil, while it is not so easy to cultivate as in the central part, yields large returns. The southwestern part is more or less sandy. From the basin southward is a strip of land, level and fertile, but poorly drained. Marshy places are common. However, along the streams even in the western part considerable good fertile land is to be found. This, briefly gives a description of the general topography of the country.

Let us now see how these physical features determined the settlement of the county. Plate II shows where the first settlements were made. The red crosses indicate the settlements made prior to the year 1870. The red crosses indicate the

PLATE III



○ Post Offices.
+ School Houses.

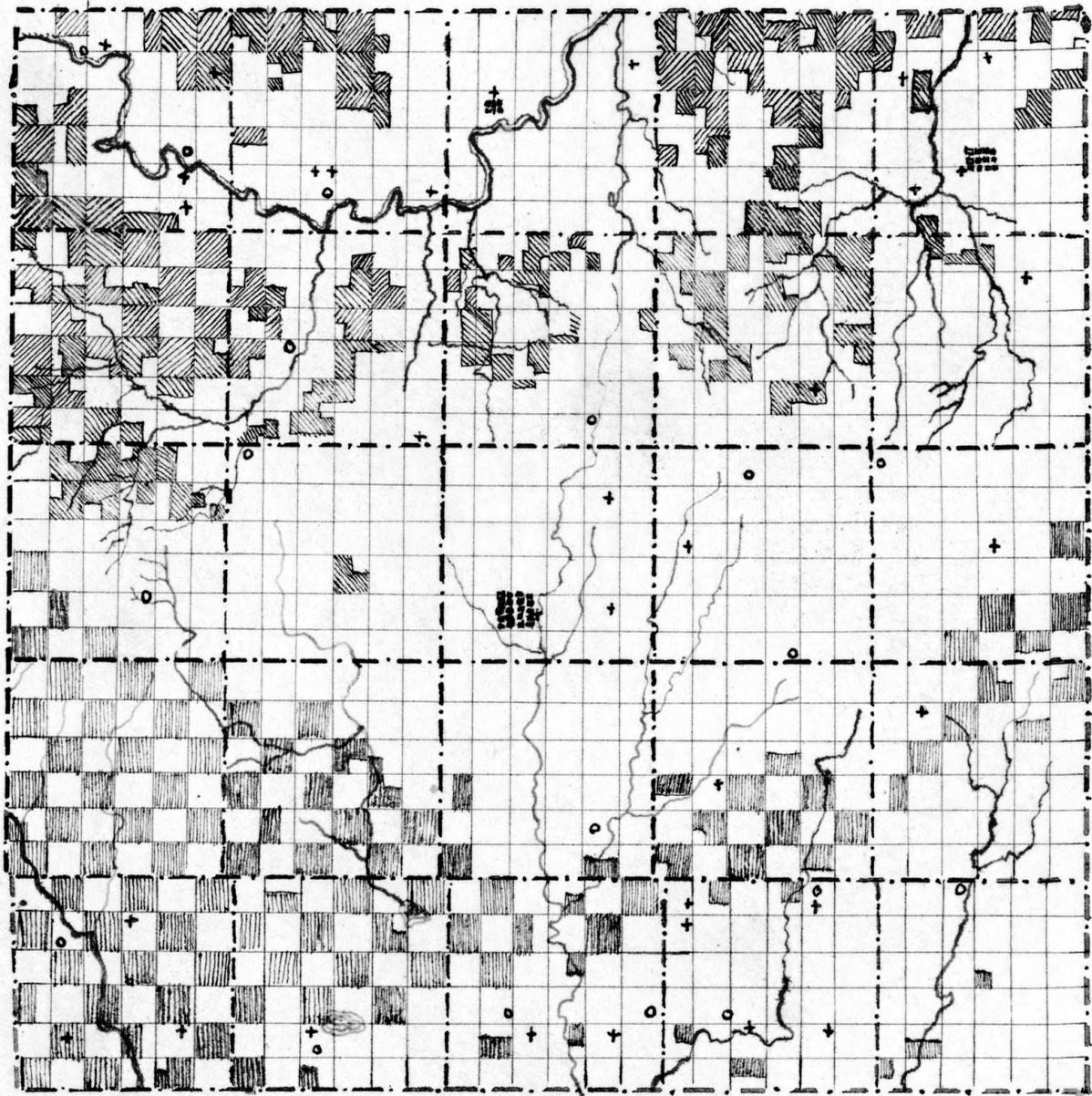
MAP OF COUNTY 1874

location of the settlements made in 1870 and 71. It will be noticed that the the first settlemnts were made along the Smoky River and its tributaries, Sharps and Gypsum Creeks. From our deductions in Chapter II the reason for this is evident. In the first place the land in these parts was best adapted to satisfy immediate wants. The timber along the streams furnished fuel and building material and even in the natural state guarded against the inclemency of the weather by serving as a "wind break". The fertility of the bottoms made it possible for the early settlers to secure a livelihood without breaking up such a large tract. In the second place this portion of the county was easiest to approach. The nearest town was Salina, located about fifteen miles from the northern border of McPherson County. Salina was founded in 1858, and the Union Pacific railroad reached it in 1867. The McPherson County home seekers could thus go to Salina by railroad and could use this town as a trading center. It is only natural, then, that they should settle as near this town as possible. Newton, located about the same distance from the southern boundary of the county as Salina is from the northern, was organized in 1870 and became a town when the Santa Fe, railroad reached it in 1871. From this date we find a large part of the southern portion of the county populated by people who came by way of Newton and used that town as a trading center. The influence of these towns in determining the location of settlements in the new county is shown by the fact that many settlers took land in the

northern part of the county which was far inferior to land lying open for them in the central part, but which was more acceptable because of its proximity to populated territory. However, as settlers became more numerous and land more scarce we find this factor figuring less prominently. It will be noticed by the red circles that as early as 1871 settlements had been made in different parts of the county. To be sure these settlements were few, two or three homes here, and a few there. It rarely happened that a family or an individual settled in a locality by himself. These scattered settlements, however, became nuclei of a growing population in the different localities. Thus it was but but a short time until all the available government land was taken. Plate III shows the location of these different centers of population. It is reasonable to suppose that a school house and post office will be located somewhat near the center of a community. Moreover, we find that these school houses were usually located near, and the post offices in the home of one of the very earliest settlers.

Plate IV shows the distribution of land in 1875. As this map illustrates, in 1875, only five years after the county was organized with only seven hundred thirty eight population and with only some of the bottoms in the north part of the County taken, every fertile quarter section of government land had now been claimed. Of the free homestead land there remained only a few hilly farms in the north part of the county. This map is significant for several reasons. It shows the power

PLATE IV



+ School Houses

 K.P.R.R. Lands.

 Government Lands.

 A.T. & S.F.R.R. Lands.

o Post Offices

MAP of county 1875

of the railroads in the early days of Kansas. It also shows what farms were first taken. We notice that the bottoms along the Smoky Hill River are clear. We would expect this for reasons before mentioned. We also notice the southeast corner is comparatively clear. We have partly explained this phenomenon by mentioning the influence of the town of Newton and the Santa Fe railroad. But there is another cause for this section of the county being taken. In 1873 occurred the Mennonite immigration and a great number of these people bought land and settled in the southeastern corner of McPherson County. In the southwest corner will be noticed a peculiar situation. No railroad land is bought, but every quarter section of government land is taken. The reason for the railroad land not being settled, was due to the cheapness of land. The land was worth getting for nothing, but was not worth two to eight dollars per acre which was the price of railroad land during this time. This price today seems ridiculously low, but if we consider the abundance of land and the meagre circumstances of the early settlers we will see that the price was quite a factor. Far sightedness and money were both lacking and it was not an uncommon thing for a settler to homestead a poor piece of land rather than pay for a better one. A large portion of the railroad land was purchased by colonies. A Swedish colony bought a large tract of land in the northern part of the county and Mennonites did the same thing in the southeastern part. The influence of nationality was a great attraction and other immigrants settled as near as possible to

their colony and bought up the railroad land. In the southwest corner there were no early colonies buying this land. This corner was also farthest away from the trading centers. This undoubtedly accounts for the vacant farms in this locality.

In the central portion of the county we find all the land is taken. There are several reasons for this. The land there is level and fertile, Small colonies were also started in different parts of this section. Certain home seekers came and settled there on account of proximity to other settlements. How much influence the town of McPherson had in attracting settlers is difficult to say, but it is reasonable to suppose that this influence was very strong. McPherson was organized in 1872 and from the very first gave promise of becoming a town. Land in the vicinity of a town site is always more valuable than land farther away and it is only natural that people should be attracted by what promised to become a growing town. Thus in 1873 a colony settled three miles east of the town. Briefly, it is safe to assume that the two main factors determining the settlements in the central part of the county were fertility of the land and location of the town.

I have thus tried to discuss the early settlements of the county and the factors determining their particular locations. In the next chapter I shall attempt to show how these settlements determined the origin and growth of towns with special reference to the town under consideration.

Chapter IV.

The Origin and Growth of Towns.

In Chapter III we considered the settlement of the county and endeavored to state causes determining such settlements. In this chapter we shall purpose to explain the origin and development of towns in the county. For convenience in presentation let us first endeavor to find some general factors determining the origin and growth of cities. We might roughly classify these determining factors as follows: (1) geographical, (2) economic , and (3) political influences.

Our classification here, however, can only be justified on the grounds of methodology. We cannot say that either of these factors alone determines the growth of a city. One necessarily conditions the other. When we say a city owes its growth to its location we unconsciously may imply all three of these factors. Its location gives it economic and political advantages. These advantages again make it possible for a city to improve and make the best of its geographical location.

Let us see how these generalities apply to the study of the towns which we wish to consider. From our study of cities we would be led to conclude that these towns owed their origin to at least one of the three factors which we have enumerated. In assuming this, however, we are liable to err. The towns now existing in the county owe their existence and development and some their origin to a favorable location. If this would not be so they would not have been able to develop.

