

## FEBRUARY



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

### THE PLATTE PURCHASE.

Some Historical and Statistical Matters Pertaining to This Garden Spot of the American Continent.

I.  
With this issue of THE SENTINEL we begin a series of articles giving briefly some historical and statistical matters pertaining to the Platte Purchase and Holt county. We feel that the time is especially opportune, as Holt county is now constituted, will be 64 years of age on next Wednesday, February 15, 1905. The act of the legislature creating the present boundaries of now Holt county, and the naming of the county, was passed February 15, 1841.

#### THE PLATTE PURCHASE.

The idea of adding the "Platte Purchase," including Platte, Buchanan, Andrew, Nodaway, Holt and Atchison counties, to the state of Missouri, whose western border was the east line of the four first named counties, originated in the summer of 1835, at a military muster held in Clay county, upon what was then known as the Dale farm, but a few miles from Liberty. After the muster and parade the citizens were called into a mass meeting, prior to the dinner hour; were addressed by General Andrew S. Hughes, of Clay county, who proposed the purchase of the "Platte Country" from the Sac and Fox tribes of Indians, and the proposition met with such approval that the meeting appointed the following committee to take steps to put into execution the purposes of the recommendation: Wm. T. Wood, David R. Atchison, Gen. A. W. Doniphan, Peter H. Burnett, Edward M. Samuel, all of them at the time residents of Clay county. An able memorial was drafted by Judge Wood, embracing facts and considerations in behalf of the measure which all the committee signed, and it was forwarded to the Missouri delegation in congress.

Pursuant to the prayer of this memorial in 1836, a bill was introduced in congress by Senator Benton and ardently supported by Senator Linn, to extend the then existing boundary of the state so as to include the triangle between the existing line and the Missouri river, the a part of the Indian Territory, and comprising the counties above mentioned, and known as the "Platte Purchase."

The difficulties encountered were three fold. First—to make still larger a state which was already one of the largest in the Union. Second—to make a treaty with the Sac and Fox tribes of Indians, whereby they were to be removed from the lands which had but recently been assigned to them in perpetuity. Third—to alter the Missouri compromise line in relation to slave territory and thereby convert free into slave territory.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, the act was passed and the treaties negotiated, and in 1837, the Indians left the "Platte Purchase." The national government "gave" them "as a proof of continued friendship and liberality," the sum of \$7,500; ceded them an equal amount of land, viz: The small strip of land on the south side of the Missouri river, lying between the Kickapoo northern boundary line (whither, by the way, the said Kickapoo had once upon a time been likewise kicked by the government in exhibition of its uniform liberality), and the Grand Nemaha river \* \* \* the lower half to the Sacs and Foxes, the upper half to the Iowae; to erect for the Iowas five, and for the Sacs and Foxes, three comfortable houses; and for each of the two tribes, to enclose and break up 200 acres of ground; furnish them a farmer, blacksmith, schoolmaster and interpreter as long as the President of the United States deems proper; rations for one year; one ferry boat; 100 cows and calves; five bulls, 100 stock hogs, "when they may require them;" a mill; and to assist in removing them to the extent, for the Iowas \$500, and the Sacs and Foxes \$400. Dated September 17, 1836.

It was signed in behalf of the United States, by William Clark, superintendent of the Indian affairs; of the Iowas by Mobscha (White Cloud), Ne-Wan-Thaw-Chu (Hair Shedder), Nau-Chening (No Heart), Cha-Tau-The-Ne (Big Bull), Wa-Che-Mo-Ne (Orator), Con-Gu (Plumb), Man-O-Mone (Pumpkin), Cha-Ta-Thaw (Buffalo Bull), Ne-O-Mo-Ne (Raining Cloud), Man-Hawk-Ka (Bunch of Arrows), and Wau-Thaw-Ca-Bu-Chu (One that Eats Rats).

On behalf of the Sacs and Foxes, by an aggregation translated as Red Fox, Deer, Wolf, Green Lake, Bald-Headed Eagle, Bald Headed Eagle, Jr., Swan, Star and Sturgeon.

The counties now comprising this purchase derived their names as follows: Atchison was organized February 14, 1845, and called such in honor of David

R. Atchison, who served as United States senator from this state, 1843-55; a resident of Platte County at the time; serving two terms. He served as president of the senate. March 4, 1849, came on Sunday, and General Taylor not having been inaugurated President of the United States, he served as President of the United States for 24 hours, and we believe this is the only case of the kind in the history of our country. He was also the first circuit Judge of Holt's circuit court, serving the years 1841-43, having been appointed by Governor Thomas Reynolds, February 1, 1841. He died January 26, 1886.

