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### A Study of some of the problems of settlement of Crawford County, Kansas

Frank Layden

*Kansas State Teachers College*

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A STUDY OF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF SETTLEMENT  
OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS

APPROVED:

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Division in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree  
of Master of Science

Chairman of Thesis Committee  
Chairman of Graduate Council  
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By

Frank Layden

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

Pittsburg, Kansas

August, 1938

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	
Territorial Government--Early Settlements and Settlers--Early Settlers.....	1
II. ORGANIZATION OF CRAWFORD COUNTY	
First County Officers--Land Titles--Hardships-- Survey of Crawford County During 1860-5-- APPROVED: Effects of Homestead Law on Immigration-- Effects of Railroad on Immigration--Effect of Emigrant Aid Companies on Immigration.....	19
Thesis Adviser <u>Elizabeth Cochran</u>	
III. IMMIGRATION INTO CRAWFORD COUNTY	
Chairman of Thesis Committee <u>H. W. Trant</u>	35
Laws--Settlements and Settlements.....	
VI. Chairman of Graduate Council <u>O. P. Hellingner</u>	
Farming--Coal--Railroads--Lead and Zinc-- Airplane Industry.....	36
V. PROHIBITION AND IMMIGRATION IN CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS .....	77
VI. THE IMMIGRANT AND NATURALIZATION .....	87
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	92
APPENDIX .....	95

# ABSTRACT TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	
Territorial Government--Early Settlements and Settlers--Early Settlers.....	1
II. ORGANIZATION OF CRAWFORD COUNTY	
First County Officers--Land Titles--Hardships-- Survey of Crawford County During 1860-6-- Effects of Homestead Law on Immigration-- Effects of Railroad on Immigration--Effect of Emigrant Aid Companies on Immigration.....	19
III. IMMIGRATION INTO CRAWFORD COUNTY	
Settlers Contest for Their Homes--Immigration Laws--Settlements and Settlers.....	35
IV. INDUSTRIES AND IMMIGRATION	
Farming--Coal--Railroads--Lead and Zinc-- Airplane Industry .....	65
V. PROHIBITION AND IMMIGRATION IN CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS .....	77
VI. THE IMMIGRANT AND NATURALIZATION .....	87
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	92
APPENDIX .....	96

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# ABSTRACT

The background of the settlement of Crawford County Kansas may be said to begin with the purchase of the Louisiana territory. The Indian migrations and settlement, the territorial government, Kansas in her early period of statehood are included bringing the study to the first white settlers of Crawford County.

The story of the organization of Crawford County involving, its first county officers is mentioned. The difficulty of the early settlers in securing land titles, and the methods adopted to secure titles from the Indians follows the usual course. The account of immigration from 1860 to 1865 was necessarily affected by border warfare in Crawford County during the war period.

The type, race, and origin of settlers is of interest. The account of the economic activities of Crawford County, the enforcement of prohibitory laws and the relation of the later immigrants to the effective enforcement of those laws is a part of the study. Crawford County life has inevitably been affected by the immigrant and his naturalization, and the illiteracy among the foreign born and efforts made to Americanize these immigrants.

Materials used in making this study were found in the Kansas State Historical Society of Topeka, Kansas. Records of the Federal District Court sitting at Fort Scott, Kansas

were used. The county clerk's statistical records, the naturalization records, register of deeds records and the Crawford County District Court records of Girard and Pittsburg were used. Also police court records of these cities were used in preparing this study. Newspapers of this district were used and found to throw much light on the subject. The more important general works used are W. E. Connelley, Kansas and Kansans, Home Authors, Crawford County, Kansas, T. V. Robley, History of Bourbon County, Samuel J. Crawford, Kansas in the Sixties, and Frank Blackmar, History of Kansas.

II. UNINCORPORATED MINING TOWNS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY . . . . .	97
III. NATIONAL ORIGIN ANNUAL IMMIGRATION QUOTAS . . . . .	98

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Stone school house at Cato . . . . .	8
Store and residence of Brick, erected by Captain Peter Smith, near Cato . . . . .	10
First courthouse erected at Girard, Kansas . . . . .	14
<b>TABLES</b>	<b>Page</b>
Homesite of I. K. Brown in Lincoln Township . . . . .	17
I. EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY . . . . .	96
Photograph of the original town plot of Pittsburg, II. UNINCORPORATED MINING TOWNS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY . . . . .	97
Elisha Black . . . . .	98
III. NATIONAL ORIGIN ANNUAL IMMIGRATION QUOTAS . . . . .	98
B. F. Goudwin . . . . .	98
Noels Smith . . . . .	97



# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Stone school house at Cato . . . . .	8
Store and residence of Brick, erected by Captain Peter Smith, near Cato . . . . .	10
First courthouse erected at Girard, Kansas . . . .	14
Homestead of I. K. Brown in Lincoln Township . . .	17
Photograph of the original town plot of Pittsburg, Kansas . . . . .	53
Elisha Black . . . . .	60
B. F. Goodwin . . . . .	62
Neils Smith . . . . .	67



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The territory which later became Kansas was acquired by the United States in 1803 as a part of the Louisiana Purchase. On March 26, 1804, President Jefferson approved

### LIST OF MAPS

	Page
Map of Crawford County showing townships and Settlements . . . . .	21
Route of Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad . . . . .	33

The northern district was divided when Missouri was cut off and organized into a territory in 1812.

When Missouri was admitted to the union in 1821, it was stipulated that the remainder of the territory of the Louisiana Purchase lying north of parallel 36° 30' should be free.<sup>1</sup> According to this agreement the territory which later became Kansas should be free territory.<sup>2</sup>

By 1854, slavery had become the question of the hour in the United States. The Kansas question was re-opened by Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, who was chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories. The Kansas-Nebraska Bill repealed the provisions of the Missouri Compromise, and the

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<sup>1</sup>T. V. Hobley, History of Bourbon County, p. 12.

<sup>2</sup>A. E. Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 37.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The territory which later became Kansas was acquired by the United States in 1803 as a part of the Louisiana Purchase. On March 26, 1804, President Jefferson approved the act which divided the Louisiana territory into two districts. The territory north of the thirty-third degree of latitude was to be known as the District of Louisiana; that lying south was to be called the Territory of Orleans. The northern district was divided when Missouri was cut off and organized into a territory in 1812.

When Missouri was admitted to the union in 1821, it was stipulated that the remainder of the territory of the Louisiana Purchase lying north of parallel 36° 30' should be free.<sup>1</sup> According to this agreement the territory which later became Kansas should be free territory.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>A. E. Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 37.

slavery question was to be left to the people of the territory. It opened to the institution of slavery, 500,000 square miles east of the Rocky Mountains. Clearly the purpose was to force Kansas into the Union as a slave state.<sup>3</sup>

A systematic plan for the moving of the eastern Indian tribes west was undertaken by the United States government in the year of 1825. John C. Calhoun as Secretary of War under President Monroe and guardian of Indians, after an extended study of Indian problems, submitted a report suggesting the establishment of a permanent Indian frontier.<sup>4</sup>

In the same year Calhoun's report was accepted by Congress and by a series of treaties after 1825 arrangements were made with Indians in the West for lands to be used for reservations. The new Indian territory suggested for these purposes by Calhoun was located west of the state of Missouri and the territory of Arkansas.

One of the first Indian tribes in the country was the Osages. In 1808 the United States government concluded its first treaty with the Osages, by the terms of which the

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<sup>3</sup>G. W. Martin, Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society, X (1907-1908) 122.

<sup>4</sup>F. L. Paxson, History of American Frontier, p. 276.

<sup>5</sup>Literary Digest, LVIII Nov. 20, 1907, 82-4.



government agreed to give protection to the tribe in return for its territory between Fort Clark and the Arkansas River.

In 1825 another treaty between the Osages and the United States government set aside a strip of land fifty miles north and south and twenty-five miles wide in what is now Neosho, Cherokee, and Crawford Counties, Kansas.

When the Osage Indians first immigrated into what is now Crawford County has not as yet been proved; it is thought however "that the Osages had originally emigrated from the East because the population had become too numerous for their hunting grounds".<sup>5</sup>

It is known that when the first white immigrant settled in this county around Fort Scott that the Indians would visit the settlement to sell their possessions and do their trading. They would close out their stock at so many buttons, each button representing one dollar in money; then they would buy what goods they wanted one dollar's worth at a time until they had traded up all the bullion they had received for their ponies and robes.<sup>6</sup> The tribe remained in the county until 1907, when they were again moved to an Oklahoma reservation.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>W. W. Graves, Annals of Osage Mission, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup>C. W. Goodlander, Memoirs and Recollections, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup>Literary Digest, LXVII Nov. 20, 1907, 62-4.



The second Indian tribe to emigrate here was the Cherokee. In a series of treaties made during the years of 1817 to 1828 between the United States and the Cherokee Indians, the government succeeded in getting possession of the rich lands of the Indians in the states of Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. The Indians, after filing claims for a half-million dollars for improvements upon the lands, began the long journey westward to their new home beyond the Mississippi River. Many of the Indians were poor, and the long trek across the lands only embittered their minds against the government.

In 1835 the Cherokees purchased from the Osages a strip of land known as the "buffer tract" lying between the Osage line and the state line. The tribe never occupied the land and it became known as the Cherokee Neutral Lands.<sup>8</sup> However some individual Indians of the tribe did establish homes in the territory.

White immigrants who began the settlement of these "Neutral Lands" were driven off by the United States government agent and the Cherokee Indians who in their march across the country northward towards the settlement of Drywood, burned the home of every settler that could be found on the Indian lands.

At Drywood, a settlement in the northern part of the

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<sup>8</sup>W. E. Connelley, op. cit., pp. 263-4. p. 155.

tract, the agent found the settlers united and determined to stand their ground, so they were given a month's time to remove themselves. A delegation from Fort Scott went to Tahlequa, Oklahoma, territory of the Indians to attempt to buy the land from the Cherokee Indians but were unsuccessful. A few white men obtained a legal title to lands in the Cherokee Neutral lands by marrying Cherokee women and becoming "Squawmen", which entitled them to "headright".<sup>9</sup>

The Cherokee Neutral land question as far as the Indians were concerned was closed in 1866 when they ceded it in trust to the United States government. The land was to be surveyed, appraised, and sold at no less than \$1.25 an acre and the money to be given to the Cherokee tribe.

The Cherokee Indians were not truly immigrants as a tribe to the future Crawford County, but they controlled its destiny from 1835 to 1866 through their possession of the Cherokee Neutral Lands.

The Indians were causing so much trouble it was necessary to build a fort. In the year 1837, by order of Colonel Zachary Taylor, a military board of commissioners consisting of Colonel W. W. Kearney and Captain Nathan Boone were appointed to lay out the military road from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Fort Coffey, in Indian territory, and to select a location for a fort about midway between those two

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<sup>9</sup>T. V. Robley, History of Bourbon County, p. 155.



points.<sup>10</sup> The commission however had much difficulty in selecting this site. Several points along Spring River were examined and when choice had been made, it was found that the land belonged to a Cherokee Indian by the name of Joseph Rogers, who at that time was living near the present site of Baxter Springs, Kansas. The Indian, thinking that a military fort in that region would make "boom" territory of it, asked \$1,000 per acre for this land that was needed to build the fort upon. The commissioners, not having the power to pay such a high price for the land, decided to recommend to the government that a satisfactory location would be at the present site of Fort Scott. The report was accepted and the military fort which was to serve the government's soldiers for sixteen years was erected.

In the year of 1853 the government troops were withdrawn and the post was practically abandoned; the structures which cost the government more than \$200,000 were sold for less than \$5,000. The buildings were left in charge of a sergeant who had instructions to permit their occupation by a respectable person.<sup>11</sup>

The early immigrants to Crawford County found this fort

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<sup>10</sup>Frank W. Blackmar, Kansas, p. 671.

<sup>11</sup>H. T. Wilson, John Hamilton and families were the only settlers for some time, but being enterprising men, Fort Scott soon became a flourishing trading post for people who lived within a radius of thirty miles.

to be their only source of the much needed supplies. The only other trading post was located at Carthage, Missouri. Kansas attracted many people by its fertile lands; thus the problem of settlement became an important national question.

### Territorial Government

The first meeting of the Kansas Territorial legislature was held in July, 1855. The laws enacted became known as the "Bogus Laws". The territory of Kansas, especially the eastern portion, had been overrun by border ruffians from western Missouri, so that many of the early laws were just a transcript of those used in Missouri. Slavery was recognized as an existing institution and severe penalties enforced upon those who interfered with the laws governing it.

### Stone School House At Cato

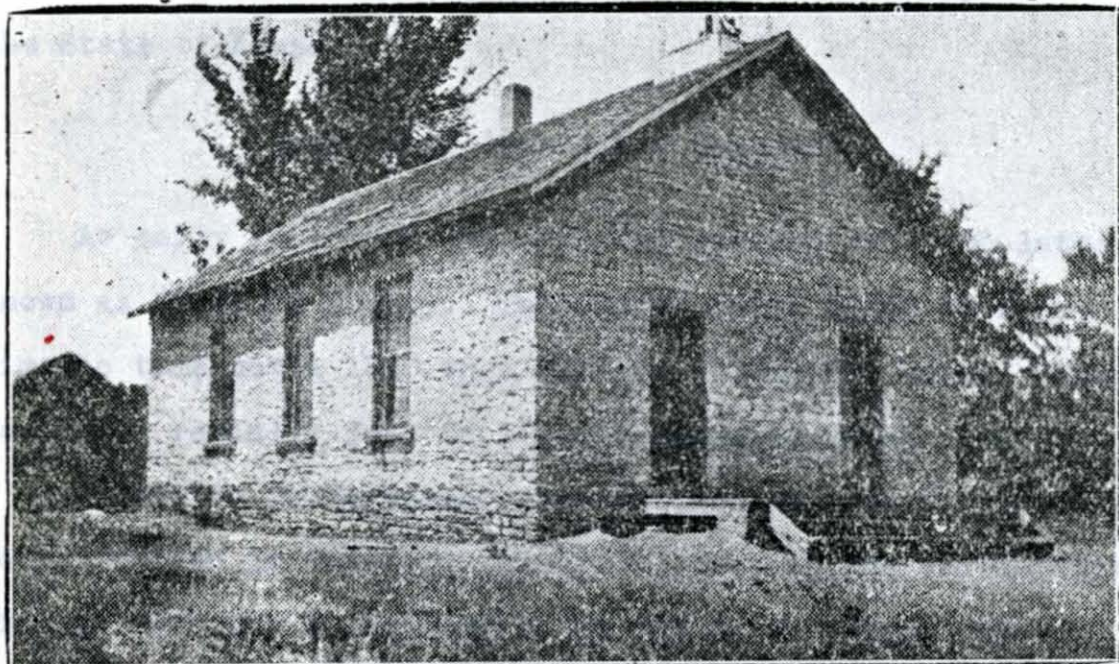
The pro-slavery people were desperate and resorted to every means, fair or foul, honest or dishonest, to establish slavery in Kansas. Their dupes from western Missouri, not one in a hundred of whom owned a slave, swarmed across the border into Kansas and committed crimes most brutal and barbarous.<sup>12</sup> Those who came held elections and elected citizens of Missouri as members of the Territorial legislature. This new government failed to be accepted by the Kansas people. On January 29, 1861, the State of Kansas was admitted into

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<sup>12</sup>Samuel J. Crawford, Kansas in the Sixties, p. 115.



the Union under the Wyandotte Constitution. These laws governed the residents of Crawford County after February 13, 1897; at that time the territory became a county in its own right.



Crawford County; however there are no records to prove their claim.

#### Stone School House at Cato

About 1854 John Rogers came from Fort Scott and started a store; thus he became the town's first business man. As Crawford County had not yet been formed, Cato was part of the southern end of Bourbon County.

Cato had the first school house,<sup>13</sup> in which Dr. C. H. Strong became the first teacher. Dr. Strong, an immigrant who came from Erie County, Pennsylvania, settled a claim in February, 1895. Some other duties of his in the small town

<sup>13</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1936.

<sup>14</sup>See page 3.

the Union under the Wyandotte Constitution. These laws governed the residents of Crawford County after February 13, 1867; at that time the territory became a county in the State of Kansas.

