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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SETTLEMENT OF
BAXTER SPRINGS, KANSAS

APPROVED A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Division in
Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree
Thesis Adviser W. C. Small
of Master of Science

Chairman of Thesis Committee: C. L. Smith

Chairman of Graduate Council: O. P. Kellinger

By

Ruth Rodman St. Clair

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

Pittsburg, Kansas

May, 1940

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APPROVED:

to Dr. Jane M. Carroll under whose super-

vision this study was made, for her helpful

Thesis Adviser

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Springs for the use of historical material.

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six miles from the Missouri line. It was one of the first settlements in Cherokee County and the first frontier town near the southern boundary line of Kansas.

The town was named for John L. Baxter who settled upon the present town site in 1849.

During the civil war, a military post for the Union Army was maintained at Baxter Springs. The principal engagement of the war, in this section was an attack upon the post, and the massacre of General Blunt's escort, by Quantrill who commanded a band of guerrillas in the name of the Confederacy.

In this study it seemed necessary to trace the sale of Indian Lands, as "Neutral Lands" became an important feature in the development of Baxter Springs. The sale of Neutral Lands had much to do with the building of the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad.

From 1869 to 1875, Baxter Springs experienced a wave of prosperity through the development of the cattle industry, the settlement of the country by the farmers, the discovery of lead, and the establishment of trades to satisfy the needs of the cattlemen, the farmers and miners.

For many years Baxter Springs was the end of the railroad

and became a supply center ABSTRACT ge section of the country.

It was foremost in the building of substantial public build-

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Lands had much to do with the building of the Missouri River,
A review of the development of the lead and zinc industry
Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad.

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of the cattlemen, the farmers and miners.

For many years Baxter Springs was the end of the railroad

and became a supply center for a large section of the country. It was foremost in the building of substantial public buildings and residences, many of which are still in use.

The county seat of Cherokee County was removed from Baxter Springs to Columbus in 1869.

Baxter Springs did not realize the dream of its founders, who foresaw a city of twenty-five thousand population, due to the reasons (1) mineral in larger paying quantities was discovered in other locations (2) the distribution of the cattle industry among other towns, and (3) the extension of the railroad to other developing cities.

But the new discovery of larger deposits of lead and zinc ore near Baxter Springs, in later years, revived business and since that time, the town has had a normal substantial growth.

During the last decade, Baxter Springs has developed a good school system and all the civic organizations that a normal city requires.

A review of the development of the lead and zinc industry is not given in this study as it is a study in itself.

INTRODUCTION

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ground that influenced the settlement of the town, (3) to present a picture of the country as the early pioneers found it, (4) to arrange the contents so that it may be helpful to teachers in the presentation of a community study, with the hope that this material may, (a) arouse an interest in the further study of Baxter Springs, (b) develop an appreciation of the importance of Baxter Springs in the historical development of Kansas, (c) and stimulate an appreciation of the plans, struggles and accomplishments of the pioneers who founded Baxter Springs and were instrumental in its growth.

The material presented in this study has been obtained

through interviews with INTRODUCTION in the community,

from United States Documents, county records in commis-

Brief histories of Baxter Springs, Kansas are included sioners' journals, election records, and deed books, from in Andreas' History of Kansas in 1883, and Allison's History diaries, personal letters, and histories. Contemporary of Cherokee County in 1904. While both of these histories newspapers also proved to be a valuable source of informa-

contain valuable material, they are no longer printed. The few volumes of each that are still in existence are not available to teachers and pupils. Other material on this subject is found in pamphlets which give only brief accounts of the history of Baxter Springs. Because of the scarcity of collected material on the historical background and the settlement of Baxter Springs, this study has been made.

The purpose of this study has been: (1) to collect the historical material pertaining to the settlement and development of Baxter Springs, (2) to present the historical background that influenced the settlement of the town, (3) to present a picture of the country as the early pioneers found it, (4) to arrange the contents so that it may be helpful to teachers in the presentation of a community study, with the hope that this material may, (a) arouse an interest in the further study of Baxter Springs, (b) develop an appreciation of the importance of Baxter Springs in the historical development of Kansas, (c) and stimulate an appreciation of the plans, struggles and accomplishments of the pioneers who founded Baxter Springs and were instrumental in its growth.

The material presented in this study has been obtained

through interviews with early settlers in the community, from United States Documents, county records in commissioners' journals, election records, and deed books, from diaries, personal letters, and histories. Contemporary newspapers also proved to be a valuable source of information.

Atterbury Road which extended from Ft. Leavenworth to Fort Gibson. This road was established by an act of Congress in 1836.¹

The settlement of Baxter Springs is an outgrowth of the great periods of exploration and immigration which took place during the fifties and sixties of the nineteenth century. The disposition of the government lands had much to do with the movement of the people westward. This territory was part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 and was the home of the roving Osage Indians who hunted as far east as the Mississippi River.²

Neutral Lands

In 1825, the United States Government made a treaty with the Osage Indians, in which they ceded to the government all their lands in Arkansas and Missouri in exchange for land west of Missouri with the provision that there would be a

¹United States Document, Serial No. 328, 16-17. See map page 18 of this thesis.

²Eugene F. Ware, "Neutral Lands", Kansas Historical Collections, VI, 148. See map page 4 of this thesis.

CHAPTER I

NEUTRAL LANDS AND THE BUILDING OF THE RAILROAD

For many years, the location of Baxter Springs was a favorite camping ground for travellers who passed along the Military Road which extended from Ft. Leavenworth to Fort Gibson. This road was established by an act of Congress in 1836.¹

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FROM
 HISTORY OF THE STATE OF KANSAS
 BY
 A.T. ANDREAS
 Page 47
 PUBLISHED 1883

strip of land, "fifty miles north and south by twenty-five miles east and west," between the western boundary of Missouri and the Osages' eastern boundary.³ Neither white nor red men should reside on this territory as it was to serve as a barrier between the Osages and the settlers of Missouri.

For this reason, it was known as "Neutral Lands."⁴ As the white population increased in the eastern states, it became necessary for the government to move more Indian tribes to uninhabited territory. This was true of the powerful Cherokee Nation whose reservations were first in Georgia and later in Arkansas.⁵ In return for the latter territory the government established in Indian Territory, a reservation which consisted of 7,000,000 acres with the assurance of "a perpetual outlet west and free and unmolested use of all the country west of the western boundary of said 7,000,000 acres as far as the sovereignty of the United States and their rights of soil extend."⁶ This treaty was concluded in 1827.

Cherokee Neutral Lands

The Cherokees, who decided that this land was not ample to satisfy their needs, purchased the "Neutral Lands" which

³A. T. Andreas, History of Kansas (Chicago, 1883), 1150.

⁴Ware, op. cit., 148.

⁵Andreas, op. cit., 1150.

⁶Ware, op. cit., 148; see map on page 7 of this thesis.