But in the early days organization of a town often really preceded the demand for a town. Those pioneers having ambition and foresight organized town companies with a view of personal gain and attempted to "grow" a town regardless of whether or not conditions were favorable for its growth. Many towns were nothing more than ideas on the verge of realization. In Andreas' History of Kansas a description is given of the organization of McPherson which shows how this town was the product of a promoter's schemes. "In June 1872 S. was chief clerk in the Land Office at Salina. Being informed by W. an old settler of Saline County, that a colony of Kentuckians intended to settle upon what was then known as the "McPherson Flats", he conceived the idea that it would be a good plan to lay out a town in this vicinity. After examining the maps in his office S. selected the west half of Section 28 and the east half of Section 29, as the center of the "Flats" and decided to locate his town there. After having made a map of the different townships, including the flat designated for a townsite he sought a few friends in Salina and laid the proposition before them. The scheme was thought plausible by them, and several of them decided to go town the following Sunday to examine the land. They hired an old stage, driven by one H. and loading up with crackers, cheese and "et ceteras", they dashed out of Salina bright and early (4 A.M.) Sunday morning, June 4, 1872. Resting at Lindsborg where they arrived at 8 A.M. they breakfasted, rested their horses and proceeded to cross the Smoky Hill River at its

best ford. The party consisted of J.M., who sat outside with the driver, and O.S. and B., inside passengers. Besides the "eatables" and "drinkables" they were loaded also with guns and ammunition. Well, while crossing the Smoky Hill about one mile and a half east of Lindsborg, just as the old stage left the bank over it tipped, and men, horses, crackers, cheese, etc. were in confusion. J.M. and the driver who were on top of the stage were dumped into the river and escaped by floundering around a little up to their waists in the water. The inside passengers, however, were in considerable of a predicament, for the old vehicle filled with water and B. had fallen on top of S. O.S. crawled out of the back window of the coach, and after a serious struggle with the watery element the other two passengers effected an exit. This was the only accident that marred the harmony of the journey to McPherson. After shaking themselves and taking an inventory of their cargo to see that nothing was lost the party proceeded to Paint Creek, where their number was increased by J.F. and T.S. Then journeying eastwardly across the hills they struck the section line north and south between Sections 28 and 29, township 17, Range 3, west about six miles north of the present site of McPherson. Tying a handkerchief to the front wheel of the old coach to mark its revolutions and compute the distance, they followed the line south and at noon found themselves in the center of the proposed town flat. They called the place McPherson Center and proceeded to organize a town company with M. as president, S. secretary and B. treasurer. The next thing to be done was to make "im-

improvements". So B. dug a hole where the four quarters of land met; O.S. broke ground where the M. House now stands; B. excavated his pit where W. Store now is; F. made his "improvements" where the _____ is now building; and T.S. improved a bit of land now composing the site of _____. The improvements having been completed and dinner finished Mr. J.F. of King City, came riding up on horseback and asked the founders of McPherson what they were doing. They informed J.F. that they had just laid out a town, and that gentleman replied that he had selected one of the quarters in the plat but would take one to the northeast, which he accordingly did. In behalf of the company and for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the town the first filing on the site was made by M. In July learning that C. intended to lay out a town on Section 16, and that parties from King City also were bent upon establishing a town in the vicinity, the original town company received Messrs. H., H (President of the King City Company) and others as members of the consolidated organization. F. was chosen president and secretary and treasurer remaining the same as in the original company. The number of directors was increased from six to twelve. During this month (July) B. erected the first building on the site for a store. In December the foundation of the ~~Town~~ Hall was laid. It was not until April, 1873, however, that a post office was established and R. was appointed Postmaster".

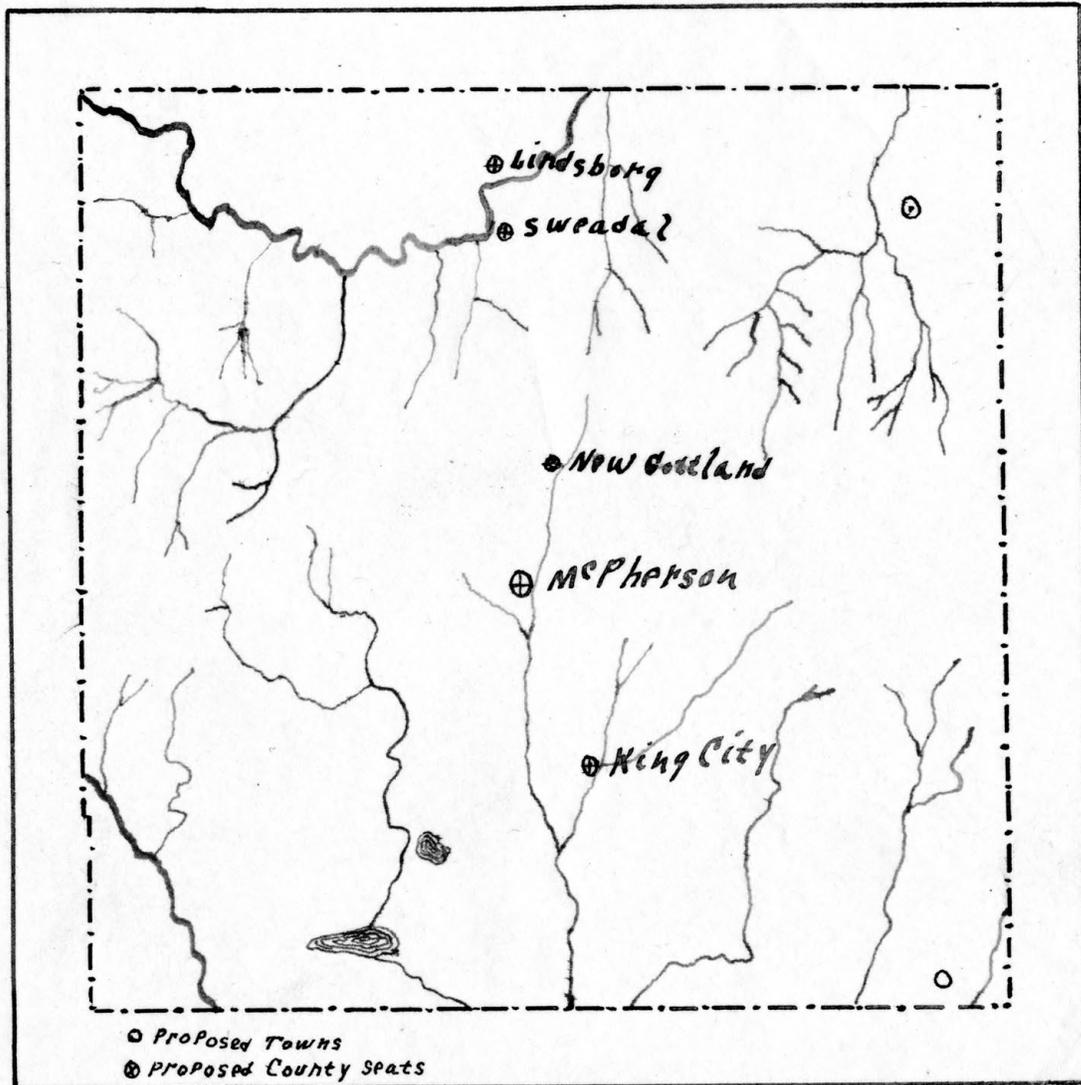
I have quoted this from Andreas not so much because of its historic value or interest, but because I think it is an

excellent photograph of the attitudes and activities of the early promoter and pioneer in Kansas and is illustrative of how many of the towns in the state originated. There were really two classes of pioneers. First, there was the class whose chief interest was the ownership of a home and the means of a livelihood. To this class belonged the pioneer of song and story who converted the desolate prairies into fields of golden grain and blossoming orchards. His interest, in a way were selfish, but entirely natural. He desired a home, a place to rear a growing family, or a place to bring a prospective bride. He was interested in immediate returns for his efforts and laboured on unconscious of the fact that he was really the true promoter and vanguard of prosperity. To the second class belonged those persons who depended less on labour and more on foresight and shrewdness to secure their ends. Their interests were broader than those of the first class, but we cannot say that they were any less selfish. In intelligence they were above the pioneer of the first class. They were cognizant of the fact that they were numbered among the select few who had come in on the ground floor and took special pains to bring about favorable conditions so that all the possible future increment accruing from the earnings of society should be theirs. Naturally enough, to this better class, belonged the town boosters. They sought to place the town where they would be most benefitted by its growth and did everything in their power to bring about economic and political conditions ~~and~~ ~~which~~ ~~would~~ ~~be~~ ~~favorable~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~development~~ ~~of~~ ~~their~~ ~~town~~. Naturally enough, also, each organization should strive to bring these

conditions to the town whose growth meant most to it. Hence we have the early county seat fights and the promotion and discouragement of better means of transportation. But of this we shall speak later.

Speaking in this strain, however, we are apt to forget the three principles laid down in the first part of this chapter. To say that the towns in the county were entirely the products of promoters and that their development was a forced growth would be extremely erroneous. While many towns were organized and still more were contemplated, only those that had the right conditions for growth ever developed. All promoters realized the necessity of political and economic advantages. This is proven by some of the county seat elections. In the county seat election of 1873 McPherson received 605 votes, while New Gottland, which had not even organized a town company or definitely decided on a townsite, received 325 votes. The promoters of New Gottland figured that if they could bring the county seat to that place a town would develop as a consequence. Plate V. illustrates the location of proposed towns and proposed county seats. The first county seat was at Sweadal, this being the only social center in the county. From here it was moved to Lindsborg, which town, having a more favorable location on the north side of the river, was beginning to take the place of Sweadal as a social center and trading point. However, there was a feeling that Lindsborg could only be the temporary seat of the county government. King City was more centrally located and was the logical place for a county seat. But with the

