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AN INDIAN MASSACRE.

The Story of One which Occurred in 1864, On the Site of Great Bend.



WHEN one walks out upon the streets of our beautiful little city these lovely spring mornings and notes the many evidences of the march of civilization; the pleasant homes surrounded by fruit and shade trees, the spires of magnificent churches, imposing brick and stone business buildings and commodious school houses, it is hard to realize that only a few short years ago possibly the very ground on which one walks was drenched with the blood of brave men, the forerunners of the enlightened civilization of the present.

The death of Isaac V. Cowan, at his home in Neosho county on April 20th, recalls one of the most terrible Indian massacres of the west in early times. It was in 1864, and Mr. Cowan was working with a government freighting crew. This crew started on a trip from Fort Leavenworth, over the old Santa Fe trail, for New Mexico, but never reached its destination. Cowan was one of four or five men who escaped the tomahawk of the red men. The story of the massacre, which was written up by one of the survivors and published in the St. Louis Republic, is as follows:

The train consisted of 32 freight wagons and 35 men. Elmore Crow, a lean, wiry old speculator, a native of Illinois, was proprietor or contractor; James Riggs was wagonmaster or captain, and John Hyle, a man who had seen lots of service on the frontier, was assistant wagonmaster. The rest of the party was made up of teamsters employed by Crow. The train was engaged in hauling Government stores from Fort Leavenworth, Kas., to Fort Union, N. M., a distance of 900 miles, and half the distance had been accomplished.

Not far from the present site of Great Bend, on the north side of the river and near the mouth of a stream known as Walnut creek, was a military outpost, Fort Zarah. It was 35 miles from Fort Larned, and was in reality only a stage station garrisoned by about 40 soldiers. A thick clump of walnut trees grew at the mouth of the creek from which its name was derived. Scattering plum bushes and grapevines skirted its banks on either side.

About half past eight o'clock on this eventful morning, when the advance of the long train came in sight of Fort Zarah, one of the teamsters detected a body of Indians emerging from a thicket of plum bushes about five miles distant up the creek. The train was then about two or three miles from Fort Zarah, which was directly on their line of travel. The Indians rode in a gallop across the plains and made for the head of the train. They rode in unbroken order in double file, and when at a distance of a mile or so the teamsters discovered them to be Kiowa and Brule Sioux warriors, about 100 in number dressed out in all the toggery of the warpath.

Still maintaining the order of their march in double column, the red warriors galloped up to the head of the train, where a division was made, and one half of their number rode down each side of the long line of wagons. They were all armed, a few of the leading braves carrying rifles, but the most of them had single-barreled, smooth-bore guns or bows and arrows, and a few carried spears. They permitted no sign of hostile intention to escape them, and as they rode down the lines at a smart gallop they stopped long enough to shake hands with each teamster and utter the single word "How?" in their guttural, broken way.

The trainmen, from old experienced Jack Hyle down to the merest lad, fell completely into the trap which had been so adroitly laid for them and were entirely surrounded and hemmed in before the wily Indians revealed their treacherous designs. Without fire-

arms (except a single shot-gun) or arms of any kind, and outnumbered three to one, they were at the mercy of the savages. Many of the drivers were walking by the side of their wagons when the massacre began.

The signal for a general attack was made by the head chief, Little Turtle, but owing to some delay in giving it the Indians in the rear left the head of the train free before the firing commenced. The bloody work began at the rear of the long train where the principal braves had ridden and at a whoop from Little Turtle the treacherous warriors poured in a storm of leaden bullets, arrows and spears. The attack was so sudden and unexpected that the white men could offer no resistance. Those of the train who were not killed at the first fire sought safety in flight.

Just at this juncture a great commotion drew the Indians further down the train, and it was to this excitement that many of the trainmen attributed their escape. At this critical moment A. M. Gentry, the only man in the train with a gun, had done deadly execution with the single load it contained. An Indian shot him in the leg with a rifle ball, but Gentry jumped into his wagon, seized his gun and paid a return compliment, shooting at the Indian then riding toward him with a tomahawk, killing both horse and rider instantly. He then sprang out of the wagon and made his escape.