### Early Settlements and Settlers

As early as 1850 a few families settled the land later known as Crawford County. The number being added to from time to time until 1860 when quite a colony was here. Towns developed rapidly, Cato in Lincoln township being first.

According to newspaper records Cato was the first town to be founded in Crawford County.<sup>13</sup> Some of the old settlers living there now believe it to be the first county seat of Crawford County; however there are no records to prove their claim.

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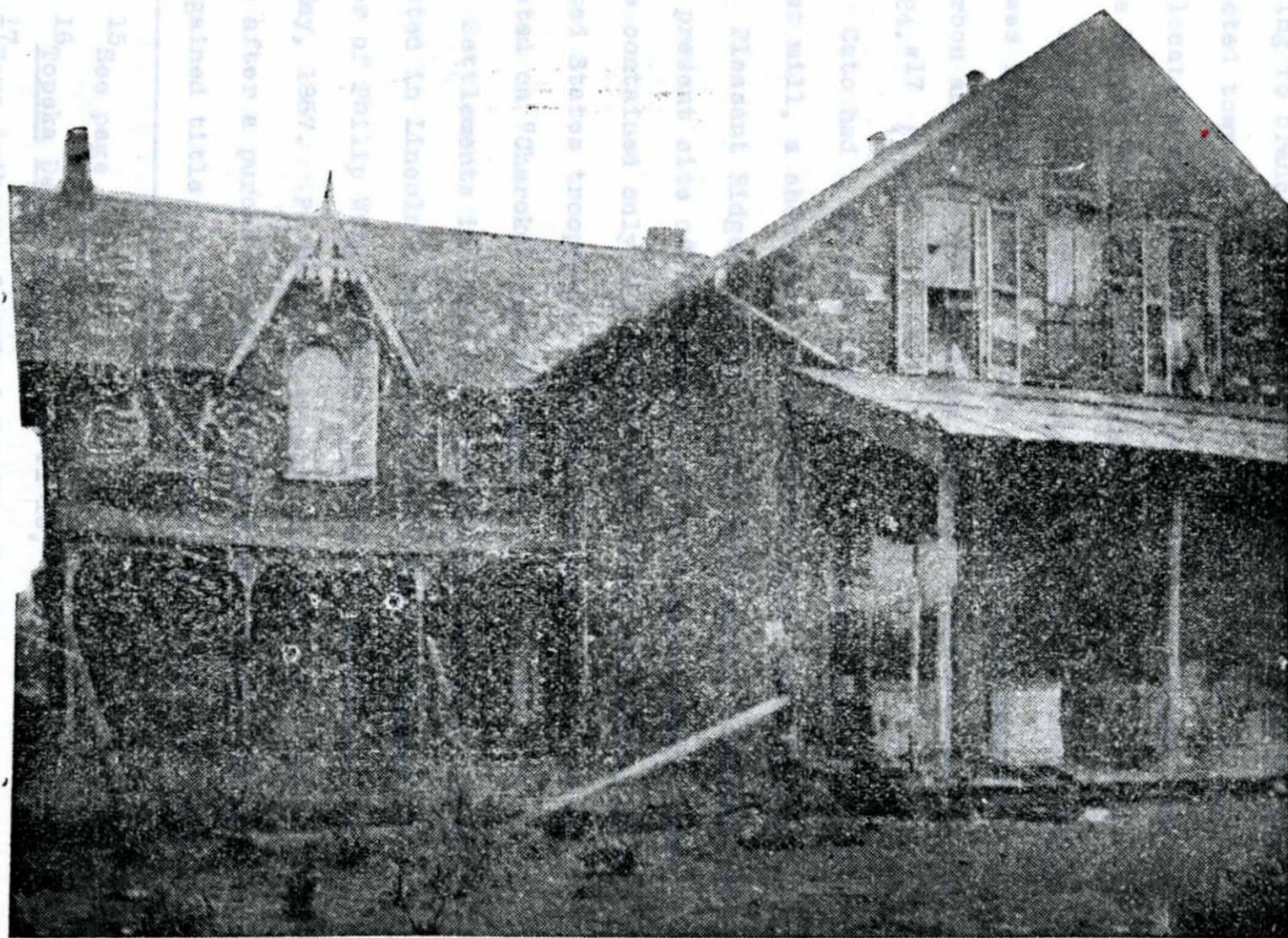
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<sup>13</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>14</sup>See page 8.

Store and residence of Trlek, erected by Captain Peter Smith soon after the Civil War. Still standing near the present town of Cato.





Store and residence of brick, erected by Captain Peter Smith soon after the Civil War. Still standing near the present town of Cato.



were keeping a general store<sup>15</sup> and practicing medicine. In trying to branch out he attempted to buy land in the newly erected town of Crawfordville, but while there he decided to locate a site for the establishment of a county seat; this he did while on a deer hunt.<sup>16</sup>

E. J. Boring named the post office Cato; "about 1858 it was located on what is now the county line between Bourbon and Crawford Counties in N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 25, T., 27, R. 24."<sup>17</sup> [sic]

Cato had a Masonic lodge, a Missionary Baptist Church, grist mill, a shoe shop, a blacksmith shop, and a saw mill.

Pleasant Ridge, another early settlement, southeast of the present site of Pittsburg, was made about 1860. The site contained only one house; this house was burned by the United States troops and Cherokee Indians because it was located on "Cherokee Neutral Lands".

Settlements in Lincoln township grew rapidly. Arcadia, located in Lincoln township was first named Hathaway in honor of Philip Wing Hathaway, who made a settlement there in May, 1857. P. Hathaway became the owner of a large farm after a purchase was made from a man named Howell, who had gained title to the land by marrying a Cherokee Indian

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<sup>15</sup>See page 10.

<sup>16</sup>Topeka Daily Capital, April 19, 1908.

<sup>17</sup>Home Authors, Crawford County, Kansas, p. 52.



women; intermarriage was a common occurrence in those days. The town of Hathaway had one house made of logs, consisting of two rooms; it was used in early days for shelter for all those who might be traveling in that neighborhood. Later the site was changed a little to the south where the present town of Arcadia now stands.

The next settlement made was the first county seat of Crawford County. Three miles west and a quarter mile north of Girard on the east bank of Lightning Creek, the town of Crawfordsville was laid out in 1860; it later became the county seat of Crawford County and remained so until the year of 1861, when Girard became the county seat.

In 1867 and 1868 the site was composed of only six or eight log cabins. One of these, a two room cabin of rough logs, was the county court house. James St. Clair had a blacksmith shop and forge; Tom Bridgens and John Voss had a law office in another cabin; and Peter Smith, late of Cato, had a store. That was about all the town there was.<sup>18</sup> If one would ride west of Girard today to where the first county seat was located the only things remaining to mark the site are a cottonwood tree and an old well. Arguments about this not being the proper location for a county seat ended in the founding of Girard.

Girard was named by Dr. Charles H. Strong in 1868 in memory

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<sup>18</sup>Topeka Daily Capital, April 19, 1908.

of his home in Pennsylvania in 1868. The town site was laid out near the center of the county, while Dr. Strong was hunting deer. The Topeka Daily Capital (April 19, 1908) describes it as follows:

Finally he made a successful shot with his Winchester and brought the buck to earth. As the young man rode to the side of his game and admired its fine prongs, he picked up a stake in the tall grass nearby, drove it into the earth, took his pocket handkerchief and tore one strip from it and then fastened to this stake a card on which he wrote "Girard". The spot where that buck lay dying that spring day forty years ago, is now the center of the court house grounds in Girard and the Crawford County court house stands there.

Girard became the county seat of Crawford County in 1868 and has continued to be so to the present time. The people of Girard and the surrounding community have erected three court houses during the period that the city has been the county seat.<sup>19</sup> Attempts have been made to have the county seat located in Pittsburg, but those who favor such a move have never been successful in it.

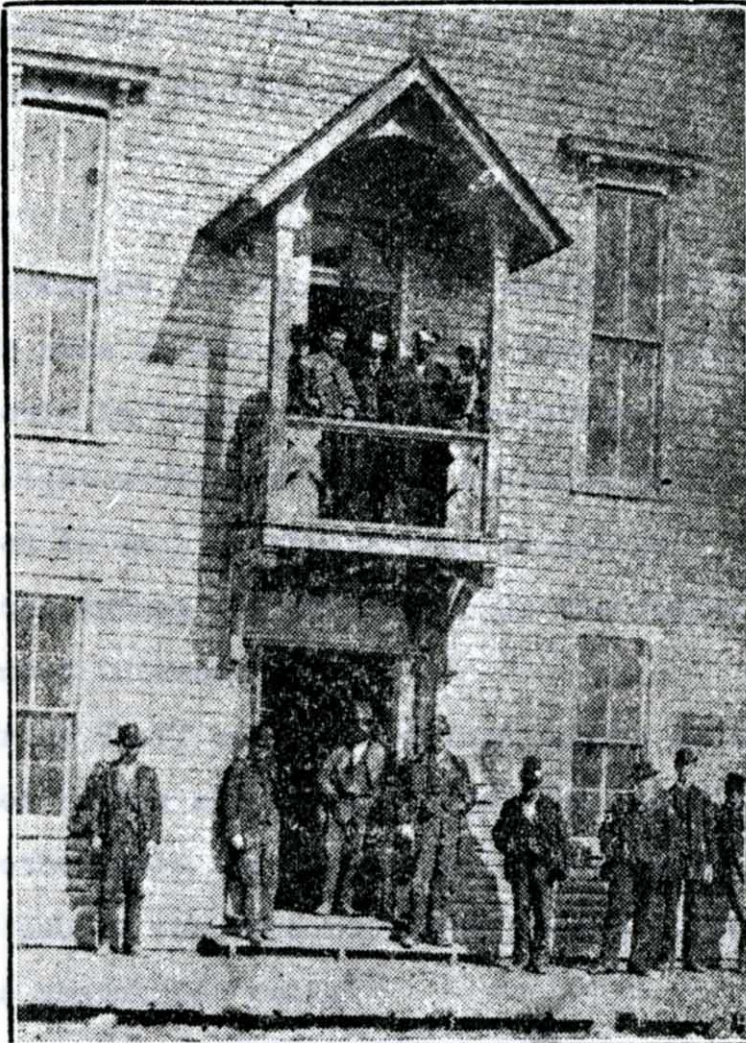
A settlement in the county of which the average person knows little about was that of Iowa City. One and one-half miles south and a half mile east of Fourth and Broadway on Cow Creek, Iowa City, which was believed to be the original site for the city of Pittsburg, was short-lived because the

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<sup>19</sup>See picture, page 14.



railroad did not build there. The railroad company chose the present site and built into the large



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George Foster was born in June, 1858, in an Indian cabin in Indiana, emigrating from Kentucky to Lincoln township.<sup>21</sup>

Floyd Beecher, emigrant from Indiana came here in 1858 with his family. Bushwhackers and the Civil War caused them

<sup>20</sup>Pittsburgh Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>21</sup>Home Authors, 62: 511, p. 483.



railroad did not build there. The railroad company chose the present site of Pittsburg; this site developed into the largest city in the county.

### Early Settlers

Biographies and biographical sketches of the old settlers who came to the county would furnish enough material for a thesis in itself. However an attempt will be made to give a slight sketch of some of the more prominent ones who immigrated to each of the several townships. Among those of whom the author has found records the following people are the most interesting.

Charley Sheff came to Crawford County in the fall of 1858, when he was six years of age. He and his twin sister and one other were the three survivors of a wagon train of Illinois people who were returning from California after a fruitless search for gold.<sup>20</sup>

George Fowler was born in June, 1852, in an Indian cabin in Indian territory while his parents were emigrating from Kansas to Oklahoma. He became a leading farmer in Lincoln township.<sup>21</sup>

Floyd Beecher, emigrant from Indiana came here in 1858 with his family. Bushwhackers and the Civil War caused them

<sup>20</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>21</sup>Home Authors, op.cit., p. 453. (See page 17)

to return to Indiana but the family came back to Crawford County in the year of 1868.

William Pierson, Lincoln Township, came with his parents to Crawford County in 1855. They bought farm land from the government in 1860, when the land was inhabited only by Indians.<sup>22</sup>

Phil Wing Hathaway, born on a farm near Wareham, Massachusetts, settled on the old Military Road between Fort Scott and Baxter Springs in 1857. He is the founder of the present town of Arcadia.

I. K. Brown was born in Stephenson County, Illinois, in 1840. He moved to Rockford, Bourbon County, Kansas, in the spring of 1858. He enlisted from there in the Second Kansas Battery in 1862, and was in the war until 1865. He moved to Cato with his parents, Ezekiel and Cornelia Brown, in the fall of 1865.<sup>23</sup> He owned the first patent to be granted by the government for land on the Cherokee Neutral Lands.

Riley Dalton was an early settler who had his claim "jumped" in 1866; headed by I. K. Brown, an organization protecting such claims lost no time in driving off the intruder.

Pleasant Smith came to Crawford County in 1857. In the old settlers reunion held by the Pittsburg Headlight

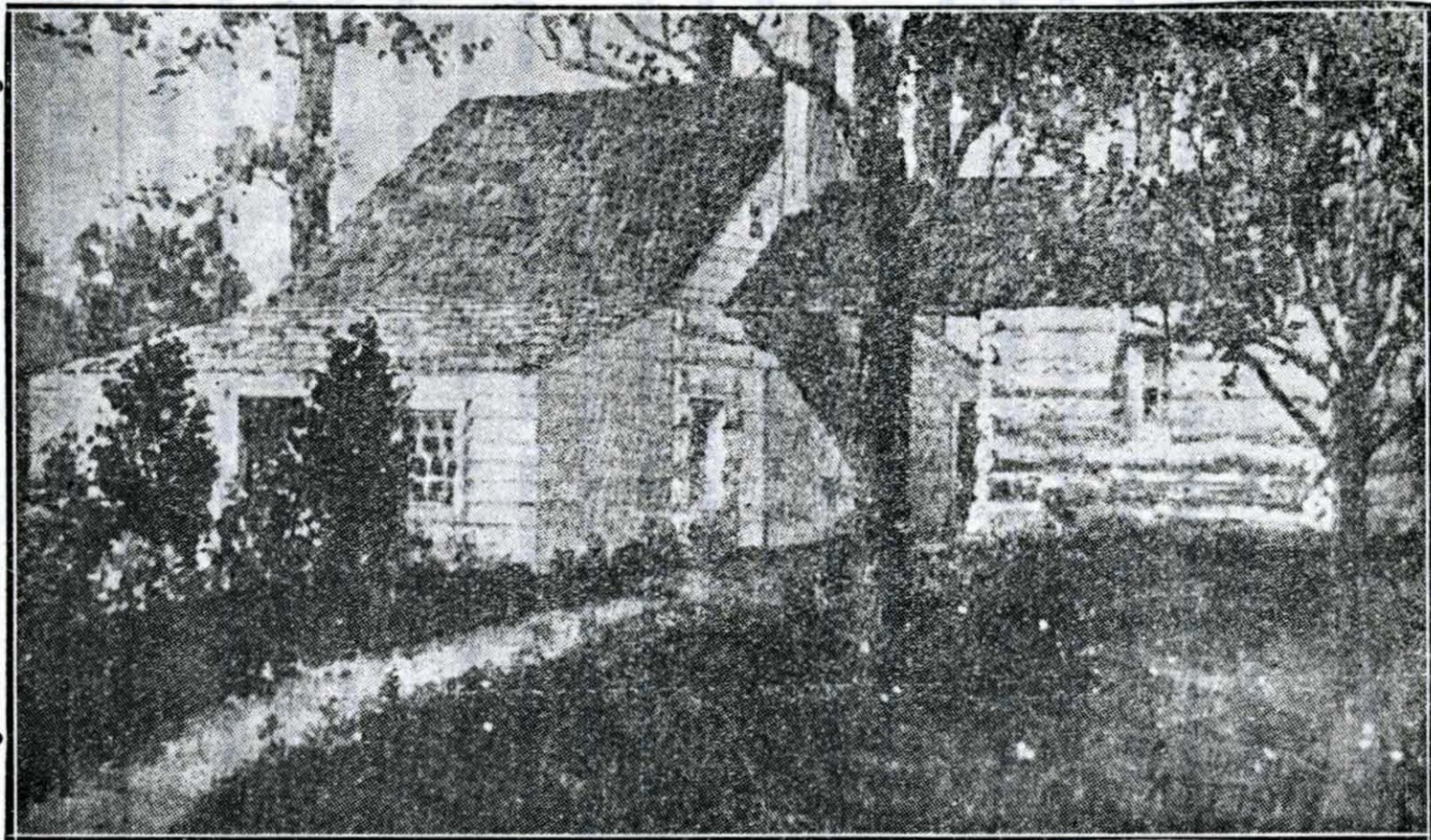
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<sup>22</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>23</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., p. 60. (See page 17)

Homestead of I. K. Brown in Lincoln Township in its later years with additions made. Original cabin is on the right.