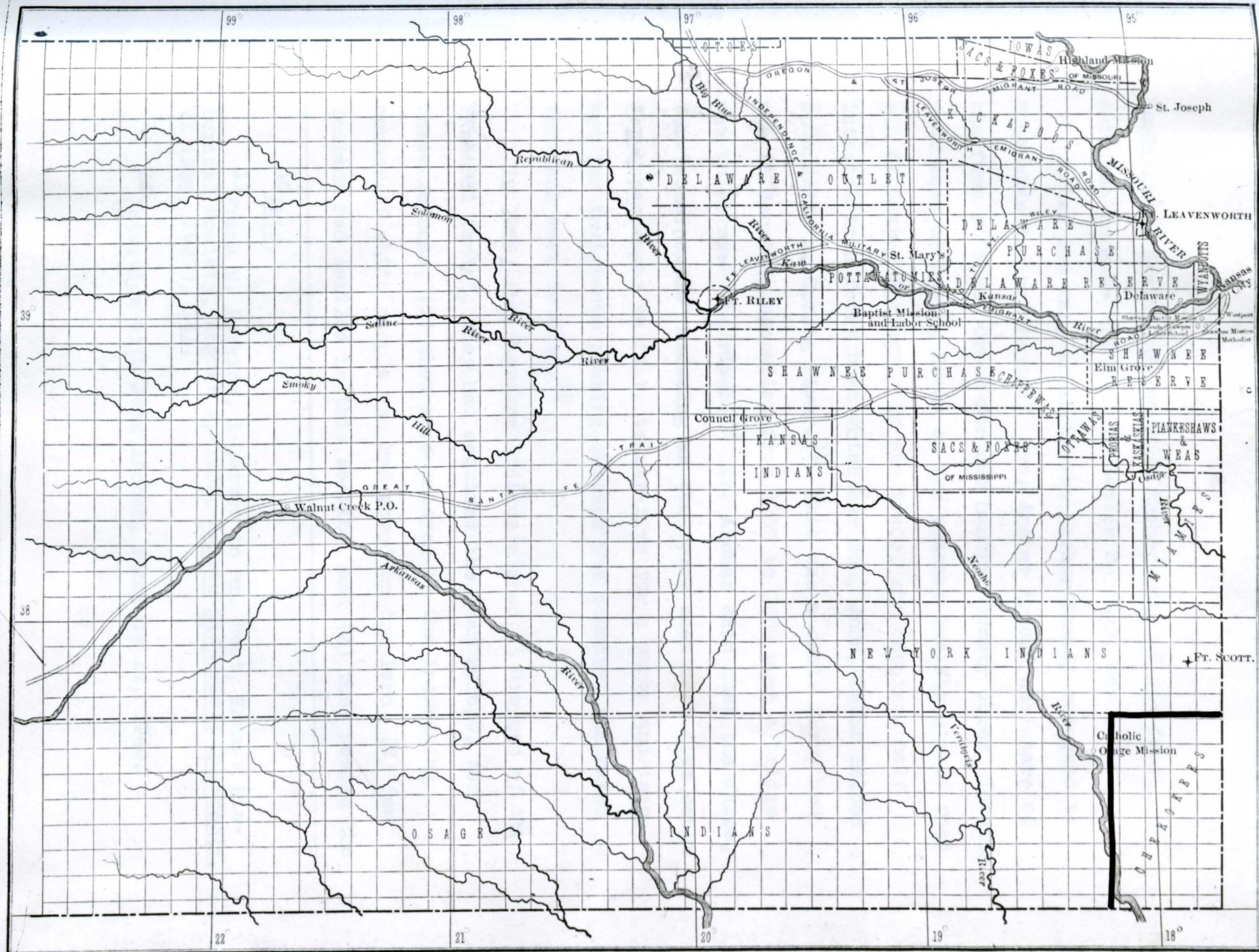
contained 800,000 acres in the treaty of 1835. The government arranged to pay the Cherokees \$5,000,000 for their lands in Georgia and deducted \$500,000, the price of the "Neutral Lands", from that amount.⁷ This territory was now known as "Cherokee Neutral Lands."

Very few Cherokee Indians came to this section at this time, but those who did come had the choice of the land and usually settled along the rivers.⁸ Among those who came from Georgia in 1835, was David Harlan, one quarter Cherokee. He was a member of the Cherokee general council and did much to establish friendly relations between the few white people and the Indians. His daughter, Lucinda Ann, who was born in 1840, was one of the first settlers in Baxter Springs. Mr. Harlan obtained three hundred and twenty acres on Shoal Creek near the present site of Galena. In 1856, the daughter married John Newton Archer, a native of Indiana. During the early years of the Civil War, their home which they had established on Shoal Creek was destroyed by General Sterling Price and his troops of the Confederacy. "Everything the family had was destroyed except a yoke of oxen, a wagon and a cream pitcher."⁹ With these few possessions, they drove to

⁷ Nathaniel Thompson Allison, History of Cherokee County and Representative Citizens (Chicago, 1904), 27; See map on page 7 of this thesis.

⁸ Interview with John Archer, February 22, 1940.

⁹ Ibid.



MAP OF EASTERN KANSAS IN 1854, SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE INDIAN LANDS, TRADING POSTS, INDIAN MISSIONS AND SCHOOLS, AND MILITARY ROADS.

Burlington, Kansas, where John Archer, one of the first children to make his home in Baxter Springs, was born.

After the war, in 1866, the Archer family returned to "Cherokee Neutral Lands." Mrs. Archer traded her share of the farm on Shoal Creek for one hundred twenty acres, located just east of Spring River on the present Twelfth Street road out of Baxter Springs. In the trade, she obtained half interest in a ferry boat which her son, John, later helped to operate on Spring River.¹⁰ This was a cable ferry and was in constant operation from 1867 to 1886 when a bridge was built over the river.¹¹ Mr. Archer said that the fares, for "home people" crossing on the ferry boat were five cents for a passenger on foot, twenty-five for a wagon and team, but for immigrants passing through the country, the rates for each were doubled.¹²

In 1866, the Cherokee Indians wished to dispose of the "Neutral Lands", they had acquired the year before, for three reasons, (1) they were annoyed by the increasing number of white people who had moved on the land, (2) few Indians had settled in this section, and (3) they needed the

¹⁰Ibid,

¹¹Frank M. Perkins, A letter to Mr. Root, Kansas Historical Society, August 9, 1932, Kansas Historical Quarterly, VI (May, 1937), 141.

¹²Interview with John Archer, February 22, 1940.

money which they might receive from the sale of the 800,000 acres.¹³

Consequently, the government entered into another treaty in which the Cherokees ceded in trust to the United States, this tract of land. The Secretary of the Interior became the agent and was authorized to sell the land in parcels of one hundred sixty acres for not less than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, or the whole body of land for less than one dollar per acre.¹⁴

Since the government was authorized to sell the land, a large number of settlers moved into this territory, staked claims and begun to build homes and improve their farms. They were under the impression that this land would be sold for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre as was true of other public land.