PLATE V

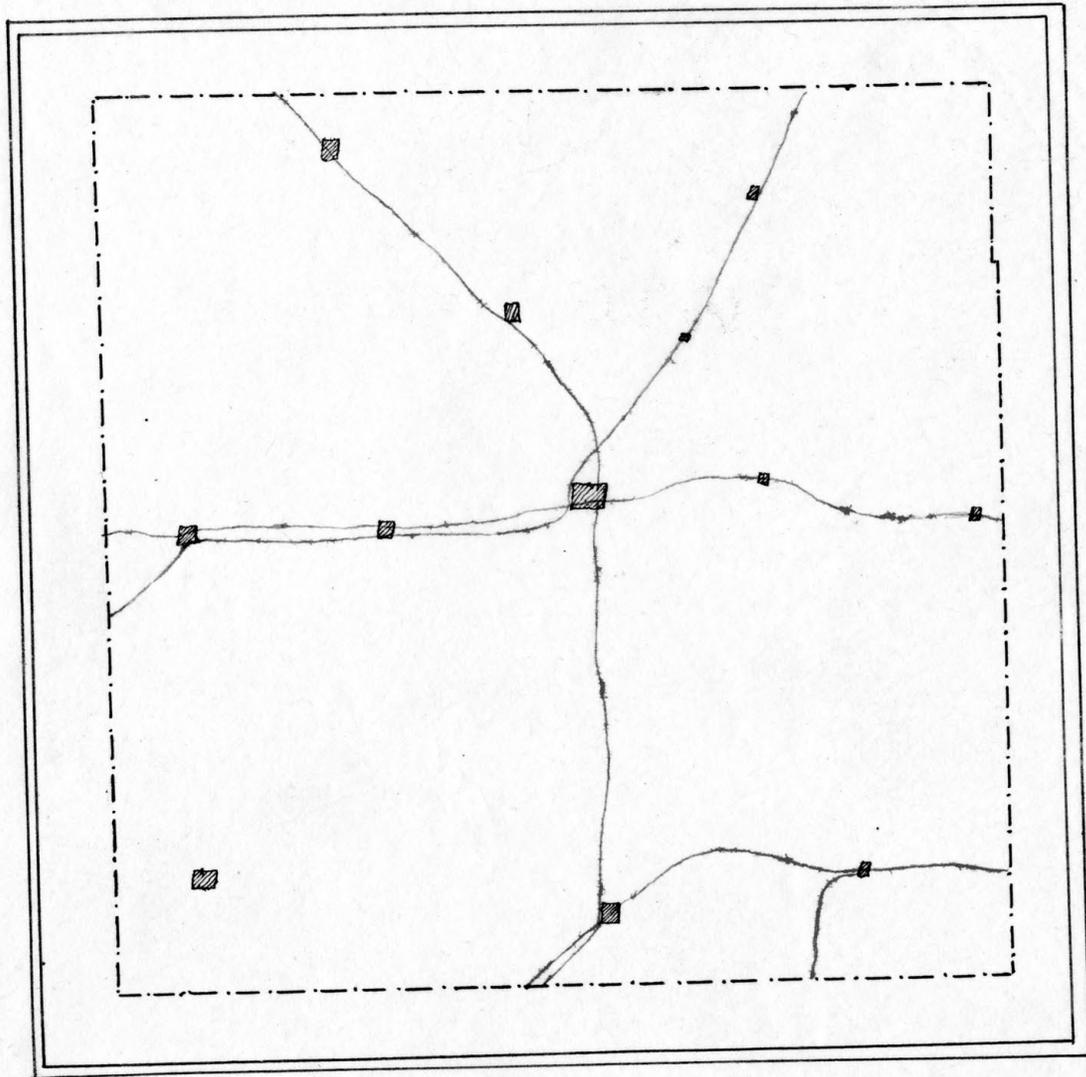


MAP SHOWING PROPOSED TOWNS

organization of the two counties on the south a tier of townships was taken from McPherson County. This threw King City too far south in the county and consequently McPherson and New Gotland were the only two contestants figuring in the election of 1873. McPherson, gaining the county seat, New Gotland never materialized, and King City practically moved to McPherson. This shows the importance of political prestige to a county town. Nearly every county in Central Kansas has one, and only one, first class town. This is the county seat and it is safe to assume that its development is mainly due to this fact.

However, we must not assume that all towns were organized as prospective county seats. Many grew up as natural centers of trade and being favourably located have thrived and ^{are} live villages today. In Plate V the red squares indicate those towns which have ceased exist. The reason for the failure of these towns is obvious. They were unable to compete with a town more favorably located and having those political and economic advantages which they lacked. Plate VII illustrates this. This map shows the county with its present number of towns and railroads. Those towns which were favorably located grew until they were able to attract railroads. Along with the railroads came a boom for these towns, and also smaller trading centers whose locations were determined by the railroad sprang up. The towns which the railroads missed soon disappeared. There is now only one town in the county which does not have a railroad. This is located in the extreme northeast corner

PLATE VI



and owes its existence to the fact that there is no rival town in the vicinity, and that it is located in a very fertile and productive country and is isolated by strips of poor land from other centers of trade.

Chapter V.

The Rise and Development of Association.

In the previous chapters we have confined ourselves to a consideration of settlements. We have endeavored to point out general causes influencing settlements and to apply these causes to the community under consideration. In like manner we considered the conditions favorable to the growth of towns and applied our deductions to the towns of McPherson County. Having thus shown how the county was settled and how the towns originated and grew we might be tempted to pass on to a consideration of the development of the social mind of the city of McPherson, which consideration is the purpose of this little inquiry. But we are not yet ready for such a procedure. Thus far we have considered the respective settlements as individual communities and towns and the settlers as individual persons. To a statistician this might be sufficient data, but to a sociologist this alone means very little. To the sociologist there are no individuals. He studies individuals only as socii. This is but another way of stating that he studies individuals as a compilation of interests or ends. How do these interests find expression? What are some of the forces that shape and modify them? These are problems which we must try to describe and explain in this chapter.

To do this we must study the people in their activities not as individuals, but as individuals developing in a social medium. We must consider how a person's interests are shaped and modified by the interests of others and also how a person's interests shape and modify the interests of others. Development of social con-

consciousness does not consist in single and separate stimuli and responses, but consists in an unbroken series of stimuli and responses. Response is often a modification of the anticipated reaction to one stimulus and thus in turn serves as a new stimulus to further responses. And thus the cycle goes on, never ceasing, always changing and yet the process is always the same. There is action and reaction. But each person reacts differently to similar stimuli. It is these recognized differences in the field of stimulus and response which control conduct. In other words, we are not guided in our actions simply by individual motives, but also by the anticipated responses in others. Responding similarly to similar stimuli develops into a sort of habitual response towards such stimuli. This habitual response we might say is a manifestation of the attitude towards such stimuli. Attitudes are thus the result of social intercourse.

But why all this psychological discourse in introducing the subject of association? Simply this: Association means a commingling of persons with other persons in the various fields of activities and thru their various lines of interests. But association means nothing if a larger social consciousness does not spring from it. It must be a developing social process, and when so considered it can only be explained by social stimuli and social response. In this light let us consider the subject.

In Prof. Small and Vincent's little book "An Introduction to the Study of Society" the development of a community and town is described. This description shows how one family moves away from their friends and associates and start life in a new country. They

battle with and conquer nature. They are almost secluded coming in touch with the outside world only when the husband goes to market with their yearly produce. Thus they live and rear a family. Finally other families are attracted to the same locality, probably thru the influence of this family. The location is suitable and a town springs up. The resident family thus becomes a nucleus of a growing neighborhood and of a developing community life. This picture is not only poetic. It is typical of early pioneer life in particular sections of our country. However there is too great simplicity of the sequence of events. Far be it from us to criticize this excellent little picture. The very simplicity is invaluable for pedagogical purposes. But in our particular case we must guard against this simple manner of sequences. Our county did not grow from a single nucleus but out of a number of nuclei. Its growth was the result of broad, different and diversified interests. Its population is not homogeneous but is made up of a variety of groups. Thus we have the Swedes in the north part, the Germans and Mennonites in the south, while between, and even among these, are other nationalities. But difference of nationality is not the only separative factor. There are numerous other similar factors that help to separate the people into separate groups on the basis of kindred interests. Thus we have the old soldier population, politics, religious preferences, previous neighborhood association and friendship and numerous other causes. How did a feeling of social relationship towards one another spring up among these different groups? How did the feeling of the individual's relation to his neighborhood develop into the

feeling of his relationship to the other elements in the population of the county and to society in general? To understand this we must study association in its three phases (1) neighborhood association (2) inter-neighborhood association and (3) association with the outside world. We cannot, as some writers have done, draw hard lines and consider these different forms at different periods of development. Each form is present at every stage of development and in the light of social psychology is a causative factor in the development of the social mind. Some forms, however, are more marked than others in certain stages of development, and for ^{methodological} ~~pedagogical~~ reasons at least we are justified in our classification.

The period in which neighborhood association was most marked was the period from 1870 to 1880, of the time before McPherson had a railroad. There are two main reasons for this neighborhood feeling at this time. In the first place there was a need of intense cooperation within the neighborhood. Secondly there was a dearth of outside influences. Pioneer communities have often been portrayed as self sufficient and pioneers as Jack-of-all-trades. The settlers of McPherson County, however, were never distinctly pioneers. From the very organization there was a specialization of industry, and while many had to resort to all kinds of substitutes for what we term "necessaries of life" the cause of such substitution lay rather in their poverty than in their isolation. Privation was the main cause of cooperation. It brot together elements which long since have disintegrated on account of diversified interests. Productive machinery, which

in the more prosperous times has become so intimately associated with individual ownership that such ownership seems indispensable, in this early period of privation was owned and utilized in common by several of the early settlers. When labor and wages were not to be found there developed a system of "trade work". Inconveniences of communication and transportation also brot neighbors closer together. When one man made a trip to Salina he "took errands" for the entire neighborhood. Thus we see that privation brot people into a closer industrial relationship with socializing results. But industry was not the only factor that brot people together. Before there was money with which to build church edifices services were held at the residences of different settlers. Often a minister would assist, but more often some member of the community would officiate or the meeting would be carried on on the round table plan. These meetings were truly religious. Sect and doctrine were cast aside. All were filled with a simple faith in a merciful God. Poverty was the common lot of all, there was no caste, or class distinction. Filled with a hope amidst all their trials and privations they lifted up their simple prayers and laid bare their very souls. What a church those lowly sod or rude frame houses must have been! After years of social disintegration, brot about thru diversity of interests, ^{and reintegration on new lines} the old settler loves to look back at these old times when we held meetings in Mr. B.'s "grainery". We might also add the school as a socializing agency. Before school houses were erected night schools were held at different residences. Here again we find the spirit of equality predominating. However an entirely different spirit from that prevalent in the "meetings" manifested itself.