Homestead of I. K. Brown in Lincoln Township in its later years with additions made. Original cabin is on the right.



he was considered one of the oldest residents of the county. P. Smith came to this section when he was two years old from Indiana.<sup>24</sup>

Woolery Coonrad, Sr. was one of the very first settlers in what is now Lincoln Township. He settled in Drywood about a mile south of where Cato now stands, about 1856. He had a large family; he and his wife, who were familiarly known as Old Daddy and Old Mammy, had lived together sixty years at the time of his death.<sup>25</sup>

Elisha Black, Sr., one of the Lincoln Township earliest settlers came to the county in 1856. He was the father of the first white child born in Crawford County.<sup>26</sup>

The immigrants who settled these early towns of our county had many hardships to face. One of their troubles occurred in 1860 when government soldiers drove as many as they could from the territory. The Cherokee Indians had objected to the white settlers on their land. Settlers of Lincoln Township refused to leave their claims. The ones of other parts of the county who were forced to leave returned after the Civil War to claim the land they had previously occupied. From that time on new towns developed and the county was later organized.

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<sup>24</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid.

<sup>26</sup>See page 1. 60.

at this time was Governor CHAPTER II State of Kansas.

Empowered by the act creating the county, Governor  
ORGANIZATION OF CRAWFORD COUNTY  
Crawford appointed T. W. Waller, Lafayette Manlove, Henry

Shaw. The County of Crawford was organized, together with  
many other counties, by an act of the Bogus Legislature,<sup>1</sup>  
which was held at Shawnee Mission in August, 1855. The  
county's early name was McGhee, a name given to that ter-  
ritory that makes up the present counties of Cherokee,  
Crawford, and part of Bourbon. McGhee County was named  
for Milt McGhee, who was then a member of the legislature.<sup>2</sup>  
On the 18th day of February, 1860, the name was changed  
to Cherokee and remained thus until February 13, 1867, when  
by an act entitled "An act to define the boundaries of  
Crawford, Cherokee and Bourbon counties", the boundaries of  
Crawford County were set forth in the following language:

Treasurer.

Commencing at the southeast corner of Bourbon thence  
running south on the east line of the State of Kansas,  
to the southeast corner of Section 13, township 31,  
range 25; thence west to the east line of Neosho  
county as defined by an act approved February 26, 1866;  
thence north to the southwest corner of Bourbon county,  
thence east to the place of beginning.<sup>3</sup>

A. J. Georgia was the only Justice of Peace of whom a  
biography By this act a county about twenty-five miles square was  
made and named Crawford in honor of Samuel J. Crawford who

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<sup>1</sup>A name given to the legislative body voted into office  
by the pro-slavery men.

<sup>2</sup>Home Authors, Crawford County, p. 1. See map page 21.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 3.



at this time was Governor of the state of Kansas.

Empowered by the act creating the county, Governor Crawford appointed T. W. Walles, Lafayette Manlove, Henry Schoen and F. M. Logan as commissioners whose duties were to organize the county, divide it into townships, precincts and commissioner districts.<sup>4</sup>

#### First County Officers

The first county clerk, Lafayette Manlove, gave a thirty day notice of an election to be held for the purpose of electing county officers. James Wamsley was selected to serve as the first Probate Judge of the county. Lafayette Manlove was elected County Clerk. Later he became the founder of one of the county's old towns, naming it Monmouth in honor of his home town. J. Landgon was elected County Treasurer.

W. A. Martin, D. W. Crouse, J. D. Johnson, William Cass, E. P. Wiley, Jespy Everetts and A. J. Georgia were elected Justices of Peace of Crawford County.<sup>5</sup>

A. J. Georgia was the only Justice of Peace of whom a biography could be found. He was born in August, 1835, in New York. At the close of the Civil War his family moved from Iowa to Kansas, settling near the present site of

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<sup>4</sup>Home Authors, Crawford County, p. 2. See map page 21.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.



# Map of Crawford County showing Townships and Settlements

## Bourbon County

Neosho County	Hepler Walnut Brazilton	Farlington Sherman	Cato Old Arcadia Arcadia Lincoln
	Grant	• Girard • Crawfordville Crawford	Mulberry Washington
	Osage Monmouth Mc'Cone	Sheridan Cherokee	Midway Baker • Pittsburg • Iowa City Opolis

## Cherokee County

<sup>6</sup>Home Authors, History of Kansas, p. 33.

<sup>7</sup>Graves, Annals of Osage Mission, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup>Anna S. Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 63.

Pittsburg. He had been a teacher in the Iowa schools until his enlistment in 1862 in the Civil War. At the close of the war he became a teacher in this community and was later elected Superintendent of Crawford County Schools.<sup>6</sup>

#### Land Titles

The early immigrant had difficulty in getting titles to the land settled by them as squatters. The two Indian tribes, the Osage Nation and the Cherokee Nation, were the early owners of the land that now makes up Crawford County, Kansas.

The Osage Indians, through a treaty gave up their rights of ownership to the Cherokee tribe in 1835.<sup>7</sup> The Cherokees in turn ceded to the United States the lands so that they might be sold and the money turned over to them. This treaty was made in 1866.

The first white settlers here settled as squatters; they came by the encouragement of northern or southern emigrant aid companies. Colonies were made up in the states east of the Mississippi and started on their way to Kansas.<sup>8</sup>

The early settlers of Crawford County proved that they were law abiding citizens for hardly had they stuck their

<sup>6</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., p. 334.

<sup>7</sup>Graves, Annals of Osage Mission, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup>Anna E. Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 63.



stakes at the corners of their claims when a meeting was held to make some laws to govern the settlement of claims.<sup>9</sup> Meeting at the home of one of their members, the group consisting of "Daniel Beecher, A. M. and George Hammond, Frank Dossar, S. S. Georgia, George and Issac Hobson and others",<sup>10</sup> organized into a legislature and passed laws governing claim jumping and other crimes. The usual penalty for violation of said laws was hanging to the nearest limb strong enough to hold the violator.<sup>11</sup>

#### Hardships

The hardships of those who early immigrated to this county are probably like those found by early settlers of any location within the state. Few had sufficient means which would enable them to get for themselves all the necessities of a livelihood.

The Osage Indians, the first tribe to come here,<sup>12</sup> found it hard to get a livelihood; they purchased what goods they could only after they had succeeded in selling what they had to white settlers.

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<sup>9</sup>Home Authors, op.cit., p. 16.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., p. 16.

<sup>11</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., p. 16.

<sup>12</sup>See pages 2 and 3, Chapter I of this thesis.

The great movement of the Cherokee Indians from their eastern home, where they seemed to have plenty, to the West, a place where many of the best faltered because of lack of necessities of life, was one of the greatest hardships faced by any group.

The first white immigrants in the early 50's settled on lands belonging to the Indians however they suffered to such an extent that many families returned to their former homes. Those who stayed built cabins usually consisting of two rooms with a loft that served for sleeping purposes.

A fire place served as a stove. Many settlers who were able to acquire a pig or a few chickens kept them in a corner of one of the rooms of the house in order to protect them from the wild animals which roamed the lands at night.

The livelihood of the settlers depended largely upon wild games such as "deer, wild turkey and prairie chickens".<sup>13</sup>

Farming was necessary if the settlers were to have grains for the bare necessities of life, because markets were many miles away, the hardships of getting to them were great, many people who could afford to buy flour, bacon, and the like, did without rather than make the trip.

Usually in the fall of the year there would be much sickness. In the early history of the county those who belonged to the doctor's profession were scarce, so those

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<sup>13</sup>Home Authors, Crawford County, p. 7.



who were able would lend a helping hand in trying to help others regain their health. civilized lands. One group of

As the years passed the settlers succeeded in getting a little better hold upon life.

Survey of Crawford County During 1860-6 we hid in some bushes. Little things we might have saved ourselves some trouble, for they probably saw us before Indian wars hindered the growth of Crawford County as they did other counties throughout the state. E. G. Adams in an article written about Rev. Issac McCoy found in the Kansas Historical Collections<sup>14</sup> says;

Indian warfare added to a misery of the infant state and retarded immigration. Kansas was carved out of the Indian territory which had been set apart by Congress for the homes of the remnants of nearly all tribes, which had in former times possessed the entire portion of the United States north of the Potomac and Ohio River. When it became necessary to provide protection to the early settlers west of the Missouri line, the present site of Fort Scott was made a military post. At the close of the Civil War a group of Osage Indians who had been in the Confederate service and kept along with the Rebel troops in the Indian territory for scalping purposes returned to their reservations in Southern Kansas and started out to plunder our settlers in that part of the State.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>E. G. Adams, "Rev. Issac McCoy", I, 271.

<sup>15</sup>Crawford, Kansas in the Sixties, p. 204.

The sight of an Indian was usually enough to cause most settlers to return to more civilized lands. One group of settlers in Kansas relates this story:

We met three Indians, and as they were the first that we had seen, we were rather scared. We were along way off from the rest of the expedition and so we hid in some bushes. Little Stupid! We might have saved ourselves some trouble, for they probably saw us before we saw them.<sup>16</sup>

The Indians in many instances scared people unknowingly.

In the early days supplies needed for the family use were brought in from Fort Scott. A Mrs. Stevenson and her two daughters were making such a trip, to Fort Scott and on the return trip home they came to an Indian camp. The attitude of the Indians toward the settlers was rather unsettled at that time and Mrs. Stevenson was especially uncertain as to their attitude toward three women alone on the prairie with a wagon load of food. But after spending several moments in thought, she brought out several newly purchased milk crocks, set them on each child's head to make them look like men, and taking two brooms to represent guns, they bravely rode forward into the camp and on through, without being bothered by the Indians.<sup>17</sup>

When Indians on one of their rampages through the county

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<sup>16</sup>Percy F. Ebbutt, Emigrant Life in Kansas, p. 11.

<sup>17</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.



came to the home of Henry Schoen for the purpose of plunder, they recognized the old settler and instead of carrying on their purposed work, "the leader called for watermelons". They were told where the watermelon patch was, and they went in and helped themselves.<sup>18</sup>

Many of the Osage Indians became very friendly with those early settlers near the present site of Walnut. The Indians loved to wrestle and run foot races. In these sports the white man was able to down the noble red man; and the banner went to whites on foot racing.<sup>19</sup>

The Cherokee Indians' possession of the land caused the early immigrants much trouble, not so much however in plundering their homes but in asking the government to buy land from them, because as they stated the white men were taking control of it. President Buchanan found that this could not be done because the Treasury Department of the United States was out of funds. The only course for the President and his land agents to take was to drive the settlers from this area of Crawford County.

During the years of 1859 and 1860, the territory of Kansas like many other territories was in despair because of the lack of rain. Being a territory recently opened up, it was found that its small number of inhabitants could

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<sup>18</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>19</sup>Graves, Annals of Osage Mission, p. 42.

not possibly make a living on the land. Many returned to their old homes. In an article on drought Mrs. M.E. McWhirt said "people think last year was the driest year we have had in Kansas; 60 beat it when the ground cracked so we could poke a fence rail the length of it down".<sup>20</sup> Mrs. McWhirt settled on Lightning Creek in West Crawford County. When stories like this reached the ears of those people who were thinking of journeying to the west, many decided to remain at their old home.

The population of Kansas in 1860 was nearly 100,000 people. The drought was so severe that 60,000 of these needed help from outside the state or they would starve. During the latter part of the year 30,000 settlers abandoned their claims and the improvements they had made on their farms and returned east.<sup>21</sup>

Kansas was referred to as "great American desert" by the immigrants who came and passed through on their way to the gold fields of California.

Emigrant Aid societies did much to disprove the statements made by people of the United States in order to encourage the settlers to come to Kansas.

In an article published in an Emigrant Aid Magazine,

<sup>20</sup> Graves, Annals of Osage Mission, p. 42,

<sup>21</sup> Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 107.



the following message was sent to those intending to migrate:

Droughty Kansas has been so much slandered. Kansas has been misrepresented when called a "Droughty state", which has been caviled into numerous falsehoods by its enemies; until its records of good crops, healthy climates and delicious fruits have dispelled the thin tissues of falsehood; and now excitement becomes intenser in its favor from having been long controlled.

The drought of 1860 happened alike to the Western states but they all had garnered grain and seed except Kansas, where the seeding took the bread and little was raised and those who should have had to sell to the immigrants, with them were compelled for a time, to depend upon contributions from abroad, for bread and seed, no crops having been previously raised. After the seed was sown, immigrants poured in so fast that all had to suffer until crops were grown.

Where there droughts and no place to buy grain, what else would people do until the grain grew, but to go without or borrow from abroad? Other states would have been in the same dilemma had the drought happened to them at the same stage of settlement.<sup>22</sup>

With a rainless summer and a winter that brought only two snows that hardly covered the ground, the settlers were generally in very poor circumstances. Many had gone, in debt for the seeds to prepare for the coming year, and now were ruined. Of those 30,000 that remained in Kansas, many died.<sup>23</sup> Aid came from the eastern and northern portion of the United States. The legislature at Albany interpreted

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<sup>22</sup>The Kansas Herald, devoted to Immigration and the home missionary enterprise of the West. April and May 1871.

<sup>23</sup>Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 107.



the desire of the New York State by voting \$50,000 towards supplying Kansas with seed wheat.<sup>24</sup>

Fighting between the Northern and Southern groups over land in southeastern Kansas was going on almost as soon as the state was opened up as a territory. With the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 thoughts of those who may have been immigrants to the state turned to the war, for the saving of the union and the abolishing of slavery. Kansas responded to the call for troops by President Lincoln and as the fighting progressed the county's share of the soldiers found themselves on many battle fields far away from their home. "On the morning of October 12, 1862, about five thousand union troops under command of General James G. Blunt" left Kansas for the war.

Crawford County settlers who remained at home during the war were exposed to three lines of danger; invasion by the Confederate army, attacks by unorganized border troops, and Indian raids on the frontier.<sup>25</sup> Much honor is due the women who remained in the homes, knowing that poverty was forever present in their group.

#### The Effects of Homestead Law on Immigration

The Homestead Act passed by Congress in 1872, had a

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<sup>24</sup>Charles R. Tuttle, History of Kansas, p. 446.

<sup>25</sup>Kansas State Historical Society Collections, X, op. cit., p. 424.



wonderful effect upon the growth of the State. Large groups of immigrants took possession of 160 acres of land as provided by the law.

This law provides that any person who is the head of a family or who is twenty-one years of age, and who is a citizen of the United States or had declared his intentions to become such, may acquire a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of public land on condition of settlement, cultivation and occupancy as a home for a period of five years, and on payment of certain moderate fees. It also provides that the time that any settler has served in the army or navy may be deducted from the five years.<sup>26</sup>

This new law with its liberal terms for settlement opened Kansas to many immigrants who desired to find new homes. It especially gave opportunity to those who had served in the Civil War. Figures of census reports show that thousands took possession of these new lands during the later part of the 80's. The census of 1885 reports that a total of 100,000 soldiers settled in Kansas under the provisions of the Act. Many of these people found their way to the rich unoccupied land of Crawford County.

#### Effects of Railroad on Immigration

The earliest immigrants to the county were primarily agriculturists who came here to better their standards of living. They migrated to Kansas from the states in the northeast part of the United States.

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<sup>26</sup>Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 109.

The Fort Scott and Gulf railroad was the first in Crawford County.<sup>27</sup> It was to pass through the eastern part of the county from Fort Scott in Bourbon to Baxter Springs, in Cherokee County.<sup>28</sup>

The building of railways through thinly populated areas in the early days always added to that community's rapid growth. The immigrants to this county got titles to land cheap through purchases from the railroad companies. The price paid for land in this county was from \$1.25 to \$5.00 per acre.<sup>29</sup> The immigrants who had already made settlement in Crawford County prior to the advent of the railroads fought against the construction of the lines, primarily because the companies, as the people thought were taking possession of lands that they had already made claims upon. Those who did oppose the building of the railroads found hundreds of others coming in who would purchase land from the companies and build homes upon it.