Gentry's shot seemed to disconcert the redskins, and four of their number leaped from their horses, seized the fallen Indian, wrapped him up in a blanket and bore him swiftly away over the prairie. This was the only Indian killed and the trainmen believed that he was a brave high in authority.

When Gentry made his escape, still carrying his now empty gun, the red warriors did not dare follow him. They are arrant cowards, and the mere fact that the survivors who gathered around Gentry and beat a retreat for the fort had one gun in their midst led to their immunity from further attack. Those who escaped hurried away from the dreadful scene as fast as their legs could carry them.

Mrs. H. A. Boshell, of Buffalo township, last week received back pension, as a soldiers' widow, in the sum of near \$2000.

The School Visitor for May is out, and contains much good reading matter that will be found of interest to all educators.

Amos Johnson was in town Friday last. He said he had not noticed any of the much talked of canker worms in his orchard.

Paradise is located in Russell county and a woman there has named her boy and girl Adam and Eve, says the Ellsworth Messenger.

He came to see her, stormy nights when she nowhere could go; she liked to see him at such times, and called him her "rain beau."

A little son of J. P. Hagaman, of near Verbeck, was kicked on the leg by a horse he was taking to pasture, last week. No bones were broken.

Frank Hethel, Jr., of Independent township, returned from Boston, Mass., last week. Frank at one time worked as a printer in the DEMOCRAT office.

A parrot that talks too much is not as bad as some men with the same failing. The parrot will not go out and buttonhole you and make you listen to him.

C. L. Hobart, of the Hoisington Dispatch, was elected secretary of the seventh district republican editorial association, at its meeting in Hutchinson last week.

Mrs. J. C. Weathers, who is now in Topeka having her eye doctored, has written home that the doctor thinks she will not have to have her eye taken out.

Dress Makers and Seamstresses: Look to your own interests and investigate the Standard Garment Cutting System, taught in the Dress Cutting School now located over the Cyclone store, second stairs south of the Farmers & Merchants Bank, Great Bend. Teachers wanted.

Mrs. S. W. MOYER, Instructor.

SCHOOL IS OUT.

Commencement Exercises of the Great Bend High Schools.



WHEN the "class of '98" of the city high school assembled on the stage of the Grand Opera house, Wednesday night, the budding Misses dressed in cool and refreshing costume and winsome smiles; the proud youths conscious of having mastered the highest problems in the common school curriculum; plentiful floral offerings scattered profusely about and proud parents and warm friends filling the auditorium to its fullest capacity a pretty picture was presented, and a pleasing one withal.

Eleven graduates comprise the class of '95, and all departed themselves handsomely. All did so well that individual mention is unnecessary. May every undertaking of their future lives of usefulness move on as smoothly and pleasantly as did these graduating exercises.

THE EXERCISES.

The program opened with music, followed by an invocation of Divine blessings upon the young ladies and gentlemen just entering upon life's tempestuous voyage.

James A. Lewis, the only colored member of the class, son of Dock Lewis, of the second ward, opened the oratorical exercises, his subject being: "Electricity—What Then?"

Miss Allie Honnen, sister of Will Honnen and Mrs. J. W. Brown, of the first ward, spoke upon "The Higher Education of Women."

Miss Elta Purviance, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Purviance, of the third ward, chose as her theme: "In Today Already Walks Tomorrow."

Lot Ewalt, son of Marshall R. T. Ewalt, spoke upon "Radiant Matter." Miss Nellie Dodge, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wall H. Dodge, of the north part of town, delineated "The Influence of the Environment."

Elmer Dale, of the south part of town, son of B. S. Dale, told of his ideas of "The Proper Financial System for a Republic."

Miss Bessie Connett, oldest daughter of Dr. A. H. Connett, had as her subject: "There are Things Better than Science."

Miss Sadie Dale, oldest daughter of B. S. Dale, chose as her subject the poetical quotation: "Age Cannot Wither, nor Custom Stale, the Infinite Variety of a Well Stored Mind."