The young people easily buried all thoughts of poverty, not in studies, however, but in merriment. This suggests another point of interest. At this time when all were poor, when social intercourse was based on equality there were no fashionable ideals to copy. There was no sense of social propriety. Consequently no actions, however crude, were restrained because they would be viewed with disfavor by the socially elite. As a result of this, pleasure activity often took the form of a rude "horse play". However we shall reserve the subject of pleasure for another chapter.

While privation and isolation brot about cooperation along various lines of industrial and social activities, the spirit developed into something more than cooperation. It developed into an attitude of the social mind. The "you help me and I'll help you" form of bargaining developed into an attitude of helping and expecting help. Many relations which are now purely matters of business were then based on sympathy. Sympathy, generosity, joviality and willingness to help thus became the criteria of character. But willingness to extend material aid was not the whole of this social attitude, it was rather only its expression. The attitude was rather one of good fellowship. Equality tends to sociability. No person felt that he was not "as good as some other people", but all mingled more or less on a common plane. Whole families would visit one another freely without waiting for an invitation. There was no class distinction and hired help would mingle on the same plane with employer. Interesting incidents are narrated of how men whose occupation would

today give them distinction married domestic servants, and "nobody thought anything about it".

With more prosperous times and broader association there was introduced a variety of interests. With these interests and the means of giving expression to them came social disintegration and selection along certain lines. Different people reacted differently to these interests. Thus there grew up a social selection along such lines as, wealth, occupation, church, culture, amusements, etc. We thus see how poverty brot about equality, community of interests, and hence socialbility. With the rise of inequality and different interests, socialbility considered as a neighborhood thing waned. An old settler in speaking of the early days portrayed the condition then existing in the simple sentence, "My, but we were poor! You can't imagine how poor we were! And yet, how sociable and happy we were!" It is not probable that the people are now any less sociable or, let us hope, any less happy. The fact is there is not now the same community of neighborhood interests which there was in the early days, but people have broader and more diversified interests and in pursuing them they have broken not only territorial, but social neighborhood lines.

By dearth of outside influences we mean there was a considerably lesser relationship with the outside world than there is today. Because of poor roads, distance to markets, and other inconveniences the people paid little attention to markets. The produce had to be marketed when it was handiest to do so, regardless of prices. Goods were bought when and where it was handiest.

Thus the people were practically excluded from one of the great interests of the world, the world market. Then, there was the difficulty of communication. There were no telephones, telegraph or daily newspapers in these communities. Letters were the chief means of communication and these were usually from the fatherland. These letters especially with the foreign element were of great moment and were read by all who were interested, which usually meant the whole community. But as for kindling new interests in the minds of the settlers these letters were of little importance. They simply served as a connecting link with their old life and acquaintances. There was very little travel, and this for a good reason. They were too far away from every place of note. A journey must be computed by hours as well as by miles and when we consider that a trip to Kansas City and back took five days we can see that Kansas City was further removed from McPherson in the seventies than New York is today. In fact such a trip meant far more to an early townsman than a trip to New York would now mean. We thus see how isolation stimulated neighborhood association since such association was the only association possible.

However, in all this we must not draw our neighborhood lines too hard and fast. We can not say here the X neighborhood ends and here the Y neighborhood commences. In considering neighborhoods either territorially or socially we must be more or less arbitrary. There was never a completely exclusive neighborhood association. Such a condition would have meant social stagnation. We mentioned such factors as nationality, previous acquaintance,

etc. These interest must always be considered and it is only on the basis of interests that any kind of association and socialization is possible.

(2) In considering inter-neighborhood association we shall use the county as our territorial unit. However, this can only be considered as an arbitrary limit. We can not limit social intercourse to any definite territorial limits. However, there is a type of association which is distinct from close community association and also from the wider form of world association. It lacks the intimacy of the one and the indifference of the other. All association is based on kindredship of interests. The more kindred interests, the closer and more effective the association. Hence the great influence of the family and of the immediate vicinity where you know every body. But in a County there is a feeling that other communities have similar interests to that of your own neighborhood. You are interested in their community interests as interests similar to your own. Also there are certain interests which influence all the communities. By inter-community association, ~~the~~ we mean association based on the interests of the people of one community in the interests of people of another community and in their common community interests. While all types of association are social we might, for the sake of conveniences treat our inter-community association as prompted by three lines of interests, personal, political, ~~and~~ economic and social in the narrower sense. These interests, however, are all social and overlap and we are justified in giving them separate treatment only for ^{expository} ~~pedagogical~~ reasons.

From the very earliest settlement there were personal interests existing between people of different communities. In the very earliest history of the county we see how some event in the one community would often create intense excitement in another. These events which received the greatest attention were the extraordinary, some grievous crime or spectacular ~~feat~~ of some person in another community. The ordinary run of things in different communities, however, did not receive the attention in early times which they did later. The reason for this was that there was less intercourse between the different communities. One reason for this lack of intercourse was that there was no common medium for intercourse. While there was a newspaper in McPherson as early as 1872, the first newspaper served more as a medium for advertising between real estate men and prospective ^{outside} buyers, and for expressing political views than for furnishing local news to the different communities. In 1879 an enterprising editor brought the leading paper and encouraged the publication of letters from different localities. These letters were published irregularly or seemingly whenever the mood would seize some contributor in a certain community. They were not regular items, but were more in the form of personal letters. The important news of the community was stated in the manner one would state them in writing to a friend who might be interested in the happenings of your community. These letters also served as an expression of personal opinion and the scribe usually endeavored to express, not so much his own, as the opinion of his community on certain economic or political questions. The letters were usually concluded with the signing of some fictitious

name. They were intensely personal and often contained a crude form of wit and humour such as was typical of the mind of the people during the period. These letters in the course of time took the form of regular items and in 1893 a "news from all over County" department appeared in the paper. These items are of great importance since a person having ^{an} acquaintance in a particular neighborhood will read the items from such a community, receiving occasionally the ^{the} word of seeing a friend's name appear in print. The "locals" in the section given to local happenings in the town are read with interest and have tended to bring the people into a closer relationship with one another. But association thru reading about one another is not so influential as that of personal contact. From the very first there were gatherings where people would meet and form new acquaintanceships.

County politics was always a great factor in bringing people together. Perhaps it was most influential in the first period during the county seat conflicts. Here we find a certain amount of cooperation and were pulling on the part of the different communities. Thus we find that in the election of 1873 when the people of the south part saw there was no chance for King City they worked and voted for McPherson, while the people in the north part having given up the hope of making Lindsborg the county seat would have created a rival town by making New Gottland the county seat. While county politics has always been of a personal nature it has also been a neighborhood affair. When the "political rings" built up a ticket they

were always careful that each section of the county should be represented. This was necessary in order to keep peace in the political family. While there was thus a form of community jealousy it showed inter-community interests. One community was putting itself with and against other communities in the county.

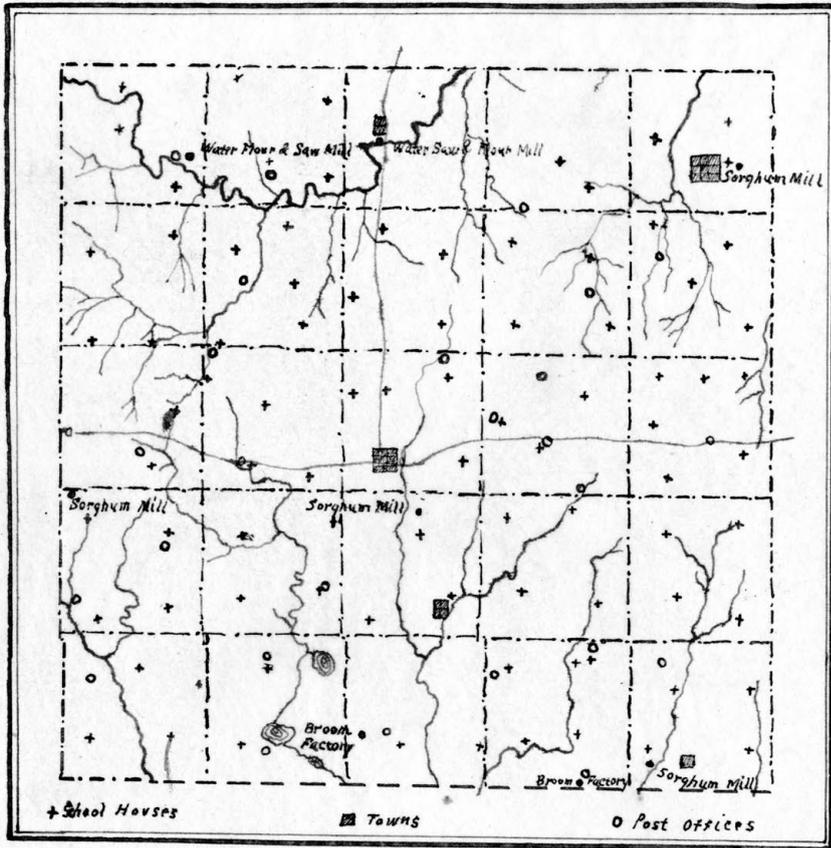
In considering economic forces ~~leading~~^{leading} towards furthering association we might consider them as influential in three different ways. First there were the general economic conditions which tended to homogeneity in the attitudes and activities of the different elements in the population. Secondly there was the individual intercourse of different communities and of people of different communities for economic purposes. Thirdly there was the concerted action of all the communities for bettering economic conditions. When we consider the heterogeneous nature of the early population we might be tempted to over-emphasize the variation in character. If it would have been possible for each community to develop individually and to retain its peculiar attitudes and activities, the population would indeed have been heterogeneous and we would have distinctly Swedish, German Mennonite and American communities. However such individualistic development was not in harmony with American economic conditions. These different elements had to adopt methods compatible with the exigencies of our industrial life. This adoption of American industrial methods was the first step towards Americanization. Living and working in a similar manner naturally led to a similar manner of thinking. Of the different elements the American has been the most initiative, the Swede has been the most assimilative

and the Mennonite the least imitative and *amenable to socialization*. While the Swedes have been exceedingly clanish they have adopted American ³customs within the clan. The Mennonites, on the other hand, have had a very strong tendency to retain their national "sitten und brauch". As a result of this the second generation of Swedes have become so Americanized that there is often a serious gulf between their attitudes and the attitudes of their parents, while the second generation of Mennonites assume an attitude which is a happy medium between the attitudes of their parents and the American mode of thinking.