Realizing the difficulty of selling the 800,000 acres in small parcels of one hundred and sixty acres each, on August 30, 1866, James Harlan, Secretary of the Interior, sold the whole tract to the American Immigrant Company of Connecticut, but on September 1st, the contract was declared null and void by O. H. Browning who succeeded Mr. Harlan in office. The contract was cancelled because the terms of the

¹³ Andreas, op. cit., 1150.

¹⁴ Record Book G, Cherokee County, 1.

treaty stipulated that the sale should be made for cash.¹⁵

The settlers made protests through Senator Pomeroy and Congressman Clarke against the whole tract being sold to an individual or company, but in spite of the protests, Secretary Browning consummated the sale of all the land to James F. Joy for \$8,000,000 on October 8, 1867.¹⁶ Mr. Joy deeded the "Cherokee Neutral Lands" which consisted of about 670,000 acres to the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad June 8, 1868.¹⁷

Mr. Joy, who became the agent for the railroad, opened a land office at Fort Scott, placing Maj. John T. Cox in charge. The prices asked for the land ranged from two to five dollars per acre. August 11, 1866, at the time of the treaty there were 1,031 families living upon the land. All settlers who had staked their claims before 1868 were permitted to buy their selections at the appraised values, from one dollar fifty cents to four dollars per acre.¹⁸

Many settlers took homesteads, being unaware they were

¹⁵Samuel J. Crawford, Kansas in the Sixties (Chicago, 1911), 308.

¹⁶Frank T. Blackmar, editor, Kansas, a Cyclopedia of State History Embracing Events, Institutions, Industries, Counties, Cities, Towns, Prominent Persons, etc. (2 vols. with supplementary volume, Chicago, 1912), II, 356.

¹⁷Deed Record Book A 1867-1869, Cherokee County, Kansas, 305.

¹⁸Andreas, op. cit., 1150.

within the limits of the "Joy Lands".¹⁹ Feeling that the price of the land was unfair, the settlers declared that the Joy purchase was a swindle. Samuel Crawford, Governor of Kansas, who took up the cause of the settlers, wrote letters to Congressmen and Senators protesting against this unfair treatment, setting forth that the settlers on Cherokee Neutral Lands, should have the right to purchase their claims under the same terms as did settlers of other public lands.²⁰

Bitter feelings prevailed between those who favored the James F. Joy purchase and the settlers. The settlers formed an anti-Joy organization, known as the "Land League." They employed William R. Laughlin as a delegate to Washington to look after the interest of the settlers in Congress.²¹ The Land League took measures to intimidate those who bought the land through the James Joy Land Office, as is shown in the following resolutions, Lincoln Township, Crawford County, in part--

5th. Resolved, That any settler belonging to this league, who will remain firm and not "prove up" shall be protected; and anyone "proving up" or buying said settler's claim shall never enjoy the land--that we pledge ourselves to hang him higher than Haman and without the benefit of the clergy.

¹⁹ Interview with L. D. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

²⁰ Crawford, op. cit., 312.

²¹ Allison, op. cit., 30.

6th. Resolved, That we mean action and will put in force the above resolutions, and will make an example of the first person who violates any of the said resolutions.

W. G. Cunningham

J. S. Armsworthy

W. G. Clerk

Committee²²

Mrs. George Van Dusen of Baxter Springs recalls that her father, Mr. C. M. Clark and his nearest neighbor, Mr. Daniel McEwan spent many nights together in one of their log cabin homes, peering through the openings between the logs, with guns cocked, watching for the "Leaguers" who had threatened them because they had bought their land from James F. Joy. Mr. Clark paid three dollars per acre for his land, that is four miles north of Baxter Springs.²³

The construction of the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad was begun through Cherokee Neutral Lands in 1867. Because James Joy sold the land for prices, the citizens considered unfair, many depredations were made against the building of the road. In June, 1869, four hundred railroad ties were burned, and in August sixteen hundred more ties were destroyed.²⁴

On February 8, 1869, men entered the land office which Mr. Joy had located at Baxter Springs and upon the penalty of

²²Andreas, op. cit., 1151.

²³Interview with Mrs. George Van Dusen, February 26, 1940.

²⁴Ware, op. cit., 163.

hanging, demanded that Major Cox give up the papers of the office within ten minutes, but Sheriff Seright and Captain Hyland arrived in time to protect Major Cox from personal harm and save the papers. The leaders of the mob left town.²⁵

Disorders occasioned by the dispute over the "Joy Lands" were so numerous, that Governor James Harvey was compelled to ask for the United States troops to be sent into the territory to observe order. The first troops sent to "Cherokee Neutral Lands" were a company of infantry. These were followed by three additional companies of infantry and a company of artillery, equipped as cavalry.²⁶

The question of the legality of the James F. Joy purchase had to be settled in the courts, and on May 27, 1871, the United States District Court for the District of Kansas decided the matter in the favor of the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad.²⁷

The controversy over the James F. Joy purchase also became an issue in politics at that time. A political convention was held at Columbus, September 9, 1871, and formulated a platform which is given in part:

Having assembled in county convention as the representatives of that portion of the people of Cherokee county, who are opposed to the pretended

²⁵ Andreas, op. cit., 1151.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ware, op. cit., 167.

sale of the Cherokee neutral lands to Jas. F. Joy, united by a common resolve to maintain right against wrong, confiding in the intelligence, patriotism and discriminating justice of the people; putting our trust in God for the triumph of our cause, and invoking His guidance in our endeavors to advance it.--We now submit to the candid judgment of the honest people, the following declaration of principles and measures....

8th. The attempt of the President of the United States, and the Governor of Kansas to force the people upon the Cherokee neutral land, to acknowledge the pretended treaty title of the M. R. F. S. & G. R. R. as valid, and the acts of those high officials in procuring and stationing among our people a portion of the army of the United States to overawe and intimidate the settlers, deserves the severest censure of every liberty loving American....

15th. That we denounce with shame and indignation, the acts of Congress, under the pretence of enforcing the fourteenth amendment clothing the President with the power of setting aside the sacred rights of local governments at the South and using the armed heel of his troops to secure his re-election.

A. W. Rucker, Chairman

L. Spicklemier,)

J. S. Slimp,)

Com't

C. D. Nichols,)

D. M. Easley.)

The dates and places for seventeen meetings in Cherokee County were arranged to promote the principles of the "Settlers Party."²⁸

The U.S. Troops were withdrawn from Cherokee Neutral Lands in 1872.²⁹

²⁸The Baxter Springs Examiner, October 26, 1871.

²⁹Andreas, op. cit., 1151.