#### Effect of Emigrant Aid Companies on Immigration

Emigrant Aid Companies were organized to encourage the settlement of Kansas either as a free or slave group.

One of the most notable organizations of this kind was the "New England Emigrant Aid Company", a group started by

<sup>27</sup>See page 33.

<sup>28</sup>Facts and Figures about Kansas, p. 13.

<sup>29</sup>Robley, History of Bourbon County, p. 155.



# A map showing the route of the Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad.

northern people to encourage settlement of Kansas to make it a free state.

Fort Scott

Bourbon County

Another was the Bourbon Reigrant Aid Company, started by a pro-slavery group to encourage southern people to settle Kansas for the purpose of extending slavery further west.<sup>30</sup>

Each of the companies sent hundreds of settlers into the neutral lands. The greatest work each did for Kansas was their advertising its loveliness and fertility to the world. People came from many states to settle here. Many of the early settlers emigrated from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa.<sup>31</sup> Southern states sent their

Neosho County

Labette County

• Pawnee

• Crawford

Walnut Creek

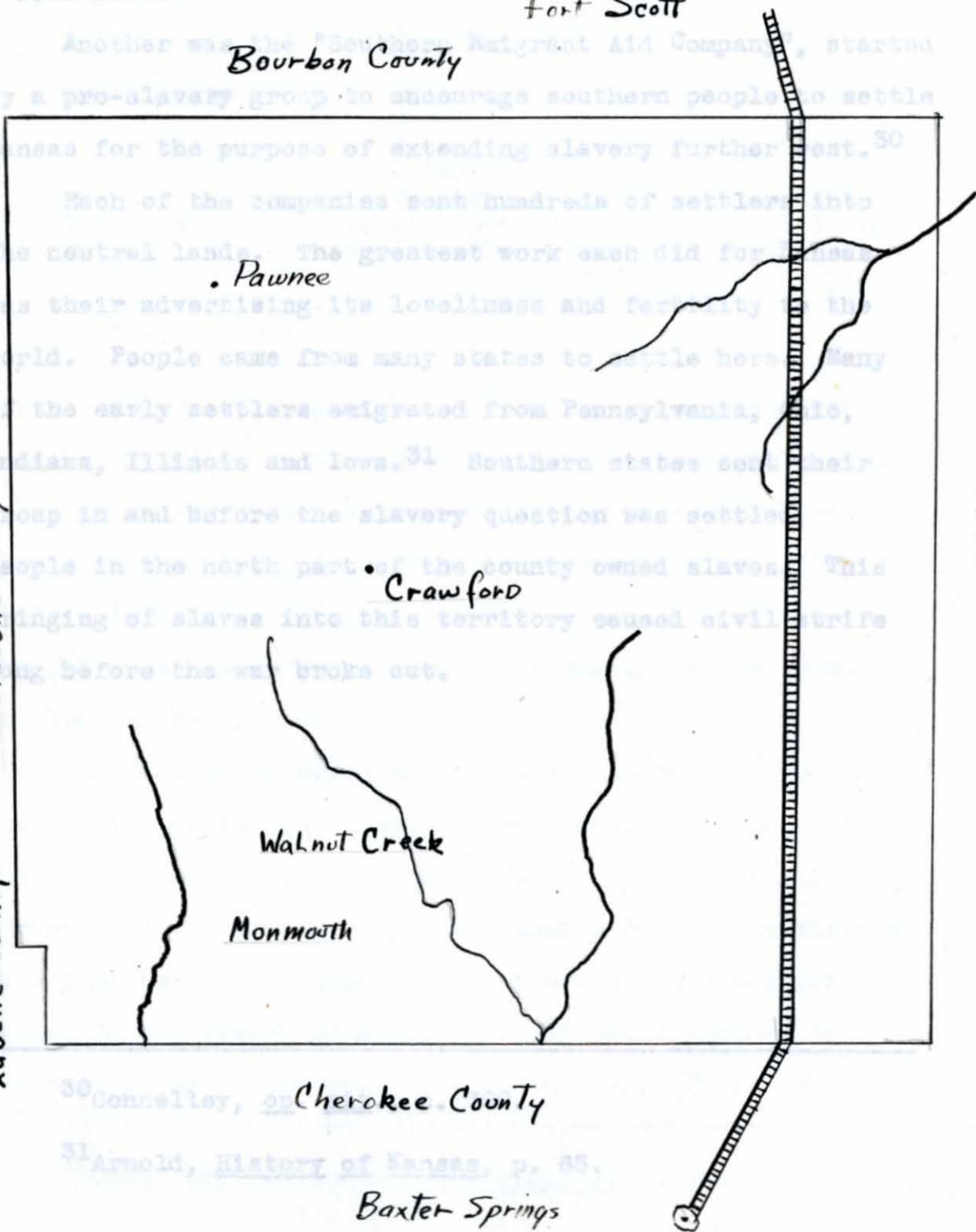
Monmouth

Missouri

<sup>30</sup>Connelley, op Cherokee County

<sup>31</sup>Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 83.

Baxter Springs



northern people to encourage settlement of Kansas to make it a free state.

Another was the "Southern Emigrant Aid Company", started by a pro-slavery group to encourage southern people to settle Kansas for the purpose of extending slavery further west.<sup>30</sup>

Each of the companies sent hundreds of settlers into the neutral lands. The greatest work each did for Kansas was their advertising its loveliness and fertility to the world. People came from many states to settle here. Many of the early settlers emigrated from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa.<sup>31</sup> Southern states sent their group in and before the slavery question was settled, people in the north part of the county owned slaves. This bringing of slaves into this territory caused civil strife long before the war broke out.

Kansas upon entering the union was suffering from one of the worst droughts the state has ever had. From June 1859 until November 1860, not a shower fell to soak the earth. Springs and creeks were dry. The people within the state at this time suffered severely. Those who had not the resources to endure the season of misfortune and could procure the

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<sup>30</sup>Connelley, op. cit., p. 799.

<sup>31</sup>Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 65.



### CHAPTER III

#### IMMIGRATION INTO CRAWFORD COUNTY

Immigration has been defined as:

A movement of people, individually or in families, acting on their own personal initiative and responsibility, without official support or compulsion passing from one well developed country (usually old and thickly settled) to another well developed country (usually new and sparsely populated) with the intentions of residing there permanently.<sup>1</sup>

Early immigrants in this county were the red men who were here before 1825 but the white men did not come until in 1857.

The United States encouraged people to make settlements here, prior to 1882, to settle its vast area of frontier lands. Emigrant Aid Societies were advertising Kansas throughout the East and trying to encourage people to make settlements here.

Kansas upon entering the union was suffering from one of the worst droughts the state has ever had. From June 1859 until November 1860, not a shower fell to soak the earth. Springs and creeks were dry. The people within the state at this time suffered severely. Those who had not the resources to endure the season of misfortune and could procure the means to go East, abandoned their holdings. Fully thirty

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<sup>1</sup>Henry Pratt Fairchild, Immigration, p. 26.

<sup>2</sup>Home Authors, Crawford County, p. 3.

thousand left the territory.<sup>2</sup>

### Settlers Contest for Their Homes

As has already been stated in the first chapter the Osage Indians were the first people to immigrate to this territory. They settled their claim at the present site of St. Paul, Kansas. They owned some land in Crawford County until 1825 at which time by treaty it was ceded to the Cherokee Indians.<sup>3</sup>

The Cherokee Indians, possessors of all the land that makes up Crawford, Cherokee, and a part of Bourbon Counties from 1825 to 1866, never settled the territory.<sup>4</sup> The land was sold July 31, 1866 by the United States government. Out of this "neutral lands" were made the counties of Cherokee, Bourbon and Crawford. The immigration to the latter being the purpose of this study.

Prior to this time white settlers had made claims on this territory. A settlement was growing fast at the site of the old fort, in Fort Scott, Kansas. Emigrant Aid Companies in their rush to make Kansas either slave or free were sending in groups in large numbers. In 1856 a colony from South Carolina settled in Fort Scott. They were a friendly group of fifty people and mingled freely with the

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<sup>2</sup>Tuttle, History of the State of Kansas, p. 445.

<sup>3</sup>Graves, Annals of Osage Mission, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup>Home Authors, Crawford County, p. 3.



Free State men. After getting all the information they could, about land titles, they caused the arrest of the free-state men and had them driven from the territory. Taking charge of the courts they made themselves the owners of the claims of the free state men. Joseph Williams, a judge, and a sympathizer of the "Dark Lantern Lodge" upheld the work of the southern group.<sup>5</sup>

During the year of 1857 the free men returned, organized the "Wide awakes" and began driving the pro-slavery group from their old claims.<sup>6</sup>

A "squatter court" was established on the banks of Lightning Creek to settle claim rights for the free state group.<sup>7</sup> The court was not legal according to Kansas laws, but rendered justice more to the satisfaction of the group living there than the old district court did. Many claims of the free state group were adjusted.

In the year of 1857 a deputy United States Marshal named Little, was ordered to break up the court and arrest those connected with it. With fifty men he proceeded to the place where the court was being held; he asked those in charge to surrender to the government. The "squatter" group refusing to obey the order fired into his group injuring several.

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<sup>5</sup>Connelly, Kansas and Kansans, p. 681.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

Little's men retreated and returned the following day with one hundred fifty soldiers, to find the court officers had disappeared.<sup>8</sup>

Some of the southern group then tried to hold their claims but a member of the "squatter group" made living in that area very unpleasant for those who remained.<sup>9</sup>

By 1860 immigration was pouring into eastern Kansas, a section which had been without any large cities or industrial centers to lure the immigrant.<sup>10</sup>

Getting titles to the land which they settled upon proved a difficult problem to the settlers.

The Cherokee Indians seeing their land being inhabited by whites, asked the government to purchase the land from them. The United States government could not pay the price asked by the Indians so issued a warning to all settlers that they were trespassers on other's soil and should move off the land. Many did move to other parts but those who stayed succeeded in getting headright title.<sup>11</sup>

At a land sale at Fort Scott, Kansas the tracts sold at from \$1.25 to \$5.00 per acre. Those people who came as squatters to the territory went armed to the land sale

<sup>8</sup>Connelly, Kansas and Kansans, p. 681

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 799.

<sup>10</sup>Robley, History of Bourbon County, p. 146.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.



and had little difficulty with others who might want to purchase their lands. settlers a great deal of trouble during

Civil The population was scattered throughout the county in small settlements, at the beginning of the Civil War. The Cherokee Indians again tried to sell their lands, this time to the Confederacy. This caused the settlers to ask the United States government for protection from the Indians. Protection was given and after the war was over the Cherokee Indians ceded the lands to the government. Provisions were made to survey and sell the land. site of Croweburg, this

Before the Civil War had started Crawford County immigrants were experiencing many hardships due to the lack of law enforcement. Many bad characters roved the county to steal from and kill whom ever they cared to; of these the Livingston gang of southeast Kansas were known throughout the state. Another group, the Tippy Brothers, proved to be most notorious. They were cattle theives who had a unique way of getting the cattle. They would approach the settler who had cattle to sell, buy them drive the stock off and then return that night and rob him of the money they had given him.<sup>12</sup> Lincoln called for troops for the Civil War.

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<sup>12</sup> Webster defines the word "bushwhackers" as meaning. Home Authors, Crawford County, p. 5. Records show that the Tippy Brothers committed the first murder in Crawford County. John L. Shannon of Monmouth was killed in an attempted robbery. The Tippy Brothers themselves were tried for murder and sentenced to be hanged for their crime. The cattle which they had stolen were found and returned to the owner.

"Bushwhackers"<sup>13</sup> and "Guerillas" were other groups who caused the immigrant settlers a great deal of trouble during Civil War days. Those who left their homes and joined the Union troops, and returned home on furloughs would find the Bushwhackers to greet them. In many cases of this kind they never returned to their company. Captain John Rogers, who was visiting his friends at Cato was murdered by a group of this kind. The Union soldiers captured the Bushwhackers, made them dig their own graves, and then killed them.<sup>14</sup> In Lincoln Township near the present site of Croweburg, this group of men were punished. Another group of lawless men known as the "Jayhawkers" had their joy in seeing how much they could steal from many sources.

Pittsburg in its early days had a share of massacres of Union soldiers. A wagon train with a cargo of wounded soldiers on the way from Baxter Springs to Fort Scott after the Quantrill raid of that section was followed by guerillas. In the battle that took place the guerillas killed most of the soldiers and then fled.<sup>15</sup>

Crawford County sent more than its quota of soldiers when Abraham Lincoln called for troops for the Civil War.

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<sup>13</sup> Webster defines the word "Bushwhackers" as meaning "one accustomed to beat about or travel through the bushes; one who lives in or frequents the woods", applied specifically by the Federal troops in the Civil War to irregular troops of the Confederate state engaged in Guerilla warfare.

<sup>14</sup> Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.



The Topeka Daily Capital (December 11, 1906) published the following story about the county's war record:

When the Civil War broke out there were not many settlers in this county. Practically the only settlements in the county were in the north and along Drywood and Bone Creek. The border trouble had caused the settlers to get in reach of the troops at Fort Scott and moreover the Federal troops had driven many of the settlers off of the Indian lands in this county, so that when the war broke out in 1861 the only settlers left here were along the north edge of the county around the present sites of Arcadia and Cato.

Three companies were formed however among the settlers and saw service in the Jayhawkers regiments. Two companies were raised along Drywood Creek in the vicinity of the present town of Arcadia. Captain Borning, later one of the prominent men of the county, commanded one; and Captain Brown another man prominent in Lincoln township headed the other.

A third company was recruited on Lightning Creek and became known as the Lightning Creek guards.

These volunteer soldiers participated in a big rally of troops at Fort Scott on July 4, 1861. A great demonstration was held at that time.

On the following day a battle fought at Carthage, Missouri brought home to the settlers here the first alarm of the war. The settlers were badly frightened at the approach of the rebel troops and many of them left their homes and farms and fled in haste to Fort Scott.

There were no real battles fought on Crawford County soil during the five years of conflict but several skirmishes were fought in which a number were killed on either side. One of these skirmishes occurred on Cow Creek at the present site of the city of Pittsburg. In this fight between some of the troopers of General Price's rebel force and the guards of a wagon train making its way to Fort Scott, a number were killed and only a few years ago skeletons of what is supposed to have been rebels who fell in the fighting were found in rude graves on Cow Creek.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>The Topeka Daily Capital, December 11, 1906.

At the close of the war the estimated number of dead or disabled was 200,000 men. This was a great drain upon the labor of the country. When the states west of the Mississippi were to be settled it was found that America could not produce the people to do it with. A plan was devised to encourage aliens to come here to supply labor and settle vast frontier lands.<sup>17</sup>

On February 16, 1864 there was established a Bureau of Immigration the purpose of which was to encourage settlement in Kansas. The commission being established they decided to appoint agents to visit Europe to encourage immigration to Kansas. Steamship companies and railroad companies worked with the commission to help the immigrant to get here as cheaply as he could.<sup>18</sup>

By September of 1865 settlers began to arrive on the neutral lands. The journey was made from the east in covered wagons, many of which were drawn by oxen. The immigrants brought with them their chickens, hogs, cattle and whatever household necessities they could haul. Claims were selected by the people and some kind of shack to serve as a home was erected and when the spring of the year arrived the first crops were planted.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Blackmar, Kansas, pp. 895-96.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid. and Figures about Kansas, p. 25.

<sup>19</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., p. 4.



The soldiers who had returned to their homes after the Civil War was over found it a hard matter to get employment. By this time stories of Kansas especially Crawford County with its "outcropping coal" were being told throughout the east.

The Homestead Act helped to encourage many to come here. Under this act it was possible after one had occupied and improved the site, to own 160 acres of land "as a homestead for \$18 and five years residence on pre-emption claim for \$200".<sup>20</sup>

In the year of 1866 Congress decided to sell the neutral lands. James Harlan, who was at this time Secretary of the Interior, was given the power to sell the land for \$800,000. The conditions being that land was not to be sold that settlers had homesteaded prior to 1866. The land was purchased by the American Emigrant Company just before Harlan left office. This company had headquarters at Des Moines, Iowa, which was the home of James Harlan. Harlan's term of office was up and his successor, H. Browning, sent for the title papers; being a lawyer he soon found that in selling the lands a fraud had been committed. The sale was declared null and void. Secretary Browning, having revoked and set aside the sale of said lands by his predecessor, immediately turned around and sold the same lands to James F. Joy on terms similar to the Harlan deal.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Facts and Figures about Kansas, p. 25.