The second generation of Swedes are really Americans, while the second generation of Mennonites retain their national traits. In the early period there was little economic intercourse between people of different communities. This was due to the fact that each community was more or less self-sufficient. The strong cooperative spirit within each community had a tendency to discourage intercourse with people from the outside. While there was always more or less specialization of industries many artisans confined themselves to their respective communities. The most important artisan was the blacksmith. Each community has such a person. He was usually a homesteader and farmer like the rest and incidentally did the repair work for his neighbors. Some trades which afterwards became regular businesses in the early period were carried on by the cooperative efforts of several farmers in ~~the~~ each community. Thus when the crops were not plentiful enough to insure a thresher a livelihood several farmers would cooperate and run a threshing machine to do their own and their neighbors'

threshing. The business, however, was only incidental and demanded considerable time and sacrifice on the part of the owners, since trade work was the only form of labor and when the man who made threshing a regular business appeared the farmers soon threw off cooperative responsibility and inconveniences and let him do the work for them. The same thing occurred with the blacksmith. When the railroads came in and the town grew these artisans settled in the town. The former blacksmiths who did not move to town did not attempt to compete with these. They found farming more lucrative and less seasonable and disagreeable and gradually gave up their trade. Some, however, being good smiths and poor farmers, moved to town and received their old patrons there. The other trades carried on in the early period were the mills, saw mills, flour mills and sorghum mills. Plate VII shows the location of these mills. It will be noticed that they were inter-community interests and that farmers came from different communities to get their work done. They were thus a meeting place for people of different communities. At present I know of only one mill existing in the country. These trades like others have gone to the towns. The same thing has happened to the country store. In the early period there were stores located in different communities. Some of these stores became the nucleus of a growing town, the majority however served simply as a distribution center to the people of the locality. All offered a meeting place for people. With the advent of the town these stores have all disappeared. Strange to say, many of these stores retained their place as a social center long after

PLATE VII



they had ceased to be of any value as a distributing point. During their period as distributing points they had become habitual meeting places and in many of these stores, after the people had commenced buying all their necessities in the town, social gatherings were held on certain nights, and on Sunday afternoon when "refreshments" were sold and served. Thus we see that industries which formerly served one particular community have moved to the town where they seek the patronage of different communities. They have thus encouraged an inter-community as well as a community association. The result of this is obvious. People having to go to town for their necessities meet and exchange ideas with people whose interests differ from their own. They have thus come into touch with a variety of new stimuli. Different responses of different people to these stimuli have tended to create a difference in attitudes and have thus encouraged neighborhood association on a basis larger than the local community.

But this movement of industries to the town has had other social influences besides those of people of diversified interests meeting in the town. The rural post office, except where it was distantly located, disappeared from the country along with the industries. When people had to go to town for their other necessities they might as well get their mail there. Rural entertainments in country school houses were events of great interest in the early period. These have waned very considerably since people began attending places of amusement in the town. This is more or less true of all kinds of amusements. The community church, while it is still a social center lacks much of that

inspiration which it afforded when people walked for miles to receive its social as well as spiritual stimulus. This, what we might term migration of social interests from the rural communities to the town, has been most marked during the last period of prosperity, i.e., during the last fifteen years.

We must not, however, think that this growth of inter-community association has sprung up entirely from negative influences. The disappearance of localized institutions was a result as well as ^acause. Thru a myriad of social stimuli and responses certain attitudes have been formed and crystallized into existing institutions, movements and conditions. These again have demanded readjustments and thus the process has gone on. Movements which had inter-community association as an end originated. This is what we mean by saying the process was positive as well as negative. The rural free delivery was such a movement. At first many opposed it as impractical. Others that it would actually tend to increase rural isolation because people would not come to town so often. Shortsighted business men that it would impair their trade. However it has happily disappointed all morbid expectations and has actually increased community and intercommunity association. It also hastened the advent of the telephone and is hastening the coming of good roads. All these institutions are increasing inter-community association by furnishing a means for the communication of different people with diversified interests.

To the casual observer it might appear that community relationship has thus been annihilated in this broader inter-com-

munity association. Localized institutions have lost much of their former meaning and purpose. Still that strongest of all ties, friendship and neighborly understanding, has always remained steadfast in spite of the influences of a broader association and more diversified interests. This neighborhood friendship and understanding, however, has remained simply a condition and has not crystalized into institutions based purely on neighborhood interests. The result has been a serious falling off in neighborhood loyalty. At present there is a tendency towards the establishment of such institutions and towards broadening those institutions already in existence so that they will embody the more diversified local interests of each respective community. There are two elements in the population impeding the realization of this tendency. First, there is the reactionary element composed of those old people whose attitudes were formed during the early period of neighborhood association and who deem it unnecessary to change an institution which has embodied their ideals so as to make it fit the exigencies of the broader interests of the young, or to create new institutions which to them have no meaning or purpose and which might conflict with their already established institutions such as the church. Secondly there is the more frivolous element who have become so absorbed in the more showy interests of a broader association that any local ~~ity~~ community institution appears "countryfied". However, the tendency is growing and when we consider the weighty influence of proximity of residence and community of vital interests we have reason to expect much from the movement.

The first important concerted movement for the economic benefit of the whole county was the agitation for railroads. Andreas' History of Kansas gives the following description of this movement. "It is an almost invariable rule that all localities which have eventually prospered have early commenced the agitation of railroad building. So with McPherson county. In April 1872, a petition was presented to the Board of Commissioners, asking that the county take \$150,000. in stock in the Salina & Sedgwick Railroad Company. At this time, however, the county was young and entirely undeveloped and the whole taxable property amounted to only \$219,000, consequently the board refused to submit the petition. In June a proposition was made to vote \$150,000. in aid of the Salina, Sedgwick & Southern Railroad Company. The road was to run from Salina through Lindsborg, McPherson, King City and Lake View. The call for the election was withdrawn, however and a citizen's petition granted by the Board of Commissioners proposing to vote \$200,000. bonds to the Salina, Atlanta & Raymond line. At the election held July 30, the aid was voted by 275 to 248. The railroad was never built and the bonds were destroyed in the summer of 1873. In March 1873, the county subscribed \$200,000. to the Salina and Southwestern Railroad. By the summer of that year \$75,000 of this sum had been issued in bonds and deposited in the state treasury. But the Company did not live up to its constant and in August---- the bonds were canceled and burned. Notwithstanding her failures, the progressive element of the county kept the matter of proper railroad communication before

the people and finally in February, 1879, the proposition of the Marion & McPherson branch of the A.T. and S.F. was carried by a vote of 1,549 to 1,251. During the same month the waters in Smoky Hill township decided to allow the building of the line to Lindsborg, the bonds issued being at the rate of \$4,000. per mile. The company which finally constructed the line from Lindsborg was called the Galina and Southwestern. The Kan. & Southwestern constructed the line from Lindsborg to McPherson, McPherson Township assumed \$20,000 bonds. "(These last named roads are now part of the U.P.R.R.)

This narration of the early railroad agitation in the county shows the difficulty of harmonious cooperation for economic betterment during the early period. There was a serious lack of understanding between the railroads and the people of the County. There was also intense selfishness and jealousy ~~on~~ on the part of different communities towards one another. Andreas notes that in granting bonds the vote was close. The reason for this was that those communities which would receive the most benefit from a railroad voted for the bonds while the other communities voted against the grant. They were evidently too short-sighted to realize that a railroad would benefit, not a particular locality, but the whole county.

It is interesting to note that in various cooperative enterprises which should benefit the whole county the people of the town have always taken the lead. A county fair was started in the early eighties. This was more of a town than a county enterprise. It developed into an institutions for exploitation, rather

than cooperation, and in a few years disappeared because of lack of interest. This more or less selfish interest of "building up our town" has manifested itself in various ways. Street fairs, fourth of July celebrations and festivals have been largely a product of this interest. With the advent of the automobile and good roads the town people have not only invited the rural people in but have selected certain days for "booster" parades to the neighboring villages. While the motives for these enterprises have not always been the most altruistic we will have to admit that much good has come from them. Farmers have been too unfavorably situated to initiate cooperative enterprises and those initiated by the town people have furnished them a means of breaking their monotonous routine to meet and associate with one another. Up to the last decade there have been practically no cooperative enterprises undertaken by the farmers purely for economic betterment. The present county Fair organized in 1905 has been largely a farmer's enterprise and has received considerable rural interest and support. However, farm exhibits have always been a lesser interest in the fair, when compared with the races and amusements. It is safe to say the county fair has done very little to advance rural interests, beyond furnishing a meeting place for the farmers. In recent years Farmers Institutes have been started and great interest has been taken in "Wheat Specials" While these movements are still looked upon skeptically by many they may and undoubtedly will tend to organize the farming population on the basis of rural interests. The lack of sympathy between the rural and urban population has had a tendency to decrease with association.

However, the complete feeling that the interests of one are the interests of the other will never be brot about until it manifests itself in concerted activities for mutual benefits.

(3) In discussing the association of the people with the outside world we again have to use interests as the basis for our discussion. While all the interests we shall here discuss have been more or less permanent, they were more influential as causitive factors towards creating intercourse with the outside world at certain periods than at others, and more stimulation during certain periods than other interests were during the same periods. In this light let us consider briefly the main interests.

As we have beforenoticed there was very little incentive during the early period for the pioneer to follow the world markets. With the increase of agricultural products and the advent of the railroads these markets became important. As early as 1879, not only the local markets, but the markets of Chicago and N.Y. were quoted in the local papers. From then on these markets have been followed and have thus brot the people into touch with an important phase of the outside world.