The Railroad

During the time of the controversy over the Cherokee Neutral Lands, Congress gave a right of way through Indian Territory to the first railroad to complete a line to the Northern boundary of the territory.³⁰ It also stipulated that the road should be built through the Neosho River Valley. Two railroads, the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf, and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas competed for this right of way. Although the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf reached the designated boundary line first, it lost the right of way because the surveyors of the line missed the Neosho Valley by a few miles, placing the railroad in the Spring River Valley.³¹

On May 2, 1870, the Missouri River, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad was completed to Baxter Springs which remained the terminus of the line for some time.³² A Wilson County newspaper published a notice of a celebration to be held, May 12, 1870, in Baxter Springs, in honor of the completion of the railroad. The Guilford Citizen announced:

³⁰Ware, op. cit., 168.

³¹Interviews with the following parties: D. S. Chubb, November 26, 1939; George Van Dusen, February 22, 1940; Ira Perkins, March 18, 1940; and W. E. Price, March 16, 1940.

³²Ware, op. cit., 168.

Hon. T. S. Kallcock of Lawrence is to be the orator of the day. Hon. Jas. F. Joy, Commodore Vanderbilt and many other distinguished railroad men are expected to be present, and a general invitation is extended to all. Among the novelties of the occasion will be an Indian canoe race on Spring River, a barbecue, and at the conclusion, a war dance, by several tribes of Indians.³³

establish a fort on Spring River at or near the present location of Baxter Springs. Owing to the Indians' disapproval of an army post being located in the vicinity, and to the high price asked for the land, the negotiations for the site were discontinued. John Rogers, an Indian, who owned the land, priced it for \$4,000 while the officer was authorized to pay only \$1,000. Later, upon advice from the Secretary of War, the fort was built at Fort Scott, and remained a permanent post until after the Civil War.¹

Twenty years later, during the Civil War, the region of Baxter Springs became a scene of border wars between the Union and Confederate Armies. It was said that the territory was "swarming with guerrillas, outlaws, and bushwhackers."²

Colonel Doubleday of the Ohio Cavalry of the Union Army located a military camp at Baxter Springs on the west side of Spring River, June, 1862. This was considered an advantageous position on the Military Road between Fort Scott, Kansas, and Fort

³³The Guilford Citizen, Guilford, Kansas, May 5, 1870.

¹Allison, op. cit., 26.

²Ware, op. cit., 150.

³See map on page 18 of this thesis.

CHAPTER II

THE MILITARY PERIOD

In 1842, the United States government attempted to establish a fort on Spring River at or near the present location of Baxter Springs. Owing to the Indians' disapproval of an army post being located in the vicinity, and to the high price asked for the land, the negotiations for the site were discontinued. John Rogers, an Indian, who owned the land, priced it for \$4,000 while the officer was authorized to pay only \$1,000. Later, upon advice from the Secretary of War, the fort was built at Fort Scott, and remained a permanent post until after the Civil War.¹

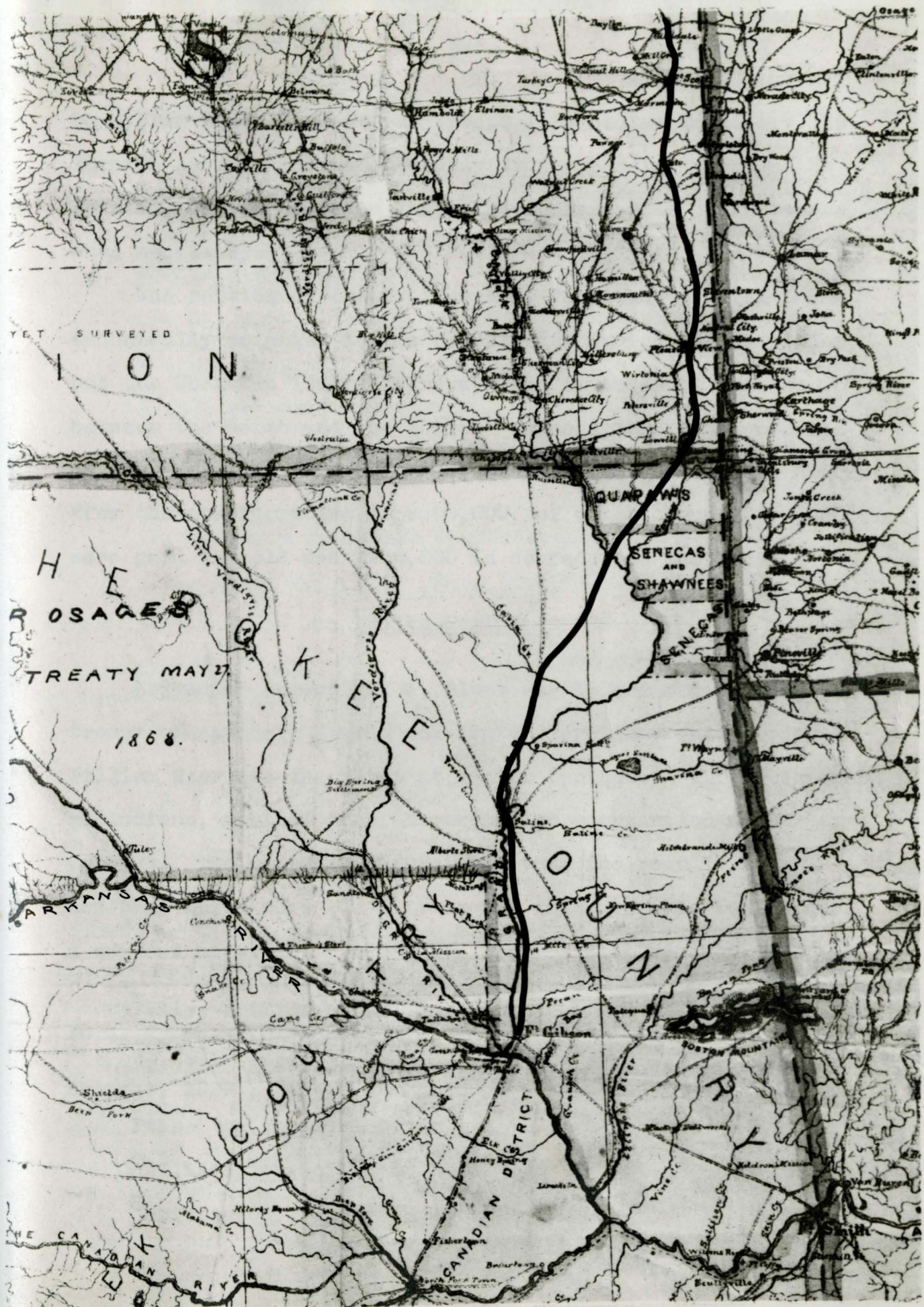
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Colonel Doubleday of the Ohio Cavalry of the Union Army located a military camp at Baxter Springs on the west side of Spring River, June, 1862. This was considered an advantageous position on the Military Road midway between Fort Scott, Kansas, and Fort Gibson, Indian Territory.³ The camp was used as a

¹Allison, op. cit., 28.