<sup>21</sup>Crawford, Kansas in the Sixties, p. 130. Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company, Recorder of Deeds, Book A. p. 116 (Girard, Kansas).

When this news reached Kansas, the settlers on the land began to show much dissatisfaction. They argued that the Homestead laws gave them the rights to acquire 160 acre tracts of public land on condition of settlement, cultivation, and occupancy. In a letter to the Commissioner of Public lands, Samuel J. Crawford said:

Congress should take some steps to protect the settlers either by annulling the contract of sale, or otherwise. They have gone upon these lands and made their improvements in the fullest faith that they would be permitted to secure titles from the government at a cost not exceeding a dollar and a quarter an acre.<sup>22</sup>

The purchase of the lands by Joy was ratified by Congress; this ended the activity of the United States government in the neutral lands question.

The question was far from being settled in Crawford County however. The settlers soon found out that Joy was a speculator and had purchased the lands so that he might sell it to the railroad company which at this time was interested in extending its line from Fort Scott through neutral land territory to Baxter Springs.

On March 10, 1869 he sold his interest in the lands to the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company.<sup>23</sup> Then he was made their representative in Crawford County; his

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<sup>22</sup>Crawford, Kansas in the Sixties, p. 313.

<sup>23</sup>Warranty Deed Joy to the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company, Recorder of Deeds, Book A. p. 116 (Girard, Kansas).



purpose was to carry out the terms of the contract by which he had acquired the territory.

The settlers paid no attention to the railroad rights and a majority of them opposed the building of a railroad through the land. W. H. Laughlin who represented the settlers at Washington, D. C., did all he could to misinform the group he represented, simply because a prolonged fight would provide for him a life of ease at the settlers' expense. His speeches to the settlers were fiery always inciting the group to hold out for their rights.<sup>24</sup>

Another speaker who argued for the settlers and their claims was the Honorable Sidney Clarke. He delivered an address at Iowa City, about July 8, 1869, from which the following is a well authenticated extract:<sup>25</sup>

I do not advise violence to be used to prevent the construction of the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad through the lands occupied by the settlers; but I do advise you to stand firm and united to a man, and no road ever can be built without your consent. Why? Because if a weary traveler should come along, and wishing to read, set down upon a pile of railroad ties and while smoking his pipe, a spark should happen to fall and burn up the ties, could any one blame you for it, and say that you were using violence to prevent the construction for the road? I reckon not. Or suppose the prairie grass should by some such accident take fire and burn up the wagons, tents, and instruments of the engineers, could that be charged to you? I think not. Now, who ever heard of railroad cars running

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<sup>24</sup>Andreas, History of State of Kansas, p. 1119.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid. p. 1118.



through a country without rails or ties? I never did. Yet I don't advise force to prevent the most damnable railroad swindle, but I know that these accidents do happen in the best regulated communities. Now, gentlemen, if any such thing should happen to this swindling road, you must all be in bed and asleep when it happens or as soon after as possible.<sup>26</sup>

Attempts were made by anti-railroad groups to seize and destroy whatever property they could that belonged to the railroad company. In Osage township a crowd went to the assessor's house to get possession of the abstract of the railroad's lands, to prevent assessment. In Bourbon County the settlers attacked the workers of the railroad. All the wheelbarrows, shovels, picks, tents, shanties and everything else that could be found belonging to the workmen and contractors of the road was burned.<sup>27</sup>

A few of the settlers however were in favor of the construction of the railroad through the territory; they realized the value of it. The political ideas of the people of Crawford County were divided on this question and three new parties originated. The parties were the anti-railroad group who succeeded in electing a number of their men into county offices, the railroad or law and order group and the democratic group. The law and order group invited James F. Joy to begin construction work on the railroad but he refused

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<sup>26</sup>Andreas, History of State of Kansas, p. 1119.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid., p. 1118.



to do so because of the opposition in the county toward his ideas.

One of the early newspapers of the county, The Girard Press, worked for the law and order group. Editorials about Laughlin and Sidney Clarke stated that they were not true friends of the settlers.<sup>28</sup> These press attacks upon Clarke brought out denials from him about his Iowa City speech.

While this controversy was going on in the county it was having its effect upon immigration. The immigrants were told that they could not get titles to the land in Crawford County; many of them went to other parts of the state to make their homes. Those who came here found that titles could be obtained for land and they immediately began building their homes.<sup>29</sup>

The attacks of the anti-railroad group upon Joy and Warner (Editor of the Girard Press) were continued and on July 4, 1871, the Press office was burned with an estimated loss of \$4,000. This made Mr. Warner more determined to stay with the law and order group. Eleven days later the Press was reopened. The first edition published letters of sympathy sent to the Press from all of the leading Kansas newspapers.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>Andreas, op. cit., p. 1118, Sidney Clarke was supporting the Cherokee Treaty in Washington and opposing it in Kansas.

<sup>29</sup>Girard Press, March 16, 1871.

<sup>30</sup>Girard Press, (Extra) July 15, 1871.

The claims of the anti-railroad group were lost when the supreme court upheld the Joy purchase and many of the settlers repurchased their land from the railroad company. This ended one of the greatest questions to be settled in Crawford County and the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad past through the territory to Baxter Springs, Kansas.<sup>31</sup>

With the railroads advertising cheap land for sale immigrants began pouring into the territory.

In five years from 1880 to 1885 there had been a general prosperity, which led to a "boom" in the towns and cities for which, when it was over, there seemed to be no reasonable explanation.<sup>32</sup>

#### Immigration Laws

In the year of 1882 the Congress of the United States enacted the first general immigration law. It provided that a head tax of 50 cents should be levied on all aliens, "the money thus collected to be used to defray the expenses of regulating and handling the immigrants". The law prohibited convicts, lunatics, idiots and those likely to become public charges from being admitted.<sup>33</sup>

The Act of February 26, 1885 provided that the importation

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<sup>31</sup>See map page 33.

<sup>32</sup>Noble Prentiss, A History of Kansas, p. 219.

<sup>33</sup>Philip Davis, Immigration and Americanization, p. 337.



of contract labor was unlawful. Contract labor is making an agreement with workers in their home country for jobs in America and pledging their wages in advance to pay for their passage way to the United States. The Act does not prevent a person from assisting any number of his family or relatives from coming in for purpose of settlement.<sup>34</sup> This Act was amended in 1887, and contract laborers could be returned to their country similar to other excluded groups. In 1888 the law was again amended this time providing that if a person entered the country contrary to the contract labor law, he might be deported within one year at the expense of the person or persons who were responsible for bringing him here. The Act of March 3, 1891 excluded "persons suffering from a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease and polygamists."<sup>35</sup> 1921. Immigrants coming into the country after this period were chiefly those who were selling their labor and were seeking a more favorable market for it. They had ambitions of bettering their social position with thought of returning to their former country with enough money saved so that they might live a comfortable life there.<sup>36</sup> as 150,000 annually and The Immigration Act of 1903 raised the head tax to two

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<sup>34</sup>Fairchild, op. cit., p. 113.

<sup>35</sup>David, op. cit., pp. 340-341.

<sup>36</sup>Interview with Tony Decario of Arma, Kansas, January 15, 1937.

dollars and placed ~~army~~ groups on the excluded list. From the Act of March 3, 1903 until the Act of February 20, 1907 no laws of general importance affecting immigration were enacted by Congress.<sup>37</sup> The law of 1907 proposed several changes, the head tax was increased to four dollars; imbeciles and feebleminded persons were added to the exclusion list.<sup>38</sup> The quota act of 1921 was the next immigration law to be passed. This law fixed the exact number of persons each country was permitted to send to the United States. The quota was three per cent of the total number of the people of that nationality living in the United States according to the Census of 1910.<sup>39</sup>

The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924 excluded races of the Oriental countries. The law also changed the quota law of 1921, so that only two per cent of the nationals according to the census of 1890 were admitted.<sup>40</sup> The purpose of this change was to bring into the United States more northern Europeans. This law remained in effect till 1929 at which time the national origins act was passed. This new act fixed the total number of aliens to be admitted as 150,000 annually and the quota was a proportionate share for each national

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<sup>37</sup> Davis, op. cit., p. 345.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 346.

<sup>39</sup> World Almanac and Encyclopedia, 1922, p. 324.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 1925, p. 198.



group according to the 1920 census.<sup>41</sup> One of the reasons why people immigrated from European countries was depression. Since 1929 when the depression started in America aliens have been migrating back to their native lands and mass immigration to this country seems to be a thing of the past.

#### Settlements and Settlers

During this period from 1882 to 1924 when the United States began to control immigration through passage of immigration laws, Crawford County was increasing its population by the thousands each year.

Deep mines were developed and soon many cities and towns had grown up where once there was timber land. Some of the more important towns to be incorporated are given.

Located in the southern part of the county, the City of Cherokee was founded in 1870 "when the founders erroneously thought the town was in the county by that name".<sup>42</sup> Among the first who settled in Cherokee was Captain Jameson, who built the first hotel, The Grand Central. J. W. Fletcher built a small frame store building, and "Grandpa" Price built one also. Dr. Cushenberry was the first druggist.<sup>43</sup>

Cherokee being a railroad center of a county soon

<sup>41</sup>See page 57.

<sup>42</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid.

grew to a prosperous community. It was in the immediate neighborhood of Cherokee that the Honorable Eugene F. Ware noted Kansas poet laureate, had his experience as a frontiersman.<sup>44</sup> Among other early settlers to Cherokee are George W. Brown, G. W. B. Hoffman, J. Manlove, Joseph and George Lucas and A. M. Chasey.<sup>45</sup>

In the winter of 1872 John B. Sargent and E. R. Moffett both of Joplin, Missouri conceived the plan of building a railroad from Joplin to Girard, Kansas.<sup>46</sup> Robert E. Carlton was trustee of the Baker township in 1875.<sup>47</sup> He wrote into the land election petition a clause which required the company to maintain a depot in the center of the area. This place selected became the present site of Pittsburg.<sup>48</sup> The building of railroads, the opening of the coal fields, the development of the county's natural resources all led to Pittsburg's becoming the largest city of southeastern Kansas. Settlers who helped to build the Pittsburg of today are: George Dossar, Jacob Pugh,<sup>49</sup> Charles Patmore, W. J. Watson and Mr. Clanton.<sup>50</sup> In 1883 Pittsburg was incorporated as

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<sup>44</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., p. 27.

<sup>45</sup>Ibid., p. 28.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid., p. 34.

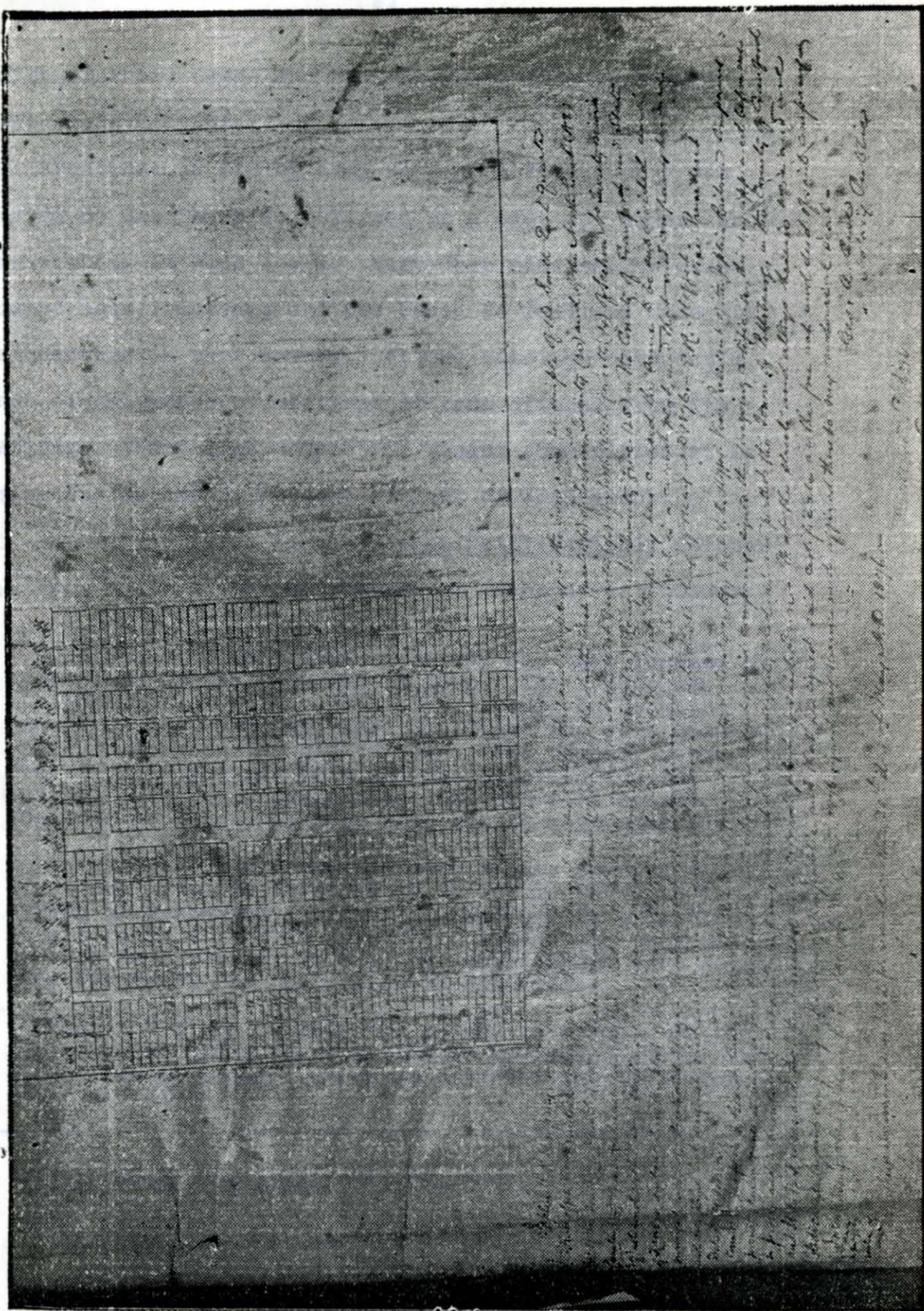
<sup>47</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>48</sup>See original town plat, p. 53

<sup>49</sup>Mr. Pugh formerly owned all the land making up Pittsburg.

<sup>50</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., pp. 34, 35, 36.





Photograph of the original Town plot of Pittsburg, Kansas



a city of third class and by September, 1905 it became a first class city.<sup>51</sup>

Frontenac, a mining camp that grew into a city was started by the Santa Fe railroad as a camp for miners who were working in Mine No. 1. Many deep mine shafts were located near Frontenac and the Santa Fe railroad made its headquarters in this county. At one time the city could boast of shipments of millions of tons of coal from its stations. Today like many other mining communities it is losing its citizens, because of lack of employment.

An article found in the Topeka Daily Capital, October 23, 1911, tells of the settlement of Chicopee as follows:

Quite a different type of colony was that located by the Santa Fe Coal Company in 1885. The colony was Chicopee, four miles south of Pittsburg in Crawford County. The colonists were Sicilians who were brought here to work in the coal fields. The company store was in Chicopee and here all the supplies for the mining camp which surrounded the town were bought. Saloons or joints as they were called were numerous.

Between two and three thousand miners and their families lived in Chicopee which became known as the "Town of Mysterious Murders". The Sicilians carried their feuds with them from the homeland and many old scores were settled in Chicopee where there were never any witnesses for the police to the crime.

When the mines failed, the colony vanished. In the Chicopee of today there is little to remind one of the Sicilians settlement which so harassed the law enforcement officials.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>51</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>52</sup>Topeka Daily Capital, October 23, 1911.