Railroads perhaps more than anyother factor break the isolation of a community. Not only directly, but indirectly, since they make the introduction of other interests possible. That the people of McPherson were cognizant of this is shown by the following paragraph from Andreas "The Marion and McPherson line was completed to McPherson in September, 1879. On the 23rd of that month a grand celebration was held in the city, attended by citizens of both counties.to the number of 6,000 or 7,000. By eleven

o'clock the streets were crowded with people and at noon the first train arrived from Marion Center bringing nearly 2,000 visitors. R. was marshal of the day, Mayor P., master of ceremonies, and M P S made the address of welcome; music by the Marquette and Marion Center bands and the McPherson Glee Club, The multitude helped themselves from five long tables, bountifully spread, and all went happy as a marriage bell. McPherson was in fact married to the outside world."

Newspapers were of minor importance during the early period. Dailies were of a negligible quantity. In Jan. 1880 we find the ^{St. Louis} ~~Globe Democrat~~ advertising in the local paper. But where we consider that the subscription price of this daily was \$12. we may justly assume that it had few subscribers in the county. Dailies were not popular until rural free delivery made them possible. This did not occur till 1902. The local paper, however, had a fair circulation and from its nature which we shall consider later, brot the people in touch with the outside world.

Politics has tended to make the people take ~~an~~ interest in the outside world. From the earliest period people took an interest in national and state politics. This brot them into contact with a world interest. We shall consider the development of political ~~that~~ in another portion of this study.

Travel has brot people in touch with the outside world and with broader interests. With increased prosperity people could afford this luxury and many have made visits to old home folk and relatives. Outside of business, this motive has been the

important one. On special occasions such as the "strip rush" in 1892 when over two hundred names of McPherson people ^{attending the land opening} are mentioned in the local papers, and the expositions at Chicago, Omaha, Buffalo, and St. Louis. Journeys were popular. However, travel was uncommon until the last period and during the eighties and even in the nineties a trip to Kansas City was considered an important occasion. With the increase of travel has come a broadening and differentiation of interests.

McPherson was not connected with the outside world by telephone till in the nineties. From there this means of communication has become popular and has even reached most of the farm houses. "Good roads" agitation did not take place in any serious manner until about 1908. From then on it has been boomed. At present good roads is being agitated more than any other means of communication. McPherson is the meeting place of the S.F. and Meridian roads. This fact bids fair to bring it into even more frequent and closer communication with the outside world. We might go on and enumerate other factors such as organizations, lectures, amusements, etc, which have had more than a local influence. However, we shall discuss these interests in another chapter and can not give them consideration here.

In closing our chapter on association we must mention this fact which we have before hinted at. Social integration has gone with association in its various forms. Association has always carried with it the introduction of new interests. People have responded differently to these new interests and different

attitudes have thus been formed. Social selection has then taken place on the basis of kindredship of attitudes towards different interests. Local interests, while they have been modified by broader association have not disappeared but have really been strengthened. There are certain institutions in which all the people with their diversified interests combine. This has kept up their pride in "our banner county" and in "our queenly little city". Such pride in local institutions has been made possible by associating with other people, and thus having a chance to compare "our" institutions with other similar institutions.

Part II

Social Activities.

Chapter I.

The Social Mind.

In his book "An American Town" Mr. Williams attempts to interpret the social mind of a people thru a study of their social pleasures. He thus explains his attitude: "Under stress of physical need an individual often will do work for which he is not adapted. Many individuals go through life following an occupation which, if their hands were free, they would abandon for some more congenial work. In their pleasures however, they are themselves and follow their bent. Pleasure activity reveals more truly than work activity the nature of the social mind". While this explanation may be true in a sense it does not go far enough. It assumes that the social mind is an already developed something seeking to find expression. It does not take into consideration that the social mind is a consequence as well as a cause of activities. The social mind is never a completed something, but always in a stage of development. It is shaped by the activities of a people just as truly as it shapes such activities. The social mind of a rural community differs essentially from the social mind of a large city. Thus we distinguish between rural and urban "habit of mind". Environment is what conditions this habit of mind. People meet and engage in various lines of activities. Thru their contact with one another certain attitudes or habits of mind are formed. We have attempted to explain this in our chapter on association. Where then shall we look for a key to an understanding of the

social mind of a community? Certainly not in only one form of activity. To understand the social mind of a people we must study them in their various lines of activities. Social activities are an index to an understanding of social mind since they not only reflect the interests of a people but shape them as well. In our study of social activities we must consider them in this light.

For convenience in presentation we shall classify these various social activities into three groups. (1) economic activities (2) regulative and protective activities, and (3) cultural activities. It is the purpose of the following chapters to consider these different activities and interests. We must here explain, however, that all these activities and interests are so interdependent that they can not really be given separate consideration. Only on the grounds of methodology are we justified in our attempt at classification.

Chapter II.

Economic Activities.

In the chapter on association we have anticipated the influence of economic activities on the development of social consciousness. It is the purpose of this chapter to elaborate on these influences and to see how they affected the social mind of the community. For the purpose of treating the subject we might divide the economic history of the town into five periods, each period being approximately of ten years duration. Thus we have (1) the "formative" period lasting approximately from 1870 to 1880, or, to be more specific, from the founding of the town in 1872 to the introduction of the railroad in 1879; (2) the "boom" period from 1880 to 1890; (3) the period of industrial depression from 1890 to 1900; (4) the period of reconstruction from 1900 to 1910; and (5) the present period. These decades, however, are merely approximations. We can not draw hard and fast lines and say here one period ends and another commences. They all overlap and are inter-related. Let us now consider conditions during these different periods.

(1) During the first period the town was in a stage of formation. For this reason we have named it the "formative" period. McPherson at this time was a small, wooden pioneer village. Its interest were mainly local. It served as a distributing point to the surrounding country. Everything was done on a small conservative scale. However there was manifested that free hopeful boosting spirit which is so characteristic of pioneer towns. As

we have before intimated the period was characterized by privation and equality. There was one class of persons, however, who did not confine themselves to local affairs, but whose income depended on advertising and boosting the town. These were the real estate men and lawyers. The early papers were mainly made ^{up} of real estate advertisements. A popular form of advertising was to show exactly how much it would cost to start up farming in McPherson County. A detailed account was made of of the cost of horses, cows, farm implements, building material etc. Then the resources of the county were lauded and it was shown in how short a time these necessary expenses would be balanced. Expectation and hope characterized the attitude of the people during this period. This was undoubtedly due largely to the influence of the real estate men and town boosters. These men kept up the boosting spirit until it took possession of everybody. Statements like "McPherson is a growing little city", "McPherson is soon to have a bank", "McPherson will soon have a railroad" appeared in the local paper and show the attitude of hopefulness and expectancy. When some of these long expected things did appear the people recklessly thought all their dreams would come true. With this change of attitude was introduced the second period of town development.

[2) While the "boom" spirit was more or less general all over the state there were certain local conditions which encouraged it at McPherson. Prosperity in McPherson was built largely on wheat and in 1878 a "bumper" crop had been reaped. The price was good and consequently people felt that the period of privation was past.

At this time also two railroads came in, a bank was started and a "booster" took hold of the leading newspaper. The city thus commenced taking on a municipal air. In 1879 the first brick building was erected and others soon followed. Not only the town, but the people also took on municipal "airs". They had been deprived long enuf and getting a taste of prosperity they wanted a whole meal of it. The "plunger" became the idol of the reckless element in the population. The boom carried people completely out of their senses. Large loans were taken on property and expended extravagantly. They entertained the wildest dreams of town developemtn. McPherson was no longer merely "a growing little city" but "McPherson City is the best town in the best county in the best state in the Union. It is bound to grow and thrive and bacome a beautiful, industrial and enterprising city. We are for McPherson first last and always." This last sentence pictures the condition. Many promoters prophecied that McPherson and Salina would grow together and become the metropolis of Kansas. An old settler in speaking of the boom said "Every man who could handle a hatchet was hired to build houses". While this boom started in the latter part of the seventies it did not reach the climax until the latter part of the eighties. At this time all sorts of enterprises were launched. A street car system was started. The "greatest park in the state" was laid out. The light plant and water workd were started. A "salt well which will furnish enough brine to make a car load of salt each hour" was promoted.

The local papers heaped fuel on the fire and "booster editions" appeared regularly. Naturally, since the creation of a large city was the end of these activities and enterprises, the people assumed "city airs". City amusements, customs and manners were adopted. Business men tried to run their business as if it were located in a large city. Even the local paper published "letters from our regular Washington correspondent".

(3) The prosperity of the boom period was built on sinking sand. The resources and location of McPherson hindered it from becoming anything but a country town. In the early nineties came the period of reaction. Banks were closed, business houses went into the hands of receivers, loan companies commenced foreclosing and business generally was at a standstill. The "paying enterprises" started during the boom period soon evaporated. People woke from their dreams of prosperity and came down to earth again. Many people who had come to town to live went back to the country and in 1894 the local paper stated that there two renters for every rented farm. During the boom period people had been completely absorbed in one interest, material prosperity. They now sought other interests. Politics, education and religion received more attention. There was less show and more real life. During the boom period social selection had proceeded on the basis of wealth. Now it proceeded on kindredship of interests in various lines of endeavor. Study clubs were formed. Literary societies held regular meetings, athletics received attention, socials were held. In fact considered from the standpoint of development of social consciousness, this period of industrial

depression was the richest in the history of the town.

(4) While we placed the year 1900 as the beginning of the period of reconstruction, this period was really a long process and had its beginning in the period of industrial depression. In 1896 the local paper stated that the "boosting spirit is now on a safe and sane basis", and that "Hard times are often due to the honesty of farmers in paying off their debts". The records for 1899 show \$138,907.68 mortgages paid up for that year. We thus see how people were commencing to recover from the influence of the two previous periods. In 1900 the Commercial Club was organized and began boosting local institutions. This tendency to boost home institutions took various forms. There was a reaction against investing money in outside propositions. "Keep your money at home" became the slogan. In 1906 the local paper published a "home patronage edition against the mail order business". In 1909 a "Chicago Booster" gave a lecture on boosting home industries in the Opera House which ~~created~~^{attracted} considerable attention. The town adopted a slogan, supported a baseball team and used other means for advertising and boosting home interests. Local enterprises and municipal improvements also received attention. The question of town sanitation and beautification was agitated. It was during this period that the sewerage system was instituted, and campaigns were started against weeds and garbage. There was thus developed during this period a sort of local pride and town consciousness.