²Ware, op. cit., 150.

³See map on page 18 of this thesis.



FROM ORIGINAL IN KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL MAP COLLECTIONS.
 PARTS OF NEIGHBORING STATES AND TERRITORIES.

base from which to send out troops into Indian Territory, to furnish escorts for wagon supply trains passing through the country, and to carry on guerrilla warfare with bushwhackers, when necessary.⁴

The portion of Kansas, known as "Cherokee Neutral Lands," technically belonged to the Confederacy during the Civil War,⁵ but the Cherokee Indians were divided in their allegiance between the North and the South.⁶ June 1, 1861, the council of Cherokee Indians sold these lands to the Confederate States, "for the consideration of \$500,000, of which amount \$250,000 were paid in gold and \$250,000 in Confederate money."⁷

Indian Regiments

Brigadier General J. G. Blunt was in command of the troops of southern Kansas and Indian Territory while Colonel William Weer was in charge at Baxter Springs.⁸ Three regiments of Indians, most of them Cherokees, were organized at Baxter Springs. The government furnished them the regular army uniforms which were ill-fitting and inappropriate to Indians. A warrior might get a coat with sleeves that reached just

⁴Wiley Britton, Civil War on the Border (2 vols., New York, 1904), I, 296-297.

⁵William Elsey Connelley, History of Kansas (5 vols., Chicago, 1928), 242.

⁶Ware, op. cit., 150.

⁷Allison, op. cit., 28.

⁸Britton, op. cit., I, 297.

below the elbows or that extended over the hands. Wiley Britton describes an Indian soldier:

Fully equipped as a warrior, one might have seen an Indian soldier dressed as described, wearing a high-crowned stiff wool hat, with long black hair falling over his shoulders and riding an Indian pony so small that his feet appeared to almost touch the ground, with a long squirrel rifle thrown across the pommel of his saddle. When starting out on the march every morning anyone with this command might have seen this warrior in full war-paint, and he might have also heard the war-whoop commence at the head of the column and run back to the rear, and re-commence at the head of the column several times and run back to the rear.⁹

These Indian regiments were encamped in the vicinity of Baxter Springs during the summer of 1862 to repulse any movement of the enemy from Indian Territory and to protect their families.¹⁰

Campaign in Indian Territory

The troops that were sent south from Baxter Springs, consisted of the Second Ohio Cavalry, the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry, the Tenth Kansas Infantry, Rabb's Second Indiana Battery and the First Kansas Battery.¹¹ There were 6,000 soldiers in the line for inspection and review before the

⁹Britton, op. cit., I, 299.

¹⁰Hugh L. Thompson, Baxter Springs as a Military Post, 1862-1863. Republished in Baxter Springs News, October 1, 1931.

¹¹Britton, op. cit., I, 306; also see map on page 18 of this

¹²Ibid., 312.

army proceeded to Indian Territory.¹²

The campaigns under Colonels Jewell, Weer, St. Cloud and Phillips were successful in driving the Confederate Armies from the region, north of the Arkansas, in Indian Territory. Many Indians became loyal to the Union Army and sought its protection.¹³

When the Ohio Cavalry returned to Baxter Springs, nearly half the men were dismounted. It was found that the fine horses from Ohio had not withstood the hardships of the campaign as had the native horses. Colonel W. A. Phillips of Kansas pursued the enemy to the Creek Agency fork of the Arkansas River, but on account of the lack of rations proceeded to Baxter Springs, where the main command was encamped. The following is a description of the spoils taken in this campaign:

A large number of the refugee Indians and their families followed his retreating column for protection. He brought out not less than six hundred head of cattle and a large number of ponies, some of which belonged to the soldiers of his command, but many of which had belonged to rebel Indians. The property which had been captured from the enemy, he urged should be held for the use of the loyal Indians instead of being sold to contractors for a small percentage of its actual value. His energetic action had the effect of keeping the marauding bands of rebel Indians south of the Arkansas River until his troops were ordered to Baxter Springs.¹⁴

¹²Thompson, op. cit.

¹³Britton, op. cit., I, 306; also see map on page 18 of this thesis.

¹⁴Ibid., 312.

The Military Road became an important route for supply trains, escorts and messengers passing through the uninhabited country from Fort Scott to Fort Gibson.¹⁵

Baxter Springs had been a camping ground for Federal troops since the beginning of the war but a permanent fort had not been built there. Aside from its geographical position, Baxter Springs had other advantages for a post, the hills from which might be seen the approach of an army, the water from the springs and Spring River was ample for an army, the forest along the river was a shelter from the heat and a protection in guerilla warfare.

The Fort

Colonel Charles W. Blair, commander of the District of Southern Kansas and Fort Scott, ordered Lieutenant John Crites with the Third Wisconsin Cavalry, and Lieutenant R. E. Cook with the Second Colored Infantry, to proceed to Baxter Springs and to construct a fort on August 17, 1863.¹⁶

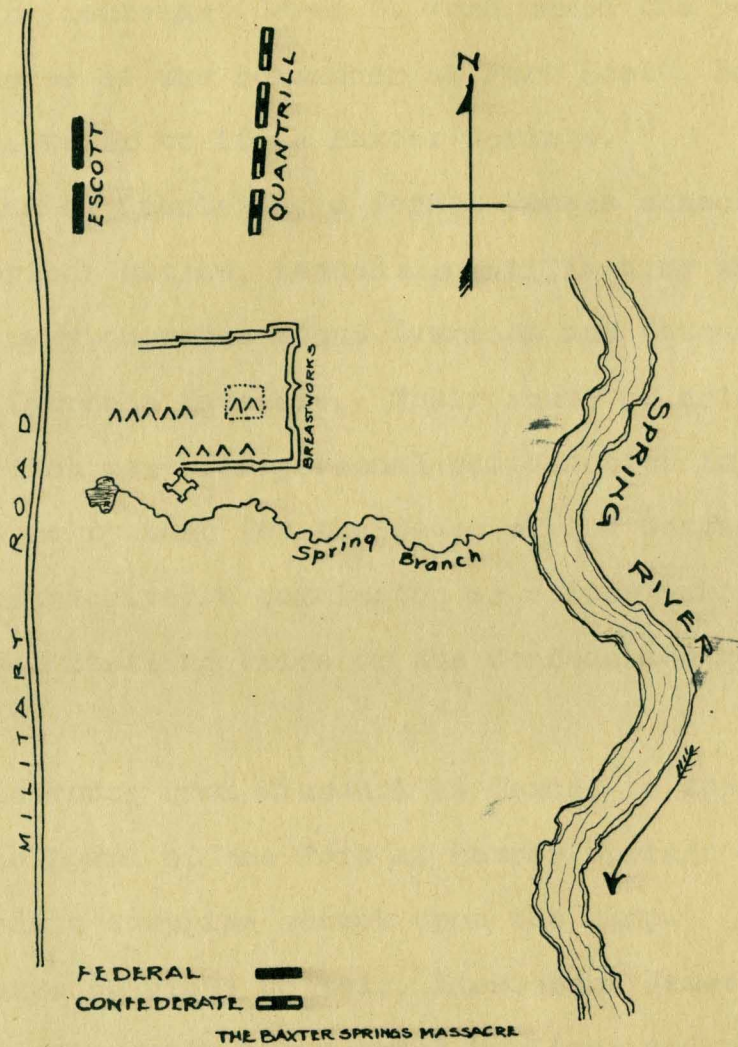
The arrangement of the fort is given by Wiley Britton:

In a short time after Lieutenants Crites and Cook arrived with their command, they constructed a blockhouse a hundred yards or so southeast of the spring on high ground; but for some reason or other they removed this blockhouse to the north side of Spring Branch, a hundred yards perhaps northeast of the spring on the sloping side of the hollow.