Other towns to be settled in Crawford County from 1870 to 1920 are: Monmouth, the third town located in the county; McCune in Osage township laid out in 1879; Walnut, Farlington, Hepler, Opolis, Beulah, Mulberry, Englevale and Arma.<sup>53</sup> Many mining camps were started near the mines and very few of them became incorporated.<sup>54</sup>

Settlers who came here in the early days built the county up from a prairie land to the fourth largest county in the state. Many reasons have been given by immigrants as to why they left their foreign country and came to America. Political reasons have caused many to leave their homes to live in a country having a democratic government. The reason that many gave however is that they came to this country because of the advice and assistance given them by relatives and friends. Letters were written to them and the working conditions found in America always sounded better than those at home. This story was told to the author by a lady who came from Belgium with her sister in 1896:

The population of Crawford County grew steadily at the time we came to America, to make \$50,000 so that we could return to our country and live. I was only 20 and my sister was 32. Our first stop was in New York having only ten dollars left we began looking for work. We found employment as housekeepers. While working

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<sup>53</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., pp. 47, 48, 49, 50.

<sup>54</sup>Charles Zuech interview, April 13, 1937.

<sup>55</sup>See Table I, page 57.

<sup>56</sup>See chart page 57.

there we heard of how great Crawford County was, and how easy it was to make a living there. We packed our things and a few weeks later we were in Frontenac, Jobs were not easy to find and the pay wasn't what we heard it would be. Wages being two dollars a month my first job was taking care of a rooming house that had fourteen bachelor men living in it. I wanted to go on to Colorado to live but my sister made me stay with her. I have never been back to Belgium since we left.<sup>55</sup>

Another told a story of how he came to America because of an attempt being made to get him into service in the army. This is the story told by a young man who was born in the United States but left with his parents after they had made a small fortune in the bakery business in this county. The family planned to live in Europe where both the father and mother were born. He said,

When I became of age the government called me into service in the army. I thought being born in the United States would keep me from the military service required by the country I was living in. However that was not so and my turn came. My parents decided to send me back to the United States and keep me from the army service. After much difficulty experienced in getting out of Europe I sailed for Canada entering the United States from there.<sup>56</sup>

The population of Crawford County grew steadily at the beginning of the new century, during which time the coal mines were supplying most of the work for this group.<sup>57</sup> During

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<sup>55</sup>Mary Bozick interview, March 2, 1938.

<sup>56</sup>Charles Zuech interview, April 18, 1937.

<sup>57</sup>See chart page 57.



POPULATION OF CRAWFORD COUNTY  
BY YEARS 1867-1934

Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.
1867	2,000	1891	30,088	1915	60,334
1868	No data	1892	29,638	1916	61,726
1869	No data	1893	31,889	1917	62,306
1870	9,000	1894	33,109	1918	60,886
1871	No data	1895	33,825	1919	60,249
1872	No data	1896	36,381	1920	61,800
1873	No data	1897	40,649	1921	60,793
1874	No data	1898	39,605	1922	60,717
1875	No data	1899	40,632	1923	60,886
1876	No data	1900	40,259	1924	61,448
1877	No data	1901	40,110	1925	60,372
1878	No data	1902	41,727	1926	61,199
1879	No data	1903	42,198	1927	62,884
1880	16,000	1904	45,070	1928	61,199
1881	No data	1905	48,231	1929	59,176
1882	No data	1906	50,060	1930	52,073
1883	No data	1907	52,817	1931	50,166
1884	23,684	1908	51,423	1932	49,451
1885	No data	1909	53,312	1933	49,757
1886	26,180	1910	50,209	1934	48,679
1887	26,147	1911	52,154	1935	49,010
1888	28,002	1912	50,272	1936	49,222
1889	30,169	1913	51,170	1937	48,364
1890	29,667	1914	58,452	1938	47,788

Chart compiled from County Clerk's Statistical Records  
1884-1938, previous years taken from Federal Census.

Cleveland.<sup>50</sup>

A. W. Houch who lives at 1113 East Seventh, in Pittsburg.

<sup>58</sup>Italians, German and French were coming in.

<sup>59</sup>Interview made June 6, 1938 at Mr. Black's home in Englevalle. See page 60.

<sup>60</sup>George B. Hobson, brother of Mrs. Aikman, interview, June 16, 1938.

this period many new mining camps and cities grew up and a different type of foreigner was immigrating to the county.<sup>58</sup> It is impossible to know the names of all the old settlers who are living yet in the county but the author has made contact with some. The following biographies and biographical sketches are the more important ones of the county.

Elisha Black was born in Crawford County, April, 1857 and is the oldest native resident yet living in Crawford County. Mr. Black now past his eighty-first birthday lives in a three room house at Engle vale, Kansas. He delights in telling stories of early happenings in Crawford County. He has lived alone since he was sixty-four years of age.<sup>59</sup>

Mrs. Mattie Aikman was a resident of Crawford County since March 21, 1868. Mrs. Aikman was born on that date at the family home two miles south and half mile east of the present Fourth and Broadway. Her father homesteaded 160 acres of land near the site of Iowa City where he became postmaster. Mrs. Aikman until her death, February 20, 1938 took care of a rooming house for girls at her home, 203 East Cleveland.<sup>60</sup> Born in this county June 6, 1861. She was born near A. W. Houch who lives at 1113 East Seventh, in Pittsburg,

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<sup>58</sup>Italians, German and French were coming in.

<sup>59</sup>Interview made June 6, 1938 at Mr. Black's home in Engle vale. See page 60.

<sup>60</sup>George E. Hobson, brother of Mrs. Aikman, interview, June 16, 1938.



Kansas was born in 1855. When he was thirteen years old his parents came to Kansas from Ohio in a covered wagon. The family settled on a farm near the present camp of Ringo.<sup>61</sup>

George W. Strong, the only child of Dr. Strong, founder of the city of Girard, is still living on the 160 acres of land that his father settled upon. Mr. Strong is seventy-four years old being born March 16, 1864. He was five years old when his parents came to Crawford County. He lives three miles west of Girard on the east bank of Lightning Creek just a little to the south and west of the old site of Crawfordsville. Mr. Strong has engaged in farming work for the past thirty years.<sup>62</sup>

B. F. Goodwin, an early settler in Crawford County was born in Illinois in 1832. Mr. Goodwin enlisted in the Union army in 1862 and at the close of the war he homesteaded 160 acres of land in this county. He settled near the present site of Cherokee in 1868. In 1882 he moved to Pittsburg, Kansas and became the city blacksmith.<sup>63</sup>

Another old resident of Crawford County is Mrs. Frances Maes who was born in this county June 6, 1861. She was born near the present town of Englevale. Mrs. Maes parents homesteaded near that city in 1842. Later they moved about half

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<sup>61</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1936.

<sup>62</sup>George W. Strong interview, June 27, 1938 at his home west of Girard, Kansas.

<sup>63</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926. See page 62.

A mile west of Four Corners on the west bank of First Cow  
Crack. Mrs. Mace is the sister of P. M. Smith who claimed  
to be the first white boy in the county. She is living  
at 1610 North Route, Pittsburg, Kansas.<sup>64</sup>

Mrs. Ida Tolliver was an early immigrant to  
Crawford County from the fall of 1835. She was  
six months old when she settled near the present site  
of the Hull and Pittsburg Iron Works plant. Her father,  
a soldier of the Civil War, owned his land. Mrs. Roder-  
son lived in the county until her death in 1937.<sup>65</sup>

Mrs. Margaret Dolley in the last six months  
lived at 701 North 8th Street, Kansas, came to this  
county sixty-eight years ago. She was born in Ohio in 1860,  
being eight years old when she came to this county. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew  
Michels journeyed to this county and finally settled on a farm  
in the south part of the county, near the site of Pittsburg, the  
farm house being situated about a mile from the location of the  
Rhoades Greenhouse. Mrs. Dolley now lives at Fort Scott,  
Kansas.<sup>66</sup>

Mrs. E.A. Eysenhardt Elisha Black present site of Pittsburg

First white child born in  
<sup>64</sup>Mrs. P. Smith was born in August and E. Black in April, 1857.  
Crawford County, Kansas. June 12, 1936 at Pittsburg,  
Kansas. P. Smith was born in August and E. Black in April, 1857.

<sup>65</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 10, 1936 and 1937.

<sup>66</sup>Mrs. Margaret Dolley interview June 1st at her home in  
Fort Scott, Kansas.



A mile west of Four Corners on the west bank of First Cow Creek. Mrs. Maes is the sister of P. M. Smith who claimed to be the first white boy born in the county. She is living at 1610 North Rouse, Pittsburg, Kansas.<sup>64</sup>

Mrs. Ida Toliver Henderson was an early immigrant to Crawford County from Illinois in the fall of 1866. She was six months old when her family settled near the present site of the Hull and Dillon Packing Company plant. Her father, a soldier of the Civil War homesteaded his land. Mrs. Henderson lived in the county until her death in 1937.<sup>65</sup>

Mrs. Margaret Dolley, who until the last six months lived at 701 North Grand, Pittsburg, Kansas, came to this county sixty-eight years ago. She was born in Ohio in 1860, being eight years old when her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Michels journeyed to Kansas. Her family settled on a farm in the south part of the present town site of Pittsburg, the farm house being situated across from the location of the Rhoades Greenhouse. Mrs. Dolley lives at Fort Scott, Kansas.<sup>66</sup>

Mrs. E.A. Eyestone moved to the present site of Pittsburg

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<sup>64</sup>Mrs. Frances Maes, interview June 12, 1938 at Pittsburg, Kansas. P. Smith was born in August and E. Black in April, 1857.

<sup>65</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1936 and 1937.

<sup>66</sup>Mrs. Margaret Dolley interview June 1st at her home in Fort Scott, Kansas.

with her family in February 1870. Mrs. Byrstone's father helped to break the prairie for farming. The family first lived near the Oakhill school house and bought all the necessary family supplies from either Fort Scott or Warburg.

Mrs. Byrstone died in 1937.<sup>67</sup>  
 Mrs. Mary Hofmeister, Pittsburg, Kansas, April 5, 1872. She has lived in this county for 60 years. Mrs. Hofmeister's father, John Schoenberger, a settler of this vicinity, helped to break the prairie from the land he homesteaded. Mrs. Hofmeister now lives at 1706 North Grand.<sup>68</sup>



B. F. Goodwin

**Early Immigrant to Pittsburg, Kansas**

Alex. McAllister, 367 in England, came to this county in 1870. He was a safety miner. Mr. McAllister was a coal miner and Scotland mines on mine explosions. Because of his success there in the mines he decided to come to America where his family was living. Mr. McAllister has succeeded in destroying many of the causes of mine explosions in this district. He has written several articles on explosives for the Pittsburg Headlight and magazines for the coal miners.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>67</sup> Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1936 and 1937.

<sup>68</sup> Mrs. Hofmeister interview at Pittsburg, Kansas, June 12, 1936.

<sup>69</sup> Mr. McAllister interview at Ringo, Kansas, July 7, 1936.



with her family in February 1870. Mrs. Eyestone's father helped to break the prairie for farming. The family first lived near the Gaskill school house and bought all the necessary family supplies from either Fort Scott or Carthage. Mrs. Eyestone died in Pittsburg, Kansas in 1937.<sup>67</sup>

Mrs. Mary Hofmeister was born in Pittsburg, Kansas, April 5, 1872. She has lived here all her life. Mrs. Hofmeister's father, John Schnackenberg, was an early settler of this vicinity, helped to lay out east Pittsburg from the land he homesteaded. Mrs. Hofmeister lives at the present time at 1706 North Grand.<sup>68</sup>

Alex. McAllister, born March 18, 1867 in England, came to this county in 1889, as an experienced safety miner. Mr. McAllister was a commissioner in the Britian and Scotland mines on mine explosives. Because of his success there in the mines he decided to come to America where his family was living. Mr. McAllister has succeeded in destroying many of the causes of mine explosions in this district. He has written several articles on explosives for the Pittsburg Headlight and magazines for the coal miners.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>67</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1936 and 1937.

<sup>68</sup>Mrs. Hofmeister interview at Pittsburg, Kansas, June 12, 1938.

<sup>69</sup>Mr. McAllister interview at Ringo, Kansas, July 7, 1938.

George Edwin Hobson, brother of Mrs. Mattie Aikman was born July 30, 1882. He is living on the north part of the old Hobson homestead, which is one half mile north of the old town site of Iowa City. The Hobson family came to this district in 1865. The journey from North Carolina was made with ox teams.<sup>70</sup>

The early immigrants coming to Crawford County made their homes in the bottom lands, where the timber was found. These timber lands averaged about one half mile in width; about ten per cent of the county, in 1880 was covered with forests.<sup>1</sup> The principal varieties were cotton wood, hackberry, hickory, black oak, burr oak, post oak, red oak, poplar and walnut.<sup>2</sup>

These first white settlers were primarily agriculturists. They migrated to Kansas from the states of Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa, Missouri, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York.<sup>3</sup> Farming land was cheap and settlers soon bought up large tracts of it.

Crawford County contains 378,880 acres of land. The county is well watered, the principal streams being Lightning Creek, Walnut Creek, Drywood Creek, Bone Creek, Big and Little Cow Creek and Thunderbolt.<sup>4</sup> The soil of the

<sup>70</sup> George Hobson interview June 7, 1938 at his home, 1901 South Joplin, Pittsburg, Kansas.

<sup>1</sup>Andrews, *op. cit.*, p. 1120.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 1120.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 1118.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 1118.



## CHAPTER IV

## INDUSTRIES AND IMMIGRATION

county varies in depth from five feet; it is fertile and well adapted to the growth of all cereals. Farming has been and is at the present one of the leading industries of the county.

## Farming

Many settlers homesteaded 160 acres of land and became wealthy farmers with the county; a few of the more important ones are named here, John Smith, who settled in the bottom lands, where the timber was found. These timber lands averaged about one half mile in width; about ten per cent of the county, in 1880 was covered with forests.<sup>1</sup> The principal varieties were cotton wood, hackberry, hickory, black oak, burr oak, post oak, red oak, poplar and walnut.<sup>2</sup>

These first white settlers were primarily agriculturists. They migrated to Kansas from the states of Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa, Missouri, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York.<sup>3</sup> Farming land was cheap and settlers soon bought up large tracts of it.

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<sup>1</sup>Andreas, op. cit., p. 1120.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 1120.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 1118.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 1119.

county varies in depth from one to five feet; it is fertile and well adapted to the growth of all cereals. Farming has been and is at the present one of the leading industries of the county.

Many settlers homesteaded 160 acres of land and became wealthy farmers within the county; a few of the more important ones are named here, John Thonoff, who started in the neutral lands with two hundred forty acres, came into the county in 1866. John F. Smith of Washington township, one of the most successful farmers and stockraisers in the eastern part of the county, was born in the state of North Carolina in 1836.<sup>5</sup> Johathan Balyless has been one of the largest land owners and most prominent citizens of Crawford County.<sup>6</sup> Christopher C. Grocery of Osage township came to the county in 1869 as a farmer and politician.<sup>7</sup> Neils Smith of Farlington, an immigrant to this county is said to have made a fortune here on a farm.<sup>8</sup>

Thousands of people, attracted by the cheap farm lands came to Crawford County to farm, but after the discovery of coal the new settlers chose mining as an occupation. At the present Crawford County is more of a farming community than a coal mining center.

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<sup>5</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., p. 360.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 361.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 251.

<sup>8</sup>See picture p. 67





<sup>9</sup> Balch, Neils Smith of Farlington, who came to Crawford County without money and died a few years ago reputed to be a millionaire. He owned vast tracts of land in the north part of the county.

<sup>10</sup> The Home Authors, op. cit., pp. 101-102.

<sup>11</sup> Home Authors, op. cit., pp. 101-102.



## Coal

The history of the coal mining industry in Crawford County dates back to the time before the Civil War. Coal was first discovered in Baker township by a government exploring party under Colonel Cowan and was first mined by parties from Missouri in 1857.<sup>9</sup>

An article published by the Kansas Herald for the Empire Colony Company stated:

Coal is found cropping out in accessible manner in all parts of the state. A valuable supply of material for fuel for all requirements. Some mines are opened which yield a light dirty coal, which burns faster than it will when taken from deeper mines. So people may never lack fuel.<sup>10</sup>

The early immigrant found a market for coal that he was removing from the ground at the government buildings at Fort Scott and at Carthage, Missouri. This fuel was traded for supplies that were necessary for the settler to have in order to remain in the county and live. When the Civil War broke out a good deal of the coal was hauled by teamsters to the fort at Fort Scott for army use.<sup>11</sup>

The opening of the deep mines in Crawford County may

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<sup>9</sup> Balckmar, op. cit., I, p. 472.