(5) The present period is really a continuation and culmination of the reconstructive period. The boosting spirit

started in the previous period has been carried into the present period and is now bearing fruit. The sewers have been extended. The town has bought the light and water plant. In the summer of 1911 Main Street was paved. Since then paving has been agitated and extended. Along with paving have come other improvements. A "White Way" has been introduced. The fronts of store buildings have been improved and electric signs have been put up. The town has thus in the last three years assumed a metropolitan air. This last period of prosperity, however differs very materially from the boom period. During the boom period the impossible was attempted. They attempted to make a large city out of country town. Consequently the large city was imitated. Many useless things were introduced because they were part of the large city. The present improvements, on the other hand, have been based, not on show and imitation, but on utility. Such improvements as better streets better lights, better stores and better means for sanitation are introduced because they are conducive to a better country town. In other words, the people are finding their place. This practical attitude is beginning to be reflected in their social and industrial relations. There is a better understanding between farmers and the business men of the town. The interests of the one are really the interests of the other. This is commencing to be recognized by the townsman. Businessmen have cooperated with farmers in improving roads by presenting road drags to the farmers who would use them. There is yet much to be done to establish this mutual understanding, but the feeling is growing

and appears promising. This last period has been a healthy growth and not a pathological condition of the social mind. One interest has not absorbed the minds of the people to the injury of all other interests as it did during the boom period. On the other hand, as the following chapters will show, there has been a development along various lines of interest.

Chapter III

Regulative and Protective Activities.

The chief regulative and protective activities in the town under consideration have been the juristic and political activities. McPherson is an agricultural town and its population is not made up of those elements found in a town having manufacturing, mining, or railroad interests. Consequently there has been comparatively little litigation. There have been two elements in the population which have taken entirely different attitudes towards litigation. One element composed of Americans and the more imitative foreigners have looked upon litigation as a perfectly honorable way of settling a dispute. The other element made up mainly of the foreigners have always viewed litigation with disfavor. When two neighbors have carried their dispute into court their conduct has been viewed as scandalous by these people. However there has always been a different attitude towards litigation against an outside corporation and litigation against a local person. A person has been considered justified even in beating such a corporation on the grounds that "they'll beat you every chance they get". But legal procedure even against such a corporation has been discouraged on the grounds that "it doesn't pay to go to law". For these reasons comparatively few cases in civil law have been recorded. Civil cases have depended largely on economic conditions. During the early

period there was considerable litigation over questions of boundary, also over abstracts of title. With more settled conditions in the ownership of land litigation over these questions has practically disappeared. With more settled conditions civil procedure has had to do with complications arising out of industrial relations.

Criminal cases have always been viewed with more interest than civil cases. The reason for this is that the personal element is more involved. During the early period when neighborhood association was strongest the interest in a criminal case manifested by the people of the different communities was very intense. On one occasion a man charged with murder was released because of insufficient evidence. The people however were very indignant and two attempts in different communities were made to lynch him. On one of these occasions the friends of the accused man defended him and a pitched battle was fought. It is interesting to note that they were the only two attempts at lynching in the history of the county. With more settled conditions the tendency has been to allow the law to take its course. Fascination ~~for~~^{of} the mysterious was very characteristic of the early period and in the local paper a very simple case would often be clouded with a mystery which would have baffled a Sherlock Holmes. On one occasion a prominent business man was arrested for misrepresentation and quietly lodged in the jail. Glaring accounts of how he resisted the officers appeared in the papers.. Not until after the excitement had abated did a true account of the arrest appear.

There was seemingly a tendency to create romance out of the monotonous routine of village life. Certain spectacular cases such as those involving murder, assault and battery and especially those involving sexual relations were viewed with interest by the whole community. The personal element also entered in more in the earlier periods than it does today. If a well known person had a case in court the court room would usually be crowded with people who came "just to see how he would come out". The cases which have created the greatest interest have been those involving a violation of the prohibitory laws. The reasons for this is that there has been two factions in the population, one faction favoring and the other condemning the enforcement of these laws. Two important prohibitions have swept the town, one occurring in 1892 and one in 1900. Both of these were part of a general reaction against the sale of intoxicants. Since 1900 there have been no "joints" in town and only occasionally have "bootlegging" cases come before the courts. Consequently interest in these cases has waned. However, even nowcases of this nature create considerable interest. We might summarize the development of juristic activities in the town by saying that the personal interest in a case has waned and the tendency to view litigation as a business proposition has increased.

Early politics were extremely partisan and antagonistic. In our chapter on the growth of towns we mentioned the influence of the promoting class. This same class became the manipulator of the party machinery in the county. As would be expected the

manipulated it to advance their personal interests. The rest of the population were simply "our people". The Republican party has been the dominant party in the county. From the organization of the county in 1870 to the Populist movement in the early nineties this party had little opposition in the county. However, this party did not rest on their laurels, but closely guarded their advantage. The "bloody shirt" was incessantly waved in the face of impending opposition. An old politician in speaking of the early political methods said "Oh, they were fine fellows and I always liked the boys, but we had to beat them. The easiest way to do it was to call them "rebels". They retaliated by calling us "a gang of grafters", but, strange to say, nobody would believe them and so we always had it on them. They would have done us the same way if they would have had a chance. It was dirty but in those days it was considered good politics". This statement from a man who was one of the "manipulators" pictures the conditions. The idea was to win and if foul play was necessary the politician was justified in practicing it. This partisan spirit often became bitter. In announcing the results of the election in 1888 the local paper contained this announcement: "Kansas is Republican. Democracy, hypocrisy and anarchy are all snowed under." The following editorial also shows the partisan spirit: "How to see one's self as a great Republican Leader; Make an all around ass of yourself and then look in the opposition papers". But we must not ~~do~~ ^{rely} too much on these sarcastic statements. Beneath it all was a sort of rough horse play. The manipulators enjoyed the game.

In one of the early campaigns a colored man was a candidate on the State ticket and the amendment to extend suffrage to women was up for ratification as was also the amendment prohibiting the sale of liquor in the state. The people in the county split on these questions. One faction accused the other of standing for "niggers and free love" and in turn they themselves were accused of standing for "whisky and the Devil." The accusations, however, were merely good natured "slaps" at one another.

In the early period, however, politics were too one sided to create much excitement. But with the Populist movement the factions became more evenly divided and in the election of 1892 political spirit was tuned to a very high pitch. There were several reasons for this. The Populist movement offered real opposition to the Republican party. With this movement principles figured along with partisanship. In this campaign a local man was running for governor on the Republican ticket. This added to the interest of the campaign. This political spirit remained at a high pitch thru the period of industrial depression and reached another climax in 1896. From then the Republican party had smooth sailing in the county until 1908. In this year the "old machine" went to pieces at the first primary. From 1896 political antagonism has gradually waned and in the last few years partisan spirit is also showing signs of weakness. People are commencing to vote more for principle and personal merit and less for party.

The personal element has never entered into politics like party spirit has. One reason for this is the fact that the party

machine was always careful to keep harmony in the party. Personal acquaintance has often been disadvantageous to a candidate. When the local man run for governor he failed to carry the county. There was really no fault to find with the man. He was honest enough and had abilities. But he was too well known. He had been met too often in the ordinary walks of life. Consequently he appeared common and the people voted for an outside man. But we ~~should not~~ make too much out of this. In 1898 when a local man ran on the State ticket he led the ticket and carried the county by a big majority. However in the latter case the candidate had never appeared before the people at an election. He thus had the advantage of being both a local man and a stranger.

Another factor in the county politics has been that of nationality. The Swedes have always been active in politics and in manipulating party machinery. Consequently they have always come in for their share of the grapes. While the Germans and Mennonites have not been active, a candidate has usually been chosen from their community in order to attract their vote.

In town politics local questions have caused divisions. Thus in 1892 the factions were divided on account of difference in attitudes towards the "joints". The women turned the tide and the "joints" were closed. This faction remaining in control, for several years the town was run on a "Sunday School" rather than on a business plan. The business^{men} resented this and in 1900 they lined up against the women and the ministers and defeated the "Sunday School" ticket. During the last few years the progressive

and conservative elements have lined up against one another. The progressive element desire municipal improvements and the conservative element would cut down expenditures. Thus at every election some paving proposition or sewerage question is the bone of contention.

Chapter IV

Cultural Activities.

Under the general heading of cultural activities we shall consider those activities which have been carried on, not for economic purposes, but because they have value in themselves. In these activities satisfaction does not consist so much in the attainment of definite ends as it does in pursuit. When we classify these activities into religious, intellectual, and social and recreative activities we must again guard against the danger of separating social activities. Often economic activities are religious, intellectual, social and even recreative as well as commercial. Cultural activities also may assume a commercial phase. These activities also overlap with one another. Thus religious activities are intellectual and social as well as religious. The same might be said for intellectual and social activities. However, each of these activities are governed by some central interest and the other interests are merely byproducts. We can thus make our classification on the basis of central interests. In this light let us classify cultural activities into (1) religious activities, (2) intellectual activities, and (3) social and recreative activities.

(1) A consideration of religious activities naturally suggests those institutions whose chief interest is the promotion of religious thought. From the earliest times the religious activity of Mankind has been characterized by division and superfluity of denominations. As early as 1890 there were ten different

denominations running announcements in the local papers. Aside from the churches other institutions such as the Y.M.C.A. and other auxiliaries connected with the various denominations have figured prominently during different periods. During the early period social selection on the basis of denominational preference was not very strong. People of different denominations had to compromise and cooperate. Thus when there were no church buildings and only one hall available the Baptists, Methodists and Congregationalists were allowed the use of it on alternating Sundays. Because of this inconvenience in carrying on their own services, church going people of different denominations attended one another's meetings. This same attitude was again assumed during the period of industrial depression when it was suggested that the different churches should cooperate in order to cut down expenses. Social selection along the lines of denominational preference has been strongest during prosperous periods because during these periods people were financially able to support the church of their preference. There has never been any marked antagonism among the different churches. With the exception of the two Swedish churches and the Dunkards, the churches and ministers have often united in carrying out various enterprises. The Dunkards have more or less isolated themselves and the influence of nationality has tended to keep the Swedish people from cooperation with other denominations. As far back as 1880 "Union Services" were carried on. In that year a week of prayer was decided upon and all the churches joined in recognizing it.