¹⁵See map on page 18 of this thesis.

¹⁶Britton, op. cit., II, 212.

FT. BLAIR



FROM
 THE CIVIL WAR ON THE BORDER
 BY
 WILEY BRITTON
 Page 219
 PUBLISHED 1904

They had a line of breastworks constructed of logs and earth about four feet high extending along the north, east, and south sides of the blockhouse, the west side being unfinished and open. There was room enough inside the breastworks for the troops, their tents and supplies and animals.¹⁷

Though Lieutenant James B. Pond named the post, Fort Blair in honor of the commander at Fort Scott, histories of that period refer to it as Baxter Springs.¹⁸

William G. Quantrill, a former Kansas school teacher, now a notorious outlaw, headed a guerilla army which had committed many outrages about Lawrence and Kansas City, one being the Lawrence Massacre. Their route of crime apparently was carried on more for personal satisfaction in material gain and cruelty than for the cause of the Confederacy. However, he received a commission as colonel supposedly either from General Sterling Price or the Confederate governor of Missouri.¹⁹

On his route from Missouri to Texas, to spend the winter of 1863, he heard of the Fort at Baxter Springs and on October 6th made a surprise attack upon the camp.

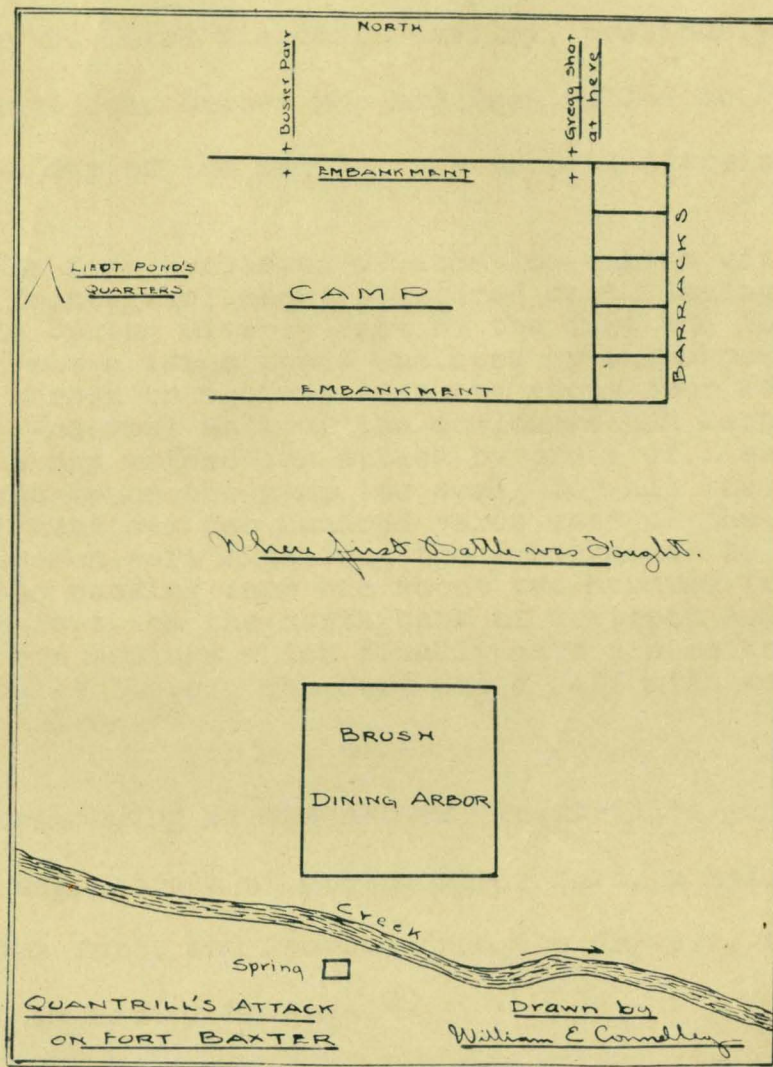
Two days previous to this, Lieutenant James B. Pond had arrived bringing with him a small howitzer and part of his

¹⁷Ibid.; See map on page 23 of this thesis.

¹⁸William Elsey Connelley, Quantrill and Border Wars (Vedar Rapids, Iowa, 1910), 422.

¹⁹Ibid., 86.

FT. BLAIR



FROM
 QUANTRILL & THE BORDER WARS
 BY
 WILLIAM ELSEY CONNELLEY
 Page 423
 PUBLISHED 1910.

company, C Third Wisconsin, and took command of the Fort.²³
 In addition there were at the garrison, one company of the²⁴
 Second Kansas Colored Infantry commanded by Lieutenant Cook
 and Company D. Third Wisconsin Cavalry, previously commanded
 by Lieutenant John Crites who had been called to Fort Scott.²⁰

On the day of the battle, the fort is described,

The fort consisted of some log cabins with a
 total frontage of about a hundred feet, facing east--
 towards Spring River. Back of the fort and the same
 width, was a large space enclosed by embankments of
 earth thrown up against logs and about four feet
 high. The west wall of the enclosure had been torn
 out the day before the attack by order of Lieutenant
 Pond who found the camp too small for all the troops.
 Pond's tent was two hundred yards west of the fort
 and the men were extending the embankments to enclose
 it. The cooking camp was about two hundred feet south
 of the fort, on the north bank of a stream and near
 the large springs which finally gave a name to the
 town built there. The fort was a half mile west of
 Spring River.²¹

On the morning of the attack, Quantrill's men captured
 a Federal wagon train at Spring River ford, a half mile
 south of the fort, and learned from the drivers, that there
 was a camp at Baxter Springs.²²

Lieutenant Pond had diminished his force that morning
 by sending out a party of sixty men with all their wagons
 and teams to forage in the country, leaving about twenty-five

²⁰ Andreas, op. cit. 1152.

²¹ Connelley, Quantrill and Border Wars, 422; see map
 on page 25 of this thesis.