<sup>10</sup> The Kansas Herald, a magazine devoted to Immigration and Home Missionary Enterprise of the West. April, 1871.

<sup>11</sup> Home Authors, op. cit., pp. 101-102.



be traced to the year 1877.<sup>12</sup> Pat Coyle, an early immigrant here, was the first to put down a shaft in Crawford County. The owners of the land paid little attention to the coal prospects and as yet capitalists did not realize the fortune that waited the development of the coal industry. The Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad, owners of the land, were more concerned about getting their road through from Fort Scott to Indian lands than they were of developing the coal fields. They were pleased to know that settlers would buy large tracts of land along their line at \$1.25 to \$5.00 per acre. The successors of the railroad, however, paid from \$75 to \$100 for the title of the land in later years to develop the mining industry.

The first mining camps to be developed by the settlers were located at Edwin, Midway, and Litchfield. The first mines were called slopes. By 1880 the "number of miners employed in Kansas were 3,671".<sup>13</sup> Crawford County received many immigrants to its coal fields in 1890. At this time the field of Oklahoma had a coal strike, the outcome of which was unfavorable to the union leaders. As a consequence many of the English, Irish, Scotch, Welsh, and Germans left the mines of Oklahoma and sought work in the Kansas coal fields.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Home Authors, op. cit., p. 101.

<sup>13</sup> Reports of Immigration Commission, 11, 500.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 11, 500.



Italy From the time of the opening of the first deep mine to 1890 many towns grew up around the newly opened mines. There was a great increase in population in the twenty years following the opening of the mines. Many immigrants who had made settlement here wrote home to relatives and friends telling of the advantages here. The population increased gradually during this period until 1927. In that year the population of the county was 62,884.<sup>15</sup>

The production of coal in the county has steadily increased since the development of railroads; Moffatt and Sergeant, two railroad men of Joplin, built a line from that city to Girard.

The production of coal has gradually increased since 1886 when approximately 1,400,000 tons were produced. Ten years later it had increased to more than 3,190,000 tons annually. In 1910 the output was 4,269,716 tons.<sup>16</sup> More than half of the coal mined in the state comes from Crawford County.<sup>17</sup>

With the great need for labor in the coal fields, a new group of immigrants came in; these were the Polish, French, Lithuanian and Italians. Over two-thirds of the

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<sup>15</sup> See page 70.

<sup>16</sup> Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1936.

<sup>17</sup> Blackmar, op. cit., p. 474.

Reports of Immigration Commission, II, p. 508.



Italians in the state are engaged in mining.<sup>18</sup>

In 1888 one of the worst disasters of the district occurred at No. 2 in Frontenac, Kansas. The explosion which happened on November 9, snuffed out the lives of 47 miners.<sup>19</sup>

In 1900 the population of the county was 40,259, a decrease of a few thousand from that of 1899.<sup>20</sup> Since that year there has been a smaller but pronounced movement of the English, Irish, Scotch, and Welsh farther to the West and Southwest where coal mines were opened.<sup>21</sup>

The introduction of the large electric shovel which produced as much coal as half a dozen good-sized mines at a lower cost of production, caused the partial abandonment of the deep mine. With the cessation of work in the deep mines, there was an exodus of men from this district to the industrial cities of our eastern states.

#### Railroads

The first railroad in Crawford County was built by the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company. Its first purpose was to build a line from Kansas City, Missouri,

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<sup>18</sup>People of Kansas, A Demographic and Sociological Study, pp. 55, 56, 1933.

<sup>19</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1936. map p. 33.

<sup>20</sup>See page 57. Headlight, May 19, 1936.

<sup>21</sup>Reports of Immigration Commission, II, p. 505.



to Fort Scott, Kansas but the company eventually constructed a railroad through Crawford County. In 1867 James F. Joy purchased the Neutral Lands and then sold this land to the railroad company so that their line could be extended into Indian territory where Baxter Springs, Kansas, now is.<sup>22</sup> Settlers in this community disputed the legality of the Joy purchase of the Cherokee Neutral Lands many having claimed ownership of their lands under squatter right, fought to keep possession of the land but were forced to buy the lands from the railroad company to get clear titles.

The Santa Fe Railroad extended their lines from Chanute, Kansas to Girard, because of the attractive deposits of hard grade bituminous coal. This line was later extended to Frontenac, where they constructed work shops to take care of their engines. Coal shipment from this center on the Santa Fe line made Frontenac a thriving community. The company later extended their lines to Pittsburg.<sup>23</sup>

The Frisco Railroad claims to be the oldest line in the county at the present.<sup>24</sup> It was in May 26, 1879, that the road executives purchased the Joplin railroad which ran from Joplin to Girard through Pittsburg. Miners of coal here had only the Frisco as an outlet for their shipment and because

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<sup>22</sup>Home Authors, op. cit., p. 10. See map p. 33.

<sup>23</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.



of exorbitant rates charged for every ton of coal shipped, the independent operators purchased the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company and built a line through Pittsburg to Cherryvale.<sup>25</sup>

The Missouri Pacific was built in Crawford County by the famous railroad magnate, Jay Gould of New York. It was constructed as a short cut through Pittsburg to the Southwest. J. Gould was influenced in the building of this line by Franklin Playter who visited him in New York, and through an inducement of a small bonus for the purpose of building a freight depot the first Missouri Pacific train made its appearance in Pittsburg on July 4, 1886.<sup>26</sup>

The Kansas City Southern has played an important role in the development of Pittsburg, with the establishment of the shops here. The city of Pittsburg deeded a large tract of land to this company to build shops that gave employment to hundreds of men and brought more immigrants into the county after 1900.<sup>27</sup>

Lead and Zinc smelting industry  
it now holds as the home of coal operators.<sup>29</sup>

The discovery of lead and zinc in the district of Joplin caused many immigrants to come here to seek the metal. Many only two of the six starting here remained. With the begin-

<sup>25</sup> Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., ibid., II, p. 1007.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.



crossed the state line into Kansas and developed mines here.

The first discovery of lead in Kansas was made by David Harland and his daughter, who were part-blood Indians and located on the Indian lands in 1835.

As a bounty had to be paid to the government on all ore taken out they said nothing about it. When the land was thrown open to white settlement, those who located on these barren lands probably did so with the idea that the ore fields which were being developed in Missouri extended across the line, as the rock formations were similar. However nobody cared to create any excitement until they had proved up on their claims and the Civil War broke out before any shafts were sunk in the Kansas soil.

The development of lead and zinc mines of Kansas began with the operation of John Shaw and John McAllen who sank a shaft and on March 21, 1877 struck a rich vein of lead. Within thirty days after the discovery thousands of people rushed to this vicinity.<sup>28</sup>

The airplane was made and christened the "Great Dream". People of this district were developing the coal industry and on July 4, 1908, it was tried out, but failed to leave the ground. Other planes were made; none proved to be a success, and the first airplane industry west of the Mississippi River had failed. It was said that the mailing list of the Appeal to Reason was used to get subscriptions for the necessary capital. Many of the immigrants of Crawford County who were subscribers to the Appeal to Reason lost money in this business venture.

Three smelters were in operation by 1883, three years after Pittsburg was incorporated. A few years later other smelters were erected and Pittsburg was known as the city of smelters, holding a position in the smelting industry it now holds as the home of coal operators.<sup>29</sup>

The smelting industries were short lived and by 1904 only two of the six starting here remained. With the beginning of the World War business began to get better but at

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<sup>28</sup>Connelley, op. cit., II, p. 1007.

<sup>29</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1936.



the close of that war the smelters were closed down. Those who worked at that trade began as workers in other fields.

Crawford County grew into the fourth largest county in the state.  
Airplane Industry

Probably the least known of the Crawford County industries was an airplane company started in Girard, Kansas in February 1908, with a capital of over \$2,000,000.

Henry L. Call, a mechanic, arrived in Girard in February 1908. He sought to interview J. A. Wayland, owner of the Appeal to Reason with the idea of building an airplane large enough to carry a delegation from Girard to the Socialist Convention that was being held in Chicago that year.<sup>30</sup>

The airplane was made and christened the "Great Dream" and on July 4, 1908, it was tried out, but failed to leave the ground.<sup>31</sup> Other planes were made; none proved to be a success, and the first airplane industry west of the Mississippi River had failed.<sup>32</sup> It was said that the mailing list of the Appeal to Reason was used to get subscriptions for the necessary capital.<sup>33</sup> Many of the immigrants of Crawford County who were subscribers to the Appeal to Reason lost money in this business venture.

<sup>30</sup>Girard Press, March 10, 1908.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid., July 9, 1908.

<sup>32</sup>Kansas Facts, III, 1931, p. 157.

<sup>33</sup>Ibid.

With the introduction of industries in the county, came the immigrants seeking a livelihood, homes were built and Crawford County grew into the fourth largest county in the state.

With the development of the coal mining industry came many problems to be solved by Crawford County. One of the most outstanding questions was the control of the liquor business. A problem aggravated by the immigration of the foreign element into this community, whose demand for, and use of liquor was because of the habit formed in European countries.

Since the state became a territory, the problem of the control of liquor has been one of its major duties. Kansas as a state is definitely dry. However, two counties in the southeastern corner of the state, Crawford and Cherokee are not. Each of these has in a way made a notorious name for itself throughout the state with "Bootleg whiskey".<sup>1</sup> This is due to a small extent to the foreign immigrants who came here after 1890 to work in the coal fields. In order to understand this relationship perhaps a brief history of prohibition in Kansas would be timely.

The prohibitory liquor laws of Kansas date back to 1855 in which year the Territorial legislature passed a local option law regarding saloons and the sale of intoxicating

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<sup>1</sup>A person who handles "Bootleg whiskey" is called a bootlegger.



liquor, with the township CHAPTER V

The first temperance meeting in Kansas was held on  
PROHIBITION AND IMMIGRATION IN  
March 4, 1855. The subject of prohibition was presented to  
CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS  
the House by John Brown, Jr., one of its members.<sup>3</sup>

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liquor, with the township as the unit.<sup>2</sup>

The first temperance meeting in Kansas was held on March 4, 1856. The subject of prohibition was presented to the House by John Brown, Jr., one of its members.<sup>3</sup>

The Indians, who were the first group to migrate to these parts, would trade their goods for whiskey and after a few swallows would cause much trouble within the community. The need for regulation and sale again became a problem, so the territorial legislature in 1860 passed another act, "prohibiting the sale, exchange, gift or barter of spiritous liquors or wine to any Indians within the territories unless directed by a physician for medical purposes."<sup>4</sup>

The liquor dealers were always the ones to defy the law, and in the early days those who might be arrested for the selling of it would find their friends in the jury box with the verdict of not guilty in their minds before the trial had commenced.

The Act of 1855 was followed by a series of laws passed in 1859, 1867, and 1868, each of which further strengthened the hold of the state on the control of intoxicating liquors. These laws, although containing some loopholes, were severe enough on the dramshops to have their group lobbying in the

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<sup>2</sup>Blackmar, Kansas, II, 505.

<sup>3</sup>Connelley, op. cit., II, 791.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., II, 797.



years of 1872, 1874, 1876, to amend them. many a druggist who Candidates of the Republican party endorsed the principles of the Temperance group in their contest for offices in 1874. The newly elected governor, John P. St. John, was a prohibition leader of the state.<sup>5</sup>

Various temperance organizations in Crawford and throughout the state and nation worked in Kansas for their cause.

The 19th day of February, 1881, an "act prohibiting the manufacture and the sale of intoxicating liquors except for medical, scientific, and mechanical purposes", was passed.

This law was passed in order to make Kansas a dry state.

After the law of 1881 in which the druggist was licensed to sell liquor to a person having a doctor's prescription, the

people belonging to the temperance organization began to question this method because of the large quantities being sold in the year of 1882. The results of their investigation were the passing of a new law in 1885, which required that

probate judge would "prepare blanks which he distributed to

all the druggists to whom licenses had been granted, requesting them to make monthly reports, verified by their affidavits to be true and correct", showing the amount of liquor sold.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Arnold, History of Kansas, p. 136.

<sup>6</sup>The blanks requested the following information: "number of sale", "date", "name of physician making prescription", "person for whom liquor was prescribed", "person to whom the liquor was delivered", "kind of liquor sold", "amount of liquor sold".



The strictness of this new act caused many a druggist who had been carrying on this sale of liquor to quit rather than have his name connected with the saloon business.<sup>7</sup> To be sure the temperance groups gained another point and less liquor was sold and consumed. The saloon keeper gained a point however in 1890 when in April of that year the Supreme Court gave a decision on original package houses. The case was as follows:

In April 1890 the Supreme Court of the United States in a case brought there by Writ of Error from the Supreme Court of Iowa decided that a liquor seller in one state might send his liquors into another, there to be sold in the original packages as they were shipped notwithstanding the laws of the latter State absolutely prohibited the sale of liquor within its boundaries.<sup>8</sup> This decision pleased the saloon keepers. They were not long in taking advantage of it; the saloons opened up by the dozens in many towns where public sentiment would tolerate them.

In August 1890, the Wilson Bill was approved allowing the state under its own power of police to regulate, and make such rules as they so desired, governing or prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors. This caused the end of the original package saloons in the county.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Nelson Case, History of Labette County, p. 271.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 270.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 272.



A person wishing to secure a license to sell liquor at the time of the organization of the county on February 13, 1867 was required to: (1) present a petition or recommendation signed by a majority of residents of the townships of twenty-one years of age and over both males and females in which such dramshop is to be kept. (2) Upon every license granted to a dramshop keeper there shall be levied a tax of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars for every period of twelve months, the amount of the tax determined by the tribunal granting the license. (3) He shall present to the tribunal granting such license a bond to the sum of two thousand dollars, with at least two securities to be approved by said tribunal, conditioned that he will not keep a disorderly house, that he will not permit to be sold any intoxicating liquors to any minor....that he will not keep his dramshop....open on Sunday's Fourth of July or any election day.<sup>10</sup>

The first arrest under this act of 1867 occurred ten years later according to records. Eleven offenders were arrested for not getting a license first before opening the dramshop.<sup>11</sup>

The immigrants to this county before 1890 were more of the English, Scotch and Irish nationalities who had come here

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<sup>10</sup>Connelley, op. cit., II, 799-800.

<sup>11</sup>Criminal Docket, meeting at Girard, 1877.

from their homes in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri.<sup>12</sup> The opening of the coal fields of Kansas in 1880 influenced their coming.

The next group to follow them to the county were those whose home or parents' homes were in southern Europe. Out of this group we get the ones who used the intoxicating liquors, especially wine which is as common on the French and Italian table as tea is to the English. To them possession of liquors was not considered unlawful. A visit to many of the homes would show that they in no way try to cover up or apologize for its presence there. The truth being that a visitor to these homes is always welcomed by a drink; if this is not taken it hurts the feeling of those who offer it.<sup>13</sup> The problem of liquor in the homes can not be solved easily when the fact is taken into consideration that those foreign people use it more for beverage purposes than as a means to become intoxicated.

Crawford County has never been absolutely dry. The State of Missouri just a few miles east did and probably will always supply those who drink as long as Kansas, by statutory law, remains dry. Some places of business having

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<sup>12</sup> Reports of Immigration Commission, II, 500.

<sup>13</sup> A visit to the home by author to find the reason why the parent's child is not in the city school. (Author does not drink intoxicating liquor.)



both federal and state license to sell 3.2 beer<sup>14</sup> also file special returns with the collector of internal revenue as retail dealers of hard liquors.<sup>15</sup>

Saloons existed in Crawford County from 1897 to 1910. They could easily be recognized in these days by the high wall fence around them. The purpose of the fence was to keep out the undesirable people, usually the law enforcement group.<sup>16</sup> Fights were frequent in the saloons. Many a person who visited them on pay night woke up in the early morning hours to find that his money was gone. The saloon keeper usually picked his hired help from the ranks of immigrant groups. Choosing always the one who was the leader, in this way he would get the rest to visit his place frequently to buy drinks. The saloon keeper was always willing to help the foreigner. He helped him to write letters home, or swore before a naturalization court with others of his group that he knew the person applying for citizenship papers to be of good character.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>E. V. Bruce, interview, July 19, 1938. Kansas sells license to persons selling 3.2 beer.