Andrew was organized January 29, 1841. Named in honor of Andrew Jackson Davis, once a prominent citizen of St. Louis.

Buchanan was organized February 10, 1839, and named in honor of Ex-President James Buchanan, who died in June, 1868.

Nodaway was organized February 14, 1845, deriving its name from its principal stream, the Nodaway river, which in the Pottawattomie tongue, signifies "Placid."

Platte was organized December 31, 1838, and was named from its principal stream, the Platte river, as also the Platte Purchase.

Holt county, February 15, 1841, and named for David Rice Holt, a representative in the legislature from Platte county in 1840.

Weston was practically the first settlement in the Platte Purchase, and up to 1854 was the largest town in the state outside of St. Louis. In 1850 it had 3,775 people; in 1890 it had 1,127, and in 1900 it had 1019. In 1840 Platte county's population was 8,913, and in 1848, it was 15,117—2,173 were slaves. The Senate Journal for 1848 gives the census of the counties comprising the Platte Purchase, as follows:

	1848	Total	1900
Andrew	8,282	492	17,332
Atchison	1,965	24	16,501
Buchanan	14,867	3,572	121,838
Holt	2,803	177	17,083
Nodaway	5,974	282	32,039
Platte	15,117	2,173	16,193

The total state revenue charged to these counties in 1848 was:

	1848	1902
Andrew	\$ 994 24	\$15,620
Atchison	253 88	23,397
Buchanan	1,494 63	94,244
Holt	327 34	20,605
Nodaway	813 84	32,039
Platte	2,073 30	17,028

The annual election for state officers in 1848 was held in August of that year, and was the first election held following the creation of Atchison and Nodaway counties, the last two counties created, comprising the Platte Purchase. Austin A. King, of St. Louis, was the Democratic nominee, and James S. Rollins, of Boone, the Whig candidate. The vote polled for these candidates were:

	King	Rollins
Andrew	928	395
Atchison	195	95
Buchanan	1,199	675
Holt	296	165
Nodaway	298	66
Platte	1,427	874

It will be noticed that every one of these counties were Democratic at that time, while the returns of the late election, 1904, show that Andrew, Holt and Nodaway have left their early political affiliations, and have become Republican. It will also be noticed that the Whig vote of Platte county in 1848, is about the Republican vote in that county at the present time. The total vote in these six counties in 1848, was 6,905, while the total vote cast for congress man in 1904, in these six counties was Republican, 18,931; Democratic, 18,531; total, 38,422.

The most complete abstract of the assessment of these counties was published in 1852, and we give the assessment as it was then published:

	Real Estate	Personal	Total
Andrew	\$ 650,109	\$280,379	\$1,220,488
Atchison	79,233	105,915	185,308
Buchanan	129,418	941,500	1,070,918
Holt	125,340	110,875	236,215
Nodaway	129,429	64,236	193,665
Platte	2,634,085	333,095	2,967,180

The state auditor's report show the assessment of these counties for 1902 taxes to be as follows:

	Real Estate	Personal	Total
Andrew	\$ 3,668,870	\$1,890,490	\$ 5,499,350
Atchison	3,587,370	2,621,909	6,209,279
Buchanan	21,802,300	7,067,874	28,870,174
Holt	4,218,280	1,998,467	6,186,747
Nodaway	7,388,794	3,105,226	10,504,020

The many friends of Rev. Hilton in Oregon, will be pained to learn that the condition of his wife is no better and she is gradually growing weaker. For the past two weeks she has failed rapidly, and it is feared that death may follow at any moment.

The extreme cold weather of the past week has undoubtedly proved disastrous to peaches and small fruits, and the damage is incalculable.

