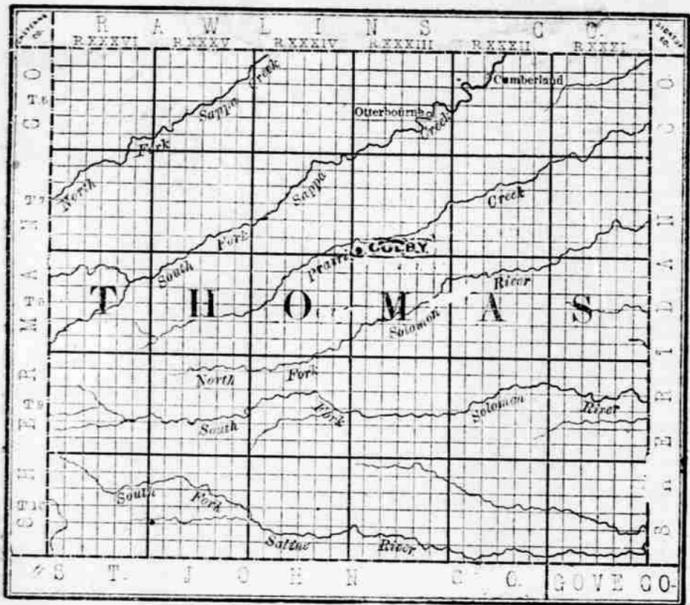


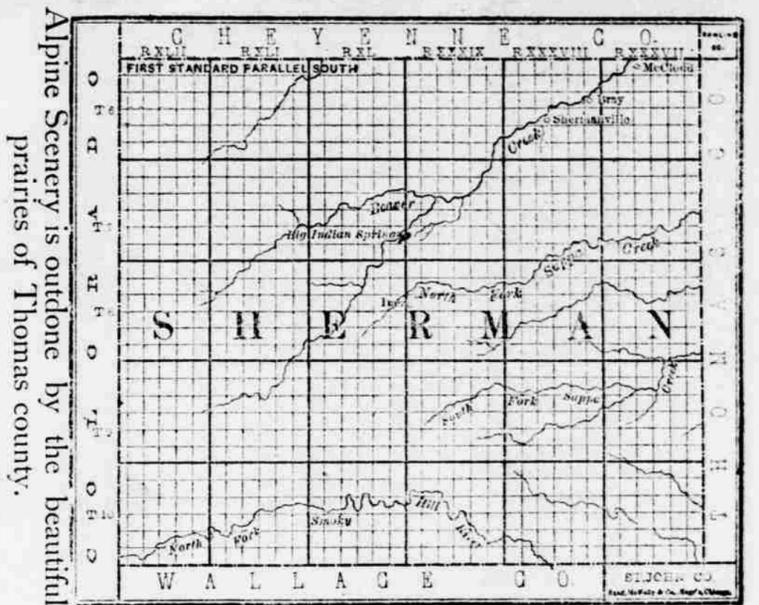


THOMAS COUNTY.

161 Population January 1st, '85 THE CHANGE December 1st, '85, 3,000



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THE THOMAS COUNTY CAT. WORCESTER & CASEY, EDITORS. From the Nebraska City Daily Press. PEARMAN AT LARGE. The Major Has His Say Regarding One of the New and Promising Counties of Kansas. COLBY, THOMAS CO., KAN., Nov. 23. Our little party allowed to in my letter at Voltaire, arrived here at 8 p. m. to-night. We traveled over as pretty country as the eye ever beheld, and it is no wonder that every man who comes here is delighted with the country, and especially the town of Colby, the county seat of Thomas county. It was located last May by Dr. D. M. Dunn, J. B. McGougal, S. C. Mills and a few others, who have within a space of six months witnessed the building of a city second to none in northwest Kansas, and if it continues as it has begun, will in a few years become the commercial center of all northwestern Kansas and eastern Colorado. Its buildings are all first-class, from two to three stories high; its streets wide and sidewalks and cross walks as good as could be asked for. It contains two banks, three general stores, any quantity of stores in which a general assortment of merchandise is kept and sold as cheap as you can purchase elsewhere. Three lumber yards are here all doing a good business. The TOM CAT is here also, and after looking at it for some time I came to the conclusion that such a cat is a good thing to have in a town. It brings forth a litter of kittens once a week and is open as soon as born, and can be had for five cents each, or fifty-two at a less rate. It doesn't bump its head against the floor and make night hideous, as some town cats do, but it does make music that is soothing to the managers and patrons. It is the only weekly published in Thomas county that I know of, which its proprietors are pleased to call the Tom Cat, and well they might be, for its me-o-w-ups have been the means of giving Colby a population of at least a thousand people and inducing farmers, mechanics and business men generally to locate in the county and develop the resources of a deep productive soil. To appreciate the town and country it must be seen and to those looking westward for a home, or plan to invest their means Thomas county offers great inducements; come and see it. The Major slightly exaggerates, but in the main he is correct. J. W. PEARMAN. Public Land Statement. Below we give a list of the vacant lands in the counties of this land district:

TOPEKA & DENVER R. R. The Topeka & Denver Air Line Railway Co. has been chartered. The road is to be 40 miles long, and is to run between the points named. The capital stock is placed at \$10,000,000, in shares of \$100 each. The incorporators are Lieutenant Governor, A. P. Riddle, of Minneapolis; D. M. Dunn, of Colby; J. E. Martin, of Chapman; Thomas A. Osborn, P. G. Noel, L. M. Seaman, of Topeka; E. P. McCaule, of Millbrook. The directorship consists of nine members, viz: Thomas A. Osborn, P. G. Noel, Topeka; J. L. McDowell, Manhattan; J. E. Martin, Chapman; A. P. Riddle, Minneapolis; B. Vau-Slyke, Millbrook; D. M. Dunn, Colby; L. J. Best, Beloit; E. L. Shugart, Council Bluffs, Iowa. A charter has also been filed in Colorado, carrying the line into Denver. From Topeka to the crossing over the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway, this line is to run over the line owned by the Missouri Pacific railway, and from the Missouri, Kansas & Texas west over what is known as the Kansas Western, chartered a few months ago by the Missouri Pacific. The proposed route is west from Topeka to Alma, thence westward crossing the Missouri, Kansas & Texas at Wrexford, about ten miles south of Junction City, bearing slightly south it will cross the Kansas River near Kansas Falls; thence to Chapman on the Union Pacific railway; thence northwest up Chapman creek through Industry and the southeast two townships of Clay county; thence directly west to Minneapolis, crossing the Solomon Branch of the Union Pacific; thence northwesterly up Salt Creek through the northeast township of Lincoln county; thence west through the south part of Mitchell, Osborn and Roaks counties, touching Plainville, in Roaks; thence west to the South Fork of the Solomon, to follow up the north side of the river near the east line of Graham county; thence northwest to the east line of Sherman county; thence directly west through Kennebec and Colby, the county seats of Sherman and Thomas counties; and on through Sherman county to the west line of the State. It will be seen that this line will pass through the Kansas and Solomon valleys, and the great Paradise flats, the finest sections in the State. It is expected that work will be commenced on this route by April 1st, 1886. This road expects to get Kansas City connections by either the Chicago & Alton, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, or Milwaukee & St. Paul railways one of which will probably come to Topeka to secure so desirable a Western outlet. The new company has over \$1,000,000 cash to commence work with. Cleveland's Sensible Tariff Views. The fact that our revenues are in excess of the actual needs of an economical administration of the government, justifies a reduction in the amount exacted from the people for its support, our government is but the means established by the will of a free people by which certain principles are applied which they have adopted for their benefit and protection, and it is never better administered and its true spirit is never better observed than when the people's taxation for its support is scrupulously limited to the actual necessity of expenditures and distributed according to a just and equitable plan. The proportion with which we have to deal in the reduction of the revenue received by the government, and indirectly paid the people from custom duties, the question of free trade is not involved, nor is there now any occasion for the general discussion of the wisdom or expediency of a

protective system. Justice and fairness dictate that in any modification of our present laws relative to revenue, the industries and interests of which have been encouraged by such laws and in which our citizens have large investments should not be ruthlessly injured or destroyed. We should also deal with the subject in such manner as to protect the interests of American labor, which is the capital of our working men. Its stability and proper remuneration furnish the most justifiable pretext for a protective policy within these limitations. A certain reduction should be made in our customs and revenue, the amount of such reduction having been determined, the inquiry follows, where can it best be remitted, and what articles can best be released from duty in the interest of our citizens. I think the reduction should be made in the revenue derived from a tax upon the imported necessities of life. We thus directly lessen the cost of living in every family in the land and released to the people in every humble home a larger measure of the rewards of frugal industry during the year. About Cranky Sparks. A Washington correspondent writes: "No man has a more profound respect for law or so much reverence for a decision of the supreme court as Mr. Lamar, while Sparks is like a necessity. He knows no laws. The secretary has as little as possible to do with the commissioner of the general land office, but leaves him entirely to the mercies of Judge Jenks, the assistant secretary, who believes that Sparks is a flamboyant assistant and treat him accordingly. Scarcely a decision of Sparks has been appealed to the secretary that Jenks has not reversed, and there are a number of others that he would like to reverse if an opportunity could be given, but the secretary of the Interior has nothing to do with land questions unless an appeal is taken from the decision of the commissioner, as from a lower to a higher court. Some of the opinions of the commissioner and some of the instructions he has given to land officers, have come before the secretary unofficially, and he has expressed a very decided opinion about them, but they must stand until some poor suffering settler goes to the trouble and expense of making an appeal. Wendell Items. Nice weather; after so long a cold spell. Sunday School will close next Sunday for the winter. The literary at Cumberland postoffice was a grand success. The question was, "Resolved, That education is more beneficial than wealth." The negative gained the day. There was a larger crowd out at the literary last Monday night than ever before. I guess it was because it was such a beautiful night. We have good exercises at the literary every night. Program of last Monday night: Lizzie Sumner, select reading; Perle Summers, select reading; Mr. Yates and Mr. See, dialogue; Mary Strayer, declamation; Willie Stoby and Edna Middleton, dialogue; Mrs. Stoby, declamation; Mr. Marvin, song; Fred See, select reading. Wonder why Mr. Marvin is such an unlucky man? Fifty him! Miss Minnie Strayer has left the neighborhood. She is staying at Otterbourne. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all our friends. SNOO FLX.