Miss Francis Meek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Meek, told the interesting story of "Portia."

Wilbur Frey, second son of Reuben Frey, deceased, spoke upon "The Ideal of Our Nation."

Miss Fannie Breuser, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bruesser, of the second ward, entertainingly described "The Power of Music."

Music, both vocal and instrumental, was rendered during the program, and altogether a very entertaining evening was spent by those in attendance.

The diplomas were presented by the president of the board of education, after which a benediction was pronounced and congratulations offered.

The Baccalaureate sermon was delivered by Rev. L. C. Schnacke, pastor of the Congregational church, on Sunday, the 3d, 11 a. m., at the M. E. church, the students of the city schools marching in a body to the church and giving close attention to the fitting words of the able speaker.

On Tuesday evening, the 5th, the Grand opera house was reasonably well filled to listen to the class address by Prof. Swenson, president of the Lindsborg college, and one of the foremost educators of the west.

The new graduates will assist in a reception to be given by the Philomathean society, Friday evening, at the A. O. U. W. hall.

HISTORICAL.

The first class that graduated from the Great Bend high school was in 1888, and the eleven graduates of this year make a total of 66 in the nine years since, and including, 1888. Of

the 66 an even 40 are still residents of this county, while 26 are scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific; 2 have crossed the dark waters to the unknown beyond, and 6 have embarked upon the sea of matrimony.

Following is a roster of the graduates:

1888.	1893.
Florence Poole.	Frank Thatcher
1889.	Allie Gwinn
Chas. V. Brinkman	Betta Nimocks
Frank Craig	Ben Dale
Viola Pelter	Helen Turner
Mattie Pruitt	Burt Buckland
Lizzie Phelps	Low Rankin.
Fred Duffenbacher.	1894.
1890.	Beno Thatcher
Ola Brinkman	Meilie Morgan
Lillian Brinkman	Vida Shaw
Areble Reece	George Nimocks
Lois Reese	Anna Crumack
Jettie McBride	Lee Hillis
Marie Wallace	Ella Miller
Emma Bell	Katie Vollmer
Eugene Strobel	E. P. Buess
Kittle Ostermeyer	Mamie Foster.
Ed Buckland.	1895.
Chas. L. Zutavern.	Annie R. Taylor
1891.	Eugenia Nevels
Chas. Allen	Amanda Flanley
Roy Phelps	Benj. Osborne
Bertha Frey	Nannie Legg.
Frank Fruit	1896.
Eilse Moss.	James A. Lewis
1892.	Allie Honnen
George C. Turner	Elta Purviance
Eta M. Frey	Lot Ewalt
Pauline Willner	Nellie Dodge
Blanche Nimocks	Elmer Dale
Allie Hosack	Bessie Connett
Mae Meek	Sadie Dale
Chas. Easley	Frances Meek
Ada Weltmer	Wilbur Frey
May Woodburn.	Fannie Bruesser.

Embroidery silk, 7 spools for 5c at the Racket. tf

Kansas' fruit crop is all killed again; this time with worms.

Stanley Patterson is the new section boss of the Mo. P. at this place.

Zepkyer Gingham for 7c a yard at the Racket. tf

Miss Ella Cline visited Hoisington Monday and Tuesday of this week.

Democratic county convention a week from Saturday—on May 16th.

We can save you money on all kinds of Dry Goods at the Racket. tf

John Lindas, of Pawnee Rock, was doing business in town last Thursday.

New strawberries are in the market. We expect to sample some—in a month or so.

John Frank went up to Dodge City last of the week, on irrigation business.

Who has a pig, or hogs, to trade for corn? See A. L. Miller—he's got the corn. tf

W. C. Moyer left Monday on an overland trip through the west part of the state.

DRESS MAKING, by Mrs. A. B. Miller, at her home. Work, and a fit guaranteed.

The band showed up last Saturday all right, and gave the visitors to the city some entertaining music.

I will open a summer school in the Central school building, May 18.