### Proposed New Drainage Law.

Representative Allen, of this county, has introduced a bill, materially changing the present law relating to the drainage of swamp and overflowed lands. One of the weak points of the present law is that it provides for the selection of commissioners by those interested in the proposed improvement, and being but human, cannot fail to act with more or less prejudice. This is overcome by Mr. Allen's bill, which says under section 8280:

"When such petition is filed, and such bond approved, the county court shall, in its regular session, or at a called session, appoint three resident freeholders of said county, not interested in the construction of said work and not of kin to any person interested therein, as viewers or commissioners, and also a competent civil engineer, to assist them, who shall proceed at once under the direction of an order of said court therein, certified by the clerk thereof, to view the line of the proposed ditch or improvement and report by actual view of the premises, along and adjacent thereto, whether the proposed improvement is necessary practicable and would be of public utility or conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, and if they find that the proposed improvement is necessary, practicable and would be of public utility or conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, then they shall also report the best route for the proposed drain, whether any portion of the same should be covered and whether the work of constructing the same should be by allotment. They shall report their findings, in writing, to the county court at a time fixed by said court, or, if no time be fixed, at the next regular term thereof, and the said court shall cause the same to be entered on its records. All viewers and engineers, before entering upon the discharge of their duties as such, shall take and subscribe an oath <sup>c</sup> faithfully and impartially discharge their duties as such viewers and engineer, and to make, to the county court, a true and correct report of the work done by them.

#### LOCATION OF DITCHES, OR LEVEES.

Section 8285. In locating a public ditch, drain, water-course or levee, the viewers may, if they deem best, vary from the line described in the petition: Provided, they commence at the point described in the petition and follow down the line described as nearly as practicable; and provided further, that when the ditch described in the petition is insufficient in length to drain the lands adjacent thereto, they may extend the ditch below the outlet named in the petition as far as may be necessary, not exceeding one mile, to obtain sufficient fall or outlet. And when it will not be detrimental to the usefulness of the whole work they shall, as far as practicable, locate the ditch on the division lines between lands owned by different persons; and they shall, so far as practicable, avoid laying the same diagonally across the land, but they must not sacrifice the general utility of the ditch to avoid diagonal lines. And all persons, whose lands may be affected by said ditch, may appear before the viewers and freely express their opinions on all matters pertaining thereto.

#### LANDS BENEFITED.

Section 8289. All lands benefited by public ditch, drain, water course or levee, shall be assessed, in proportion to the benefits for the construction thereof, whether the improvement passes through said land or not, and the viewers, in estimating the benefits to land not traversed by such ditch, shall consider what benefits will be received after some other ditch or ditches shall be constructed, but only the benefits that will be received by the construction of the public ditch, as it affords an outlet for the drainage of such land. No assessment shall be made for benefits to any land upon any other principal than that of such benefits derived; and no lands lying below shall be assessed for the benefit of the lands lying above, but all assessments shall be made on the basis of benefits accorded by reason of the construction of the improvement and of giving an outlet for drainage. In estimating damages, the viewers and county court shall take into consideration land drains appropriated, and the direction of the drain across the land. The estimate for location expenses shall include the amount of the costs reported by the viewers, a reasonable provision for property inspecting and receiving the work, and all fees for officers, as herein provided, including making the record and executing all orders and process of the court, and fees for all publications. The county court may employ an attorney to assist in the work provided for by this article."

#### LANDS BENEFITED.

Section 8289. All lands benefited by public ditch, drain, water course or levee, shall be assessed, in proportion to the benefits for the construction thereof, whether the improvement passes through said land or not, and the viewers, in estimating the benefits to land not traversed by such ditch, shall consider what benefits will be received after some other ditch or ditches shall be constructed, but only the benefits that will be received by the construction of the public ditch, as it affords an outlet for the drainage of such land. No assessment shall be made for benefits to any land upon any other principal than that of such benefits derived; and no lands lying below shall be assessed for the benefit of the lands lying above, but all assessments shall be made on the basis of benefits accorded by reason of the construction of the improvement and of giving an outlet for drainage. In estimating damages, the viewers and county court shall take into consideration land drains appropriated, and the direction of the drain across the land. The estimate for location expenses shall include the amount of the costs reported by the viewers, a reasonable provision for property inspecting and receiving the work, and all fees for officers, as herein provided, including making the record and executing all orders and process of the court, and fees for all publications. The county court may employ an attorney to assist in the work provided for by this article."

J. R. Linville went over to Wathena, Wednesday of last week. Jake will have charge of the canning factory there this season.

### Lincoln's Birthday.

The anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, which occurs the 12th of this month, Sunday next, should be a day to be observed by every citizen. His life and his work hold out hope to every man of humble life. Lincoln was born in a cabin with a dirt floor. He was born in ignorance and poverty. How mighty he towers above the feeble, selfish or brutal rulers of so-called divine origin, that are born in palaces and brought up to power.

