

## Bypaths of Kansas History

### WHAT KANSANS WERE READING THE DAY LINCOLN DIED

From the *Junction City Union*, April 15, 1865.

A FIGHT AND A FOOT RACE.—The denizens on Seventh street, in the neighborhood of the crib of Matt. Beckers, were much amused one day last week by a rencountre between Matt. and his better half. It appears that Matt. was engaged in a game at cards with a soldier, who attempted to cheat, (most likely it was vice versa), and Matt. sought his revolver by which to obtain redress. The better-half kept the shooting iron from him, which excited his filial affection, and he turned upon the sharer of his joys and sorrows. Knowing, as she did, that he would strike, she started across lots, her valiant lord pursuing, with hatchet in hand. He threw the hatchet at her, but an intervening fence saved her the blow. By-standers assert that the manner in which the splinters flew demonstrated felonious intentions. This, being a domestic affair, may be beyond our province, but it occurred on the commons, before the sharp eye of our reporter.

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### THE PERILS OF PIONEER PEDAGOGY

From the *Caldwell Journal*, November 15, 1883.

Last Tuesday a party of cowboys working on some of the ranges southwest, while on their way from Caldwell to camp, took occasion to indulge in more of the same kind of ruffianism of which the people along the road have had to complain during the past summer.

Stopping at the Mayhew school house, they forced the teacher, young Mr. Beals, to drink whisky out of a bottle they had. Arriving opposite the next school house, they fired several shots at it. On the other side of Bluff creek, a few miles of Donaldson's ford, is the school house of District No. 144. Here they amused themselves by shooting the lock off the door, filling the door full of bullet holes and shooting the lights out of several windows. They fired several shots into the next school house west, doing but little damage.

At the school house in Dist. No. 72, they gave the teacher, John Lowry, about the same treatment they did Mr. Beals, compelling him to drink their villainous whisky.

It is about time measures should be taken to put an effectual stop to proceedings of the above kind, and we know no other way than for the people living along the route on which the ruffians do their devilment, to ascertain the names of the parties, and have them arrested and punished. While the rascals are in town our marshal and his assistant can make them behave; but between town and camp it devolves upon those living along the line to see that they are forced, in one way or another, to conduct themselves properly.

## DO YOU REMEMBER THE MEDICINE SHOWS?

From the Winfield *Daily Courier*, March 25, 1890.

The Hamlin Wizard Oil company that arrived in this city yesterday, gave one of their fine concerts at Manning's opera house last evening. The music is made up of vocal and instrumental pieces, consisting of all the latest songs and airs. It is to say the least a very creditable performance, and the opera house was filled with a good audience. This is the first of a series of six engagements they are to play, and the way they opened last night will insure a large attendance for the further entertainments. Toward the close of the program last night they sold a few bottles of medicine with a season ticket for the remaining five nights. The regular price of admission is 10 and 15 cents. The company is first class and the whole performance is filled with fun and music, all of a high character. The exhibition to-night is to be one of their best. During the program a drawing was held, Albert Hough and J. F. McMullen being the lucky ones. The former drew a silver plated castor and the latter a set of knives and forks. At Manning's opera house this evening.

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 OBVIOUSLY, IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE

From the Wellington *Monitor*, July 17, 1891.

Desiring to ascertain at whose door the responsibility lies for the omission of Jackson and Dixon townships in this county from the legislative apportionment bill, we addressed a letter to the secretary of state, inquiring whether in the original enrolled law filed in his office the names of these townships are found. From the reply printed below it appears that Dixon township will not be effected by the blunder, as the official copy of the law contains its name, and its omission from the session laws on account of an error in proof-reading in his office will not deprive its citizens of the right to vote for a representative from the 70th legislative district. The case is different with Jackson, which being omitted from the bill as it reached his office from the hands of the enrolling clerks of the legislature, is shut out entirely, and unless the act is remedied in special session before 1892, which is altogether improbable, the voters of Jackson will have no voice in the election of a member of the next legislature. Mr. Higgins' letter is as follows:

*J. G. Campbell, Esq., Wellington, Ks.*

DEAR SIR: In reply to your favor of the 12th instant, I will say that I have examined the original enrolled law which is on file in this office, and I find that the township of Jackson is omitted from it, but the township of Dixon is not omitted, and constitutes a part of the 70th representative district. Its omission from the printed session laws was no fault of the state printer, but was an error in the proof-reading in this office. This error, however, does not affect the law as passed and signed by all the proper officers and approved by the governor. Jackson township not appearing in the enrolled law, is of course left out of the apportionment.

Very respectfully,  
 WILLIAM HIGGINS,  
 Secretary of State.

Office of Secretary of State, Topeka, July 14, '91.