Quickville. December 6, 1885. According to order Sunday school convened at the residence of F. W. Ladd. After singing, the meeting was called to order by J. C. Crane, after which the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Superintendent—G. W. Overhiser. Ass't Supt.—Mrs. M. Ladd. Secretary—F. W. Ladd. Treasurer—Mrs. T. H. Ragas. After other preliminary business was attended to, it was moved that the hour of Sabbath School be at half past one o'clock, also a copy of the proceedings be sent to the THOMAS COUNTY CAT. A cordial invitation is extended to all. Gem Ranch Clippings. Another snow storm has come and found several napping or not prepared for it, and I see that there are some that came here last spring, that are not prepared yet for winter. Mr. B. Wilkie and Mr. Holladay have gone to their native state to see their best girls, and will be apt to bring them back. Our literary is on the boom, the Gem Ticker meets every Friday night. The store at Gem Ranch is doing a good business and keeps provisions, groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, etc. Coal \$10 a ton. Call at Gem store and you will find the proprietor always courteous, accommodating and a welcome to all. Modified. Commissioner Sparks has modified his order of last April suspending final action to issue patents on settlement and improvement claims. The order is modified as follows: The commissioner will certify and request the issue of patents upon all entries not subject to reasonable doubt, viz: First—In contests where the rights of the successful parties have been established. Second—Where examinations have been made by government agents and no fraud appears. Third—Homestead entries where residence, improvements and cultivation have been made according to law, and a board, to consist of the assistant commissioner, the chief clerk and chief law clerk, is hereby organized to pass upon and report said cases to the commissioner. Chapter 115, session laws of 1885. "An act to regulate terms of court in the Sixteenth Judicial District, provides that the counties of Clark and Meade, until organized, are hereby attached to the county of Osmanche for judicial purposes. The counties of Clark and Meade have since been organized in compliance with the provisions of section 1, chapter 63, session laws of 1878. They are, therefore, not included in any judicial district, and are thus left without courts for the trial of causes. The above is a part of the Governor's proclamation calling an extra session of the legislature. Thomas was attached to Sheridan for judicial purposes, but after its organization it is not included in any judicial district. Sheridan has no jurisdiction over Thomas in any manner.

The Greatest of All. There is something about Kansas particularly precious to every one of us. There is no country on the green earth that can equal its beauty and grandeur. Every reaper in its fields sings songs of gladness, and every sheaf of the grain tells of its richness and fertility of the soil. The thousands of acres of growing wheat, the shout of men and laborers, hundreds of towns and cities nestled amid the deepening shadows or sitting gracefully upon the bosom of the vast prairies, the many happy homes that sound a royal welcome, that glide down the years of time in peace and plenty are the symbols of ennobling life and the precursors of the grandest thoughts and purposes. Kansas is an asylum and home of honest men at all times. It has been singularly unanimous in its regard of public pledge and enforcement of law. It has demanded always that simple manhood was superior to mere riches, and aristocracy, so called, has no recognition in its borders. Inexhaustible in nature, abounding in good harvests, unrivaled in scenery, and unsurpassed in schools and churches, she stands forth the greatest of all west of the father of waters, an honor to the government and a beacon light to progress and civilization.—Leavenworth Times. The following bills were introduced by the Kansas delegation in congress last Tuesday: By Mr. Ingalls—Making the appropriation for the purchase of two sites and the erection of two military posts on the south western frontier of Kansas. By Plumb—to prevent the acquisition of real property by aliens. Plumb introduced by request a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States in relation to the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. The Thomas county papers complain of the fact that Sheridan county officials are attempting to rush the sale of Thomas county school land before that county is organized. Antifunction suit has been commenced restraining the sale of any more school land in Thomas county now advertised for sale.—Topeka Commonwealth.

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