His character and achievements represent in themselves the greatest vindication of our national belief that the people ought to govern, that they are fit to govern, and that they can find their ablest leaders and executives among themselves. He was truly a great democrat, a man born among the people, who never lost interest in them, faith in them or loyalty to them, despite acquisition of the honor and glory that so often make smaller men false to their trust.

A study of his character must reassure the most pessimistic. His life proves, and his birthday should remind us that in some country school, in some poor house, the boy is growing up able to do the work of the future; able to deal with the great and ever growing industrial problems as Lincoln dealt with the mighty problems that confronted him.

### Against the Beef Trust.

There is no risk in saying that millions of persons will rejoice in the unanimous decision of the supreme court of the United States, substantially affirming the validity of Judge Grosscup's injunction against Swift & Co., which forbids the Beef Trust to continue the practices complained of. In the resolution with which this case has been conducted in behalf of the government, the people will behold a gratifying proof of the President's fidelity to his declared purpose of enforcing the Interstate Commerce act without fear or favor, and they will not fail to recognize in the result a confirmation of the original impression that Attorney General Moody had laid a complicated question before the court with remarkable skill and lucidity.

Judicial decisions of great importance to the country sometimes excite only a languid interest for the reason that they appear to affect the private welfare of individuals remotely and only to a slight degree. In this determination a vast number of citizens, representing practically all conditions of life, feel themselves to be immediately and deeply concerned. They have concrete evidence that the price of meat, and indeed many other articles of diet, has largely increased in recent years, and the conviction is well nigh universal that this serious addition to the cost of living has been deliberately caused by the powerful combination which is known as the "Beef Trust." Naturally therefore, they will hail with a sentiment of which the word delight is hardly too strong, an expression of the judgment of the highest court that the practices by means of which the combination is believed to have accomplished a ruthless purpose are forbidden by law and must be stopped. The expected benefit is not likely to be felt at once. The injunction is upheld by a unanimous vote of the supreme court, but the future action of the packers is somewhat problematical, as perhaps also are the measures to be employed to make the decision effectual in case they are rebellious. They have great resources, and are doubtless able to command the services of lawyers who would like nothing better than to succeed in showing them how the law might be defied; but we hope it is not venturesome to assume that the government, having prevailed thus far, will not be balked in the end.

The decision is broad, comprehensive and sweeping. It asserts the power of the nation to regulate every business going beyond state lines. It should give cattle growers a better chance to market their cattle. It should benefit consumers by giving them the advantage of competition between sellers of meats. It should benefit both producers and consumers by enabling the producer who prefers to run his own business to reach the consumer unhampered by discrimination against him on the part of common carriers. The decision is a liberating one to producer and consumer alike, sweeping away artificial barriers, and thus bringing all concerned nearer to the American ideal of equality of opportunity and equality before the law.

—Rev. Charley Brown, a former resident of this county, residing on the Nodaway river, and who will be remembered by many of our citizens, has returned to Holt county, from South Missouri, where he removed with his family in 1898. He is now looking around for a place, and if he can find what he wants will purchase and bring his family here

### Arrival and Departure of Mails at the Postoffice, Oregon, Mo.

#### MAILS DEPART:

- 7:40 a. m. For Omaha and intermediate points, and all points north, east and west.
- 12:10 p. m. For all points north, south, east and west, except Tarkio and Villisca branches.
- 2:45 a. m. For St. Joseph and intermediate points.
- 3:30 p. m. For New Point only.
- 10:00 a. m. Helwig supplied by Rural Carrier, Route No. 2.
- 1:25 p. m. For Villisca, north, mail to all points north, east, south and west, except intermediate between Forest City and St. Joseph.
- 12:45 a. m. For all points north, south, east and west. Mail made up at 8:00 p. m.

#### MAILS ARRIVE.

- 9:10 a. m. Omaha—Mails from all points, north, east, south and west.
- 10:20 a. m. Villisca and Tarkio Valley branches. Mails from north east, south and west.
- 11:30 a. m. From New Point only.
- 3:15 p. m. Main line K. C., St. Joe. & C. B. Mails from all points, north, south, east and west.
- 6:00 p. m. From St. Joseph.
- 10:00 a. m. Rural Route No. 2, leaves. Returns at 4:00 p. m.
- 10:00 a. m. Rural Route, No. 1, leaves. Returns, 4:00 p. m.
- 9:45 a. m. Rural Route, No. 3, leaves. Returns at 4:00 p. m.
- 2:30 a. m. Main line, K. C., St. Joe & C. B. Mail from all points.