²² Ibid., 424. See Appendix of this thesis.

cavalry and fifty or seventy colored troops at the fort.²³
 Half the white troops were excused on account of sickness.²⁴

The Battle of Baxter Springs

The garrison was wholly unprepared for the attack. Lieutenant Pond was in his tent, separated from the colored troops who were eating their lunch under a shed or arbor near the spring. Upon a warning given by Sergeant W. L. McKenzie, Lieutenant Pond ordered his men to the fort.²⁵ Many of them had to break through the enemy ranks which were between the fort and the dining quarters. In a short time, the white and colored troops succeeded in routing the enemy from the camp. With Lieutenant Pond operating his twelve-pound howitzer and the colored troops keeping up a rapid fire of guns from the blockhouse, the guerrillas soon retreated to the shelter of the trees along Spring River.²⁶ The enemy seemed unaware of the small number of men at the camp. The casualties reported by Lieutenant Pond were eight killed and ten wounded.²⁷

²³ Lt. James B. Pond, Report of Action at Baxter Springs 0.6, 1863, War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Series I, Part I (Washington, D.C., 1888), 669; also see Appendix of this thesis.

²⁴ The Girard Press, June 6, 1872. See Appendix.

²⁵ Britton, op. cit., II, 222.

²⁶ Ibid.; See map on page 23 of this thesis.

²⁷ Pond, op. cit. See Appendix of this thesis.

When the foraging party, sent out by Lieutenant Pond in the morning, heard of the disaster of the battle, they did not return but mounted the mules and horses which they had unhitched from the wagons, and rode to Fort Scott.²⁸

On account of the reports of more active Confederate operations in Arkansas, Major General J. G. Blunt was ordered to Fort Smith. October 4, he left Fort Scott with his military escort, Company I, Third Wisconsin Cavalry and Company A, Fourteenth Kansas, and proceeded by way of the Military Road, intending to visit Fort Blair at Baxter Springs. He seemed to care a great deal for military display. He was proud of his band which played in the plaza at Fort Scott for an hour before he left, and many of the citizens watched the military parade march out of town that beautiful afternoon.²⁹

Dr. W. H. Warner in his account of the battle said:

He had taken great pains to secure a grand and imposing outfit, including a department band of skilled musicians, elegantly uniformed and had procured a full corp of department clerks and new uniforms for himself and staff.³⁰

It is easy to picture this military procession two days later, as it advanced south along Military Road to Baxter Springs. They crossed the ford at Willow Creek. The soldiers

²⁸ Connelley, Quantrill and Border Wars, 424.

²⁹ Britton, op. cit., II, 216.

³⁰ Andreas, op. cit., 1153.

were looking forward to a pause in their journey, a good meal, and rest among friends at the fort. General Blunt halted his command to arrange his men and equipment in form, to proceed into the garrison. The members of the band with their musical instruments in position were ordered to the front. General Blunt and his staff rode in the new ambulance, his horses led by orderlies, following were the cavalry soldiers who were dressed in their new uniforms and the supply wagons brought up the rear.³¹ The approaching army, with its new ambulance, its shining band instruments, its soldiers in new blue uniforms, stood out in striking contrast to the dull brown background of the autumn coloring. They were easily seen by Quantrill's men who were retreating from the skirmish at the fort.

Noticing, to the southeast, mounted soldiers, dressed in Federal uniforms, advancing from Spring River, General Blunt, at first, thought them to be an escort sent out by Lieutenant Pond to welcome him, but the confused arrangement of the men aroused his suspicion; so he sent forward Captain W. S. Tough to ascertain who they were.³²

Captain Tough reported that they were rebels, but

³¹ Andreas, op. cit., 1153.

³² Britton, op. cit., II, 217; also Major James G. Blunt, Report of Action at Baxter Springs, O.6, 1863, War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Series I, Part I (Washington, D.C., 1888), 688. See Appendix.

³⁷ Allison, op. cit., 157.

General Blunt had little time to order his men into position for an attack.³³ Quantrill's men charged upon them at once, "firing and yelling like demons."³⁴ Seeing that they were greatly outnumbered, more than five to one, the Union soldiers turned and fled over the prairie. Pursued by the guerrillas for more than one and one-half miles, all overtaken, were killed. General Blunt and his adjutant, Major Curtis, escaped through openings in the enemy's ranks, but Major Curtis' body was found the next day.³⁵

In the band wagon were James O'Neale, special artist for Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, and fourteen members of the band. The driver, thinking that he could escape, drove at great speed in the opposite direction from the fleeing soldiers, but a wheel came off the wagon, and they were overtaken. All were killed, and their bodies with the wagon, were burned.³⁶

General Blunt finally succeeded in rallying fifteen of his men with whom he reached Baxter Springs Camp late in the afternoon. This was a crushing defeat to General Blunt who had had until this time, a very successful war record.³⁷

³³Britton, op. cit., II, 217.

³⁴Allison, op. cit., 156.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Britton, op. cit., II, 220.

³⁷Allison, op. cit., 157.

The next day, October 7, was spent in recovering and burying the bodies of the dead. General Blunt in his report to the War Department, lists seventy-nine killed and five missing³⁸ but Dr. W. H. Warner of Girard, Kansas, reported ninety-three killed.³⁹ Dr. Warner was a post surgeon in the battle at the camp.⁴⁰

Gen. Blunt estimated the number of guerilla forces used in the attack on the fort and military train to be six hundred men,⁴¹ while Col. Quantrill numbered his men at two hundred fifty.⁴²

Quantrill gave the results of the engagement as follows:

We continued the chase about 4 miles, when I called the men off, only leaving about 40 of them alive. On returning, we found they had left us 9 six-mule wagons, well loaded; 1 buggy (General Blunt's); 1 fine ambulance; 1 fine brass band and wagon, fully rigged.

Among the killed were General Blunt, Majors Curtis, Sinclair, and B. S. Henning, Capt. Tufft [Tough], and 3 lieutenants of the staff, and about 80 privates of the escort. My loss here was 1 man killed (William Bledsoe) and severely wounded (John Coger). In the charge on the fort, my loss was 2 men killed (Robert Ward and William Lotspeach); wounded, Lieutenant Toothman and Private Thomas Hill. Federal loss at the fort, 1 lieutenant and 15 privates killed; numbers wounded, not known.

³⁸Blunt, op. cit., 688. See Appendix.

³⁹Allison, op. cit., 157.

⁴⁰See Appendix for account of Battle by Dr. Warner.

⁴¹Blunt, op. cit., 688.

⁴²W.C. Quantrill, Report of Action at Baxter Springs, O. 6, 1863, Confederate Service, Series I, Part I (Washington, D.C., 1888), p. 700. See Appendix.

We have as trophies two stand of colors, General Blunt's sword, his commission (brigadier-general and major-general), all his official papers, etc. belonging to headquarters. After taking what we wanted from the train; we destroyed it, fearing we could not carry it away in the face of so large a force.⁴³

Overestimating the strength of the Federal troops, Quantrill did not attack the fort the second time but continued his march "due south on the old Texas road"⁴⁴ and camped fifteen miles from Baxter Springs.