ELLA M. DAY.

Sunday was an ideal spring day, and many cyclists and pleasure carriages thronged the streets all day.

The trains between Great Bend and Scott City now leave here in the evening and arrive in the morning.

Herman Strobel is working at the barber business in Cripple Creek, Colo., when not dodging fires.

Ernest Panne, of east of town, and Fritz Dumkow, of Albert, were among those to renew on the DEMOCRAT Saturday.

Girls who want to keep their hands white should soak them in dish water three times a day, immediately after meals.

The east side schools gave a picnic on the Walnut last Saturday. The west side has an inning (or an outing?) next Saturday.

If those orchard worms hung onto the trees during the late high winds they are stayers—typical Kansas worms to be sure.

Shelton's Patent Tomb Casting, both Monuments and Slabs, for sale by A. B. Miller, north side of square. Get his prices before you buy.

WANTED:—A seamstress, to do sewing at the house. Inquire at this office.

PERSONAL POINTS.

Brief Notes About the Coming and Going of Our Neighbors and Friends.



WANTING an outing that will give him the right kind of exercise and enable him to see some of the country. Chas. Donley started to Iowa on his wheel, Monday of this week, to be gone a month.

* Fred Wolf was up from Ellinwood Friday night.

* W. C. Lindsay was over from the north side, Friday.

* Mrs. R. B. Warren visited Bob, at Hutchinson, last week.

* Will Hayse has again taken the street sprinkling business.

* John Bement, of Pawnee Rock, was a Bend visitor Saturday.

* Dave Heizer came in from the west for a few days' visit, last week.

* C. A. Williams, of the east side, was doing business in town, Monday.

* Mrs. Shusafelt, of Ohio, came out last week to visit with her son, Ed.

* Geo. Orr, formerly of Hoisington, came back from Missouri, last week.

* Pat Boughan and daughter, Miss Ella, returned from Missouri, Monday.

* C. M. Wantland was over from the north side after a load of feed, Saturday.

* Treasurer Frank Maxon, of Stafford county, was in the city last Friday.

* Ed L. Teed was circulating among Great Bend friends the first of the week.

* Henry Uden, of Cheyenne, was doing some trading in the city last Friday.

* Will Klein and Harry Turck were two Ellinwood business men in town Monday.

* Miss Alice Ayers, daughter of C. P. Ayers of the south side, is visiting in Illinois.

* Mrs. J. W. Johnson, a sister of Dr. C. E. Castle, is here from Illinois on a visit.

* Mrs. O. W. Devine, of Heizer, visited Great Bend friends the latter part of last week.

* Yes, Mrs. Eppstein came back—after Epp had grown a mustache again—not before.

* Tom Hart spent Saturday and Sunday with his mother and sisters in Great Bend.

* J. S. Dalziel was over from Claflin to get acquainted with the wife and children, Monday.

* Martin Musil and Frank Redfield were up from Ellinwood to Masonic lodge Friday evening last.

* Ed Tyler's oldest daughter, Mrs. Dora Pratt, came up from Wichita last week on a visit to her parents.

* Misses Bertha French and Katie Lewis, of Hoisington, were callers at the DEMOCRAT office last Saturday.

* Among the Hoisington visitors to Great Bend, Saturday, we noticed Mesdames J. C. Almond and J. C. Lytle, Miss Birdie Siddorn, Jim Pengh, Stanley Siddorn and Albert Townsend.

State Sunday School Convention.

The Kansas State Sunday School Convention will meet at Ottawa, (Forest Park) June 12th to 15th, 1896.

Some of the best workers from New York, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas are upon the program.

The railroad fare will be one fare for the round trip, good to remain through the Chautauqua Assembly, which will be in session from the 15th to 26th.

Barton county is entitled to as many delegates as she has Sunday schools, which is 42. Take your Bibles, pencils and note books with you. For further information apply to

J. J. WINTERBORG, County Secretary.

Mens Parale shirts at the Racket for 47c. Give them a trial. tf

Hear the measly kids all shout, school is out.