Mails are made up promptly 15 minutes before departing time.

New Point mail arrives and departs daily except Sunday.

Mail to Fortescue, Rulo and points on the B. & M. in Nebraska within 100 miles of this office, should be mailed before 8:45 a. m. in order to reach its destination the same day.

Mails for main line of K. C., St. Joe. & C. B. north and south, are made up and depart at the same time, for day train, 12:10 p. m.

### OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

#### Circuit Court.

Convenes first Monday in January; fourth Mondays in April and August.  
William C. Ellison, circuit judge.  
Ivan Blair, prosecuting attorney.  
George W. Hogrefe, circuit clerk.  
James A. Williams, sheriff.  
Harry M. Irwin, stenographer.

#### Probate Court.

Convenes second Mondays in February, May August and November.  
Henry T. Alkire, probate judge.

#### County Court.

Regular Terms: First Mondays in February, May, August and November.  
Jacob Wehrli, presiding judge.  
George W. Cotten, Judge 1st district.  
Henry E. Wright, Judge of 2d district.  
Enoch A. Welty, clerk of county court.  
F. L. Zeller, deputy county clerk.

#### County Board of Health.

Jacob Wehrli, president.  
George W. Cotten, vice-president.  
W. C. Proud, county physician.  
Enoch A. Welty, secretary.

#### County Board of Education.

A. R. Coburn, Oregon.  
W. W. Gallaher, Mound City.  
Alberta C. Green, Craig.

Collector of Revenue, Nicholas Stock.  
County Treasurer, George W. Cummins.  
Recorder of Deeds, Robert Callow.  
Commissioner of Schools, A. R. Coburn.  
Public Administrator, M. D. Walker.  
Superintendent of Poor, Seaborn Carson.  
Surveyor, Wm. M. Morris.  
Assessor, Will Fitzmaurice.

—Hear Mrs. Callie Howe at the Presbyterian church, Thursday and Friday evenings, Feb. 9th and 10th.

### The Seed Corn Special.

The Burlington railroad's decision to send a special train through Missouri with lecturers on seed corn and soil fertility is evidently based on the success of its experiments in Iowa last spring. It will be recalled that the poor quality of much of the seed corn submitted to the Iowa Agricultural College last year alarmed railroad officials and the Rock Island system decided to send out a "gospel train" through Northern Iowa to instruct farmers to test and plant the seed.

The train's schedule was widely advertised and large audiences heard the lectures. The trip attracted so much attention that the Burlington system at once arranged for a train to cover the southern portion of the state. Two audience coaches were used and two thirty minute lectures were given simultaneously. In eight days these "seed corn special" trains covered 1,321 miles and passed through 37 of the 99 counties of Iowa. One hundred and fifty talks were given to 17,600 persons, and the results, according to the railroad officials, were apparent in the increase in the corn yield last autumn.

The lecturers in Iowa emphasized the low average of 33 bushels of corn to the acre over the state and accounted for the poor stand as due to poor seed, uneven dropping by the planter and poor preparation of the seed bed. Their instructions were devoted to the best methods of remedying these evils.

The success that attended the propaganda in Iowa will be duplicated in Missouri, as we notice the schedule for the special "seed and soil" train which the Burlington will run through Missouri during the month of February has been announced. On the morning of Monday, February 13th, the train will leave St. Joseph and visit stations on the main line of the K. C. St. Joseph & C. B. The itinerary of this train in this section will be as follows:

	Arrive	Leave
Tarkio	9:00 a. m.	9:40 a. m.
Craig	10:30 a. m.	11:10 a. m.
Maitland	12:05 p. m.	12:45 p. m.
Forest City	3:30 p. m.	4:10 p. m.

Lectures will be given at these points. The train will be in charge of W. H. Mannes, Industrial Commissioner of the Burlington system, and the expert lecturers will be supplied by the Agricultural department of the Missouri State University. The lectures will be devoted exclusively to soil improvement and better seed corn for our state.

At these stops it is the intention of the Burlington to give out for free distribution, a late article, that has been carefully prepared by C. P. Hartley, the corn specialist of the Agricultural Department at Washington. The bulletin will be highly illustrated.

It is to be hoped the corn growers in the section of the stops announced will be on hand in goodly numbers. There is no reason why careful attention to the methods to be outlined in the lectures should not materially increase the yield of corn.

—Mrs. Edmund Roselius, of Corning, is very sick with sciatic rheumatism.