<sup>15</sup>Sold to individuals in the county before the state passed liquor laws. A joint is a common name for places that sell intoxicating liquor.

<sup>16</sup>Loren Stiles Minckley, Americanization Through Education, p. 50.

<sup>17</sup>Interview with Eugene Zimmerman of Frontenac, Kansas, February 12, 1938.



Gamblers and gambling devices were numerous in their saloon. A card shark lived a better life than the immigrant miner who usually was the one who supplied his money for him.

The gamblers were very superstitious; a story found in the Kansas City Star of December 12, 1904, tells of the funeral of one of the most notorious ones in Pittsburg, Kansas in which the grave yard rabbit was killed because of a superstition. The story was as follows. Kid Jackson one of the best known gamblers in southeastern Kansas had died with consumption and all his gambler friends set out to give him a good funeral. As the body was being lowered into the grave, a rabbit fell in.

The grave yard rabbit by God, one of the fellows said as the rabbit was picked up "Talk about your mascots here is one for me" and with that he began cutting off the left hind foot. "Hold up there" said another of the pallbearers, let's sell these feet off and make up a pot for the kids folks, if we find he has any folks to send it to them. Funeral forgotten and auction started bids at \$5, 10, 15, 20, a foot (left) sold for \$30.<sup>18</sup>

While saloons were at their peak in this county, Carrie Nation, the notorious saloon wrecker, visited Girard, April

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<sup>18</sup>Kansas City Star, December 12, 1904. Ed. O'Connor of Pittsburg, Kansas in an interview with the author verifies parts of this story as the truth, Mr. O'Connor, a recent member of the Pittsburg Police force, was a pallbearer at the funeral.

Mr. O'Connor who lives at 1704 North Elm, was an immigrant with his parents to New Pittsburg from LaSalle, Illinois, interviewed March 16, 1938 at Pittsburg.



22, 1903, and visited four saloons.<sup>19</sup> Later in the day she held a temperance meeting in Girard.

In 1917 Kansas was made a dry state through the passage of the 18th amendment. The Bone dry law of Kansas ruled that possession of intoxicating liquor was an unlawful act punishable by a fine and imprisonment if convicted for violations of it.

During the period from 1917 to 1930 many arrests were made and convictions for that period of time show that 1,327 people were fined and given jail sentences.<sup>20</sup> A glance through the names of the arrests made shows that many of these were foreigners. The uncertainty of work in the coal mines because of the numerous labor troubles that this county has experienced and the lack of strict enforcement of the liquor laws started some of the foreigners in the unlawful business. The home distiller found that whiskey making was profitable; for his expense was low.

Law enforcement groups of the county seemed to do little to the person who was found to possess liquor, in many instances the bootlegger "paid off" so that he might continue his business.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Girard Press, April 13, 1903.

<sup>20</sup> Figures taken from records of following courts: Crawford County District Court of Girard, of Pittsburg, Police Court of Girard, of Pittsburg, Federal District Court of Fort Scott, Kansas.

<sup>21</sup> A. H. Carl was ousted from office of County Attorney charged with accepting bribes.



Many of the small mining camps of foreign population had their share of the "joints" which took the coal diggers' money.<sup>22</sup>

Few towns or cities in Crawford County, if any, can boast of a clean slate in regard to the liquor business. There are some spots within the county that looks as if it would take a miracle to clean things up. Many of the cities are doing what can be done to stop it through the organization of temperance groups.

A ride through any town in the county at night will show by its neon lights just where the so called Kansas beer can be bought and along with it many of the hard liquors. Usually the place is operated by a foreigner who still disregards the law of the state.

Prohibition has become such a great problem because of some of the foreigners in this county that in order to get liquors, those favoring it in Crawford and Cherokee counties threatened to secede from Kansas and join the state of Missouri. Petitions to this effect were to be found in all beer parlors and many signed ones found their way to the state legislature.<sup>23</sup> The petitions however were thought to carry little weight by the legislative body and soon were dismissed from the group.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup>See Appendix, Table II.

<sup>23</sup>Leonard Jent, Representative to Kansas legislature from 21st district and interviewed May 12, 1938.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.



## CHAPTER VI

### THE IMMIGRANT AND NATURALIZATION

The alien has always constituted a problem in America. However with the introduction of immigration laws and night schools for the alien group many of them have become citizens. Crawford County with its many races of people could well be called the melting pot of Kansas. Thousands of immigrants have come to this county and made their homes here. With the ease with which they could secure work and because of fear of the courts, many of them failed to apply for citizenship rights of America.<sup>1</sup>

To understand the cause of the immigrants' failure to become citizens a review of the immigration laws should be made. When Kansas was a territory it permitted an immigrant to vote and hold office without becoming a citizen.<sup>2</sup> Later when Kansas was admitted to the union one could declare intentions of becoming a citizen and be entitled to vote and hold office.<sup>3</sup> In Crawford County many aliens had an indifferent attitude towards naturalization. This being probably due to their being satisfied with their work. The

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<sup>1</sup>August Kunshek, Interview at Arma, Kansas, June 12, 1938.

<sup>2</sup>Andreas, op. cit., p. 372.

<sup>3</sup>Charles P. Beebe, Kansas Facts, 1929, p. 123.



coal digger's life was one of many hardships and little of their time could be spent in social activity. If the immigrant did mingle with a group it was always with his own crowd and a knowledge of American laws and customs was not necessary for that.<sup>4</sup>

In 1906 the United States passed its basic Naturalization Act.<sup>5</sup> This law provided that not fewer than two nor more than seven years after making the declaration of intention the applicant must make and file for a petition for citizenship. The petition must be filed ninety days before the hearing, proof must be given of continuous residence within the United States and that the person must be of good moral character.<sup>6</sup> This law is the basis of all other naturalization laws in America. It has been revised several times; revisions being made in years of 1918, 1919, and 1922. The act of 1919 provided that any person of foreign birth who served the United States during war time and having an honorable discharge should be eligible to become a citizen.<sup>7</sup> Crawford County had eighty-five persons to receive citizenship under this act.<sup>8</sup> The act of 1922 provided for women to

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<sup>4</sup>August Kunshek, interview.

<sup>5</sup>Reports of the Immigration Commission, II, p. 819.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., II, pp. 819-20.

<sup>7</sup>Fairchild, Immigration, pp. 364-65.

<sup>8</sup>Petition and Records of Naturalization in Crawford County, IV, XIV.



regain their citizenship rights after they had lost them by marriage to an alien.<sup>9</sup> In 1936 another law was passed that clarified the laws of 1907 to 1922 stating that before 1907 a person did not lose citizenship rights by marriage, but between those years a woman did. Many women in Crawford County who married aliens are now studying to become citizens.<sup>10</sup>

In 1937 the federal government passed another law dealing with the immigrant. This law provided that any alien working on a federal government project and who has not made application for first citizenship papers would be cut off of project work.<sup>11</sup> Crawford County has had twenty-five aliens affected by this act.<sup>12</sup> These however have been placed back on relief jobs since the last meeting of the Naturalization Court in this county at which time they received their second papers.

Because of the different races of immigrants coming into Crawford County to seek employment the illiteracy rate of the county was very high. Many of these people after a little schooling would apply for their first papers and then fail to get their second ones in the time allowed for that purpose, and today they are still classed as aliens.<sup>13</sup> One of the

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<sup>9</sup>Fairchild, op. cit., p. 365.

<sup>10</sup>August Kunshek, interview, June 12, 1938.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid. Kunshek, interview, June 12, 1938.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid. Kunshek, interview. The schools mentioned in this chapter can present a certificate to the alien if he has completed the required work. He presents it to the federal examiner and without questioning from that person becomes a citizen of the United States.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.



greatest steps taken to overcome this problem was the government introducing night schools in 1906 for the purpose of instructing the alien groups living within its bounds.<sup>14</sup> In these schools the alien is instructed in American laws and customs. Crawford County has sixteen of such schools at the present time with a total enrollment of three hundred and eighty-eight,<sup>15</sup> three hundred and sixty-three aliens and twenty-five naturalized citizens who are in the schools to learn more about the American government. The schools are taught by persons who are on relief rolls, they themselves must go to school to learn to do their job as well as possible. There are twelve teachers and each one has had special training from state instructors of the Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg, Kansas.<sup>16</sup> The schools have been doing wonderful work and since 1930 three hundred aliens have been made citizens and at the present time one hundred twenty-five have earned a certificate to be presented to the federal examiner in November 1938 for their final papers.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Fairchild, op. cit., p. 425.

<sup>15</sup>August Kunshek, interview. Schools located at following places: Arma, Capaldo, Frontenac, Camp No. 9, two in Chicopee, Dunkir, Camp No. 50, Franklin, Radley, Adams, two in Cherokee, Cockerill, Yale, and the Pittsburg City Library.

<sup>16</sup>August Kunshek, interview, June 12, 1938.

<sup>17</sup>August Kunshek, interview. The schools mentioned in this chapter can present a certificate to the alien if he has completed the required work. He presents it to the federal examiner and without questioning from that person becomes a citizen of the United States.



Another institution that helped the alien to understand American laws is the public schools. The foreigners in most cases are members of large families. The children in the homes who are of school age do much in helping the older people in becoming acquainted with American customs. All of the school systems in Crawford County present many entertainments throughout the year and the teachers are instructed to see that as many children of different families take part in them as possible. In this way parents who are interested in their children's work will come to the social affairs and become acquainted with other people of the town.

The alien on becoming a citizen lost the fear that he once had of American ways of doing things. The Americans became more friendly toward him. He took more interest in the affairs of the community, and his children grew into manhood and womanhood with a knowledge of American ideas and customs that keep them loyal to America.

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Zeuch, Charles, interviewed at Frontenac, Kansas, April 18, 1937.

Zimmerman, Eugene, interviewed at Frontenac, Kansas, February 12, 1938.



TABLE I

## EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY

Name	Founder	Township	Year
Old Arcadia	J. Hathaway	Lincoln	1851
Arcadia	L. Jewell	Lincoln	1851
Brazilton	J. Brazil	Walnut	1851
Beulah	Methodists	Sheridan	1851
Cato	P. W. Smith	Lincoln	1851
Crawfordville	No data	Crawford	1851
Charoken	KCPS & S, SR	Sheridan	1850
Farlington	KCPS & S, SR	Sherman	1850
Girard	C. H. Strong	Crawford	1850
Hegler	B. F. Hegler	Walnut	1871
Iowa City	P. Hobson	Baker	1865
Monmouth	L. Manlove	Sheridan	1867
Malberry	N. W. Taylor	Washington	1867
Midway	Miners	Baker	1871
McCune	L. McCune	Osage	1879
Opolis	E. B. Hoyt	Baker	1868
Pittsburg	E. R. Brown, Engineer for KCPS & S, SR	Baker	1876

## APPENDIX

TABLE I

UNINCORPORATED EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY SHOWING THE YEAR IN WHICH THE POPULATION REACHED ITS HIGHEST MARK

Name	Founder	Township	Year
Old Arcadia	J. Hathaway	Lincoln	1844
Arcadia	L. Jewell	Lincoln	1871
Brazilton	J. Brazil	Walnut	1871
Beulah	Methodists	Sheridan	1872
Cato	P. M. Smith	Lincoln	1866
Crawfordville	No data	Crawford	1866
Cherokee	KCFS & G, RR	Sheridan	1870
Farlington	KCFS & G, RR	Sherman	1869
Girard	C. H. Strong	Crawford	1868
Hepler	B. F. Hepler	Walnut	1871
Iowa City	P. Hobson	Baker	1865
Monmouth	L. Manlove	Sheridan	1867
Mulberry	N. W. Taylor	Washington	1867
Midway	Miners	Baker	1871
McCune	I. McCune	Osage	1879
Opolis	E. B. Hoyt	Baker	1868
Pittsburg	E. H. Brown, Engineer for KCFS & G, RR	Baker	1876

Compiled from statistics obtained from County Clerk's

Girard Press, November 20, 1919.



TABLE II

UNINCORPORATED MINING TOWNS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY, SHOWING THE  
YEAR IN WHICH THE POPULATION REACHED ITS HIGHEST MARK

Name	Township	Year	Population
Camp 50	Washington	1920	200
Camp 51	Washington	1920	150
Croweburg	Washington	1920	700
Capaldo	Washington	1915	416
Chicopee	Baker	1901	1064
Cockerill	Washington	1910	150
Coalvale	Lincoln	1907	125
Chapman	Lincoln	1917	203
Curranville	Washington	1907	1131
Dunkirk	Washington	No data	No data
Edson	Washington	No data	No data
Foxtown	Washington	1920	125
Fuller	Washington	1905	291
Fleming	Sheridan	1900	233
Franklin	Washington	1917	1800
Gross	Lincoln	1920	300
Jacksonville	Washington	No data	No data
Litchfield	Baker	1892	1098
Midway	Baker	1892	397
McCormack	Washington	No data	No data
Nelson	Washington	1904	338
Ringo	Washington	No data	No data
Radley	Washington	1917	2096
Sheridan 12	Lincoln	1920	138
Sheridan 14	Lincoln	No data	No data
Scotts-Chamber	Lincoln	No data	No data
Yale	Washington	1906	1219

Compiled from statistics obtained from County Clerk's  
Statistical Records. 1887-1934.



Table III (continued)

TABLE III

U. S. Department of Labor  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
Washington

NATIONAL ORIGIN ANNUAL IMMIGRATION QUOTAS

(Note: All quotas are available only for persons who are eligible to citizenship in the United States and admissible under the immigration laws of the United States.)

Country or Area	
Afghanistan. . . . .	100
Albania . . . . .	100
Andorra . . . . .	100
Arabian Peninsula (except Muscat, Aden, Settlement and Protectorate and Saudi Arabia). . . . .	100
Australia (including Tasmania, Papua and all islands appertaining to Australia) . . . . .	100
Austria . . . . .	1,413
Belgium . . . . .	1,304
Bhutan . . . . .	100
Bulgaria . . . . .	100
Cameroons* . . . . .	100
Cameroons** . . . . .	100
China . . . . .	100
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	2,874
Danzig, Free City of . . . . .	100
Denmark. . . . .	1,181
Egypt . . . . .	100
Estonia. . . . .	116
Ethiopia (Abyssinia). . . . .	100
Finland. . . . .	569
France . . . . .	3,086
Germany. . . . .	25,957
Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . . . .	65,721
Greece . . . . .	307
Hungary . . . . .	869
Iceland . . . . .	100
India . . . . .	100
Iran . . . . .	100
Iraq (Mesopotamia) . . . . .	100
Irish Free State . . . . .	17,853
Italy. . . . .	5,802



Table III (continued)

Country or Area	
Japan . . . . .	100
Latvia . . . . .	236
Liberia . . . . .	100
Liechtenstein. . . . .	100
Lithuania. . . . .	386
Luxemburg . . . . .	100
Monaco . . . . .	100
Morocco (French and Spanish zones and Tangier	100
Muscat (Oman). . . . .	100
Nauru . . . . .	100
Nepal. . . . .	100
Netherlands. . . . .	3,153
New Guinea, Territory of (including	
appertaining islands) Australian Mandate . .	100
New Zealand. . . . .	100
Norway . . . . .	2,377
Palestine (with Trans-Jordan). . . . .	100
Philippine Islands . . . . .	50
Poland . . . . .	6,524
Portugal . . . . .	440
Ruanda and Urundi . . . . .	100
(Belgian Mandate)	
Rumania . . . . .	377
Samoa, Western (Mandate of New Zealand) . . .	100
San Marino . . . . .	100
Saudi Arabia (Hejat and Nejd and its depend-	
encies . . . . .	100
Siam . . . . .	100
South Africa, Union of . . . . .	100
South-West Africa . . . . .	100
(Mandate of the union of South Africa)	
Soviet Union . . . . .	2,712
Spain. . . . .	252
Sweden . . . . .	3,314
Switzerland. . . . .	1,707
Syria and the Labanon* . . . . .	123
Tanganyika Territory* . . . . .	100
Togolaud* . . . . .	100
Togolaud** . . . . .	100
Turkey . . . . .	236
Yap and other Pacific islands under Japanese	
mandates . . . . .	100
Yugoslavia . . . . .	845
Total . . . . .	154,774