During the last two periods this cooperative tendency has become stronger. Churches do not only join in union services, but a Ministerial Union has been organized which is conducive to a better mutual understanding between the different denominations.

During the first three periods of economic development religion was largely negative. It consisted in the observance of a certain number of "don'ts". If these don'ts were strictly observed eternal life would be the reward. Heaven hereafter was the end and guiding thought in the religious activity of the early periods. Consequently conduct was governed largely by the expectation of reward or punishment in a future state. But we must not assume that the church was not aggressive. In standing for the observance of "don'ts" it has always combated certain institutions and enterprises. In the early nineties it line up against the "joints". Time and again we have had illustrations of the churches coming out against the pool hall and Sunday baseball. Along with the strict observance of "don'ts" there was a strict construction of the Bible. Even as late as 1903 the Methodist minister was retired, because he questioned the historic authenticity of Genesis. This case, however, is interesting because it reveals the beginning of the changing order in religious thought. The fact that the case almost created a schism in the church shows that many people were becoming more liberal in their thinking along religious lines. The tendency during the last period has been to emphasize the social significance of Christianity. This tendency has shown itself in

various activities. Banquets are now given in some churches at which such problems as education, or sanitation are discussed. We thus see how the churches are becoming interested in social problems.

While revival meetings have been frequent, on only one occasion did such a meeting create intense excitement. This was in 1906. At this series of meetings over a thousand "confessions" were made. Pleasures were condemned and for a short time after these meetings such entertainments as theatres, cards and dancing were dispensed with. But, like every other revival, its influence was short lived and people soon returned to their old way of living. In 1891 the local paper contained some sayings" from a revivalist who was holding a series of meetings in the town. Some of these sayings are as follows: "The Devil does not get drunk. The Devil does not swear. The Devil does not steal. The Devil is a gentleman. Man does the Devil's work. There is more in a boy than in a steer. Man is more contrary than a sheep." These statements show the methods used by the early revivalist and this method has changed very little. However, during the last period there has been a growing resentment against revivals. This is another evidence that religion in the town is assuming a more practical phase.

(2) The intellectual activities during the first two periods were very meagre. During the formative period people were too poor and during the boom period they were too busy to engage in purely intellectual activities. The early school was too local and its curriculum was too meagre. The relations of the

school to the community was not realized and consequently only those people who had children in school took an interest in it. The good teacher was the one who could "keep order", regardless of other qualifications.

Perhaps the greatest educative influence during these periods was the newspaper. The early local newspaper was everything but local. At first it served mainly as a means of advertisement for real estate men. Later it confined itself to foreign topics and politics. The following is a description of the average edition of the local paper during the early periods of town development. The paper consisted of four pages, there being nine columns to each page. On the first page were four columns of advertisements. A sensational story occupied four columns. The remaining column was given to advertisements, editorials, foreign topics and official notices. The second page contained three columns of editorials and politics, three columns of miscellaneous matter, and three columns of advertisements and notices. The third page was made up of five columns of politics and advertisements, two columns of public notices and two columns of local news. On the fourth and last page were six columns of advertisements. A story and poem occupied two columns. The remaining column contained notices and foreign topics. From this description we can understand how local the local paper really was. Of the thirty six columns only two were devoted to local news. But we can also readily see that in reading such a paper the more or less isolated townsman got a glimpse of the outside world. With the introduction of the reconstructive period when development of local interests

began to be agitated the newspaper became more local. Since then it has confined itself mainly to home problems and local gossip.

The "boom" period, however, was not entirely void of intellectual activities. People were prosperous and as we have before intimated "rich folk" and "city folk" were *imitated*. As early as 1883 McPherson had six students at Kansas University and several at other institutions of learning. To have a son "away at college" was a mark of distinction. Theatres and lectures were common. Perhaps the most popular lectures during this period were those on travel.

The period of industrial depression was really the formative period in intellectual activities. In the latter part of the eighties when the boom was commencing to subside people began to reconstruct their interests. A college was established in the town in 1887 and this helped to stimulate intellectual activities. Regular weekly meetings of the literary societies at the college were held and were attended by many of the people of the town. Clubs were formed on the basis of kindredship of interests. A "Kent" club was organized by the lawyers and the doctors organized a medical society. Chautauqua reading courses were pursued by many of the town's people. Reading clubs were popular. It was very characteristic of these reading clubs to consider topics entirely foreign to their everyday life and to attempt to cover a vast field in their discussions. Thus in a certain reading circle Maria, Theresa, Pestalozzi, Humbolt, Daniel O'Connell, Simon Bolivar, Champollion, and Andrew Jackson were discussed during a single session. This was an average program of this circle,

and we might add that the circle lasted five years and had regular weekly sessions.

During the last two periods there has been an elaboration of those intellectual activities commenced during the previous periods. During these last periods there has developed a realization of a closer relationship between education and life. Consequently the schools have received more attention. Lectures have become popular and for several years lecture courses have been supported. In 1912 the first Chautauque was held and received loyal support. There has developed a desire for reading. In 1902 a public library was started. It has grown steadily. While fiction is still the most popular reading there is developing a tendency to read books requiring study. In the present period people are becoming interested in books which have to deal with practical subjects. Thus books on scientific agriculture, sanitation, municipal government are being read. Study circles are more popular than ever, but there is more of a tendency to specialize than during previous periods. Thus we have "domestic arts" clubs, "fine arts" clubs, "progressive literature" clubs, etc.

(3) The social and recreative activities during the first period of town development were characterized by informality. We would be led to expect this when we consider the character of the people who came to the town. Most of the people who came to the town were young. They came from different communities with different ideals and customs. Consequently no fixed custom predominated. Thus when these young people, trained in different schools of life, were thrown together in a pioneer town they simp-

ly sought outlets for their natural impulses of sociability and play and were not hampered by any breach of decorum. The only custom a stranger was expected to observe was that of sociability. He had to join in "having a general good time". If he refused to do this he would soon become a social outcast. Neither wealth nor family figured during pioneer days. They were all strangers and in a new country all were equal.

These people had to find some means of sociability and entertainment. Consequently impromptu dances were given in the hotel which was the popular meeting place. How impromptu these dances really were and how free from social custom is shown by this statement from one of the earliest settlers. "We had some great dances in those days. Of course we were sometimes short on girls, but we resurrected the landlady, the two chamber maids and the cook and that way we always had enough for at least one reel". Another form of entertainment which was popular during this period was the home talent play. A livery stable had been erected in the town and this was utilized for an opera house. The place was named "The Forbes Theatre". Before each home talent play large hand bills would appear announcing that "Ten Nights in a Bar Room will be Played at the Forbes Theatre by a Strong Caste of Characters." When questioned why the place was called "Forbes" an old settler answered "Well, we were so poor that the only thing we could afford was a big name."

These entertainments, however, were mainly of interest to

the town people. There was one form of entertainment which appealed to all classes. This was the circus. As early as 1878 glaring circus advertisements appeared in the local papers. "Circus day" was a great event. On this day the farmer brought the whole family to town. The whole community assembled in the town. This day was thus a great time for sociability.

During the boom period people were more imitative and consequently recreative activities became more formal. Pool and billiards became popular. In 1880 a roller skating rink was started. In the early eighties a County Fair was started and horse racing became popular. Baseball became popular in the latter part of the eighties and the scores of the big teams were published daily in the local paper. Local teams were organized. The real estate men played the lawyers, the "leans" played the "fats"; the married men played the single men etc. From this we see how the sport was gaining popularity. Theatres also became popular during this period. A new opera house was built and the town attracted first class talent. In 1889 Jana Vrchek made her appearance before a McPherson audience. However, these pleasure activities were carried on by the convivial element in the population there was always an austere element which opposed them as sinful and demoralizing. The antagonism of these two elements towards one another was very marked. This antagonism has lasted up to the present period. Austerity is still maintained by many people and by some denominations. However, the present tendency is towards a mutual understanding by the two factions.

During the period of industrial depression, while recreative activities were less showy, than during the boom period, they were, nevertheless, important. Horse races and foot races were popular. Baseball was still popular. During the latter part of the period the bicycle "craze" seized people. Theatres also during the latter part of this period were very popular.

During the later periods several crazes have seized the convivial class of people. Thus during the winter of '08-09 the town went wild over roller skating. Two rinks were started. In a short time, however, this craze subsided. The next year wrestling was extremely popular. This lasted only one winter. Baseball was very popular during the years of '09, '10 and '11 when the town supported a league team. Theatres are still popular but are of a higher type than during any previous period. The moving picture show was started in 1908 and is retaining its popularity. Dancing and card playing have never been very popular during the later periods. There has been a strong reaction against these forms of amusements by the austere element in the population.

In summing up these recreative activities we might say that during the early period they were characteristically impulsive. During the boom period they were largely imitative. During the later periods those forms of recreation which have been deemed of value have remained. At different times certain crazes have taken possession of people. We might also add that we cannot expect to understand the social mind of the whole population through a study of these pleasure activities. There has always been an

element in the population opposed to these activities. During the earlier periods this ^{element} attempted to quench entirely the natural impulse to play. They are now, however, assuming a more sane attitude and are attempting to regulate the expression of this impulse. Consequently a spirit of mutual understanding between the austere and convivial elements is being fostered.

Summary: In summarizing our study of the social development of McPherson we might note the following facts. In the beginning there was a coming together of people with different training and diversified interests. These people meeting and mingling with one another formed certain attitudes towards different interests. During the boom period they lost themselves in the pursuit of wealth and show. During the periods following this period of prosperity social selection took place along various lines of interest. In the present period socialization is taking place in a new manner. People of different interests are getting together for the promotion of mutual interests. Thru this process of association with one another people have commenced to see their social relations with the outside world. They have a broader outlook on life. At the present time these people are commencing to see, as they never saw before, the significance and relation of social institutions such as the home, the school, the state and the church, and, what is even more promising, they are commencing to see their relation to these institutions.