The battle ground of this disaster, covered a radius of several miles and for many years it attracted relic hunters. The school children collected parts of guns, bullets and buttons from uniforms. Mr. A.D.C. Harvey who later acquired the land in this region, while plowing unearthed the remains of two bodies which he supposed were soldiers and buried them in the National Cemetery.⁴⁵

The National Cemetery at Baxter Springs

As early as 1869, a plan was made for a national cemetery where the bodies of the soldiers killed at Baxter Springs Massacre might be placed. April 10, 1869, the city of Baxter Springs deeded a lot, known as the "National Block" to the

⁴³Ibid., 701.

⁴⁴Ibid.

⁴⁵Interview with Miss Anna Webb, granddaughter of Mr. A.D.C. Harvey, March 16, 1940.

cemetery. This lot comprised about one acre near the middle of the Baxter Springs cemetery which is about one mile west of the city.⁴⁶ Additional lands were conveyed to the cemetery in 1877⁴⁷ and in 1887⁴⁸ and were accepted by the government under authority contained in an Act of Congress approved February, 1867.⁴⁹ This act set forth regulations concerning the arrangement and care in national cemeteries. The remains of the soldiers killed in the Quantrill Massacre were reinterred in the Soldiers Plot at Baxter Springs in 1870 and 1871.⁵⁰

On Decoration Day, 1886, a monument built by the government at the cost of over \$4,000, was dedicated to the memory of the officers and soldiers who were killed in Baxter Springs, October 6, 1863. Many people from the surrounding country witnessed this dedication. Participating in the dedicatory services, were the few survivors of the massacre, other veterans of the Civil War, sons of veterans, the Columbus militia and a band from Melrose. The program at the cemetery consisted of addresses by the Mr. J. B. Opperman, mayor of

⁴⁶Record Book A, Cherokee County, 217-218.

⁴⁷Record Book Q, Cherokee County, 99-100.

⁴⁸Record Book 17, 449.

⁴⁹Title 24 U. S. C. Section 271.

⁵⁰Personal letter from Thomas E. Mahoney, Major, Q. M. Corps, assistant, dated April 11, 1940 to the author. Data from the records of the War Department.

Baxter Springs, Captain F. D. W. Arnold of Lamar, Missouri, and Col. J. R. Hallowell of Columbus.⁵¹

Captain Arnold, a member of General Blunt's body guard, was severely wounded by Quantrill's men. At the beginning of the battle his horse was shot from under him. Expecting to be treated as a prisoner of war, he surrendered, but instead, he was shot in the left forearm and face, by a guerrilla, who left him upon the battle field for dead. He remained unconscious until late in the afternoon when he was carried to the camp, and placed in the hospital where his wounds received attention. In a few weeks he was able to make the journey to Fort Scott.⁵²

October 2, 1931, the Baxter Springs chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a historical marker in the Library Park.⁵³ The large roughly hewn boulder of native granite was presented to the chapter by Mr. George Spiva of Joplin.⁵⁴ The bronze plate which was provided by the chapter, bears the following inscription:

⁵¹The Baxter Springs News, June 5, 1886.

⁵²The Baxter Springs News, October 1, 1931.

⁵³Ibid.

⁵⁴Interview with Mrs. Grace Hartley, April 7, 1940.

1863-1931

Dedicated to the memory of General James G. Blunt and his escort who defenseless fell victims to the inhuman ferocity of guerillas led by the infamous Quantrill in his raid upon Baxter Springs, October 6th, 1863, in which 135 Union soldiers were slain and are now sleeping in the Baxter Springs National cemetery.

Erected by the Baxter Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.⁵⁵ of twenty-five miles through the corner of the state, is fed by many springs and "flowing over a rocky bottom, its water is remarkably and beautifully clear."² As early as 1838, the stream was known as Spring River.³

Hugh Campbell, in his diary of 1857, gave his impression of the landscape:

May 31st. Struck camp and marched seven miles west which brought us to the camp of Colonel Johnson on the left bank of Spring river, where emerging from the timber for the first time, we came in full view of an open rolling prairie extending north, south and west as far as the eye can see. After striking the valley of this river I noticed several Indian farms, having neatly fenced fields of oats, wheat and corn. They also plant cabbage, turnips, etc. The soil in this portion of the valley is very fertile. The timber on the banks of Spring river consists chiefly of oak, cottonwood and ash with a heavy undergrowth in many places. The grass and

¹George A. Root, "Spring River," Kansas Historical

⁵⁵Bronze plate--marker in Library Park, Baxter Springs, Kansas, 1931.

³Charles Dimmick, Executive Documents, 34th Sess. 25 Cong. S. 1837-'38, Doc. No. 276, 6.

CHAPTER III

THE ORIGIN OF BAXTER SPRINGS

In another journal of the same date a writer recorded:
Early visitors to southeastern Kansas Territory, and historians who wrote of this section, were impressed by the beauty of the country. The river which flows in its course of twenty-five miles¹ through the corner of the state, is fed by many springs and "flowing over a rocky bottom, its water is remarkably and beautifully clear."² As early as 1838, the stream was known as Spring River.³
Hugh Campbell, in his diary of 1857, gave his impression of the landscape:

May 31st. Struck camp and marched seven miles west which brought us to the camp of Colonel Johnson on the left bank of Spring river, where emerging from the timber for the first time, we came in full view of an open rolling prairie extending north, south and west as far as the eye can see. After striking the valley of this river I noticed several Indian farms, having neatly fenced fields of oats, wheat and corn. They also plant cabbage, turnips, etc. The soil in this portion of the valley is very fertile. The timber on the banks of Spring river consists chiefly of oak, cottonwood and ash with a heavy undergrowth in many places. The grass and

¹George A. Root, "Spring River," Kansas Historical Quarterly (May, 1937), VI, 141. Idwell, Kansas Historical Quarterly, VI (November, 1937), 347.

²Andreas, op. cit., 1149.

³Eugene Bendel, Journal, "Frontier Life in the Army," edited by Charles Dimmick, Executive Documents, Md Sess. 25 Cong. 8. 1837-'38, Doc. No. 278, 6. II, 138.

general vegetation on the prairie west is now between 6 and 8 inches long presenting rich verdure and luxuriance.⁴

In another journal of the same date a writer recorded:

May 28. I suppose we are on the southern line of Kansas territory--A splendid country around us; plenty of wood and water, rich soil and the best pastures anywhere.

May 29.... Spring river is a rapid stream about fifty yards wide and three feet deep on an average. Country beautiful. Several settlements near.⁵

This was the description of the country about the time the first settler, whose name was given to the town, took possession of the land upon which Baxter Springs was built.

The Baxter Family

The spring of 1849, John L. Baxter with his wife and eight children moved from Jackson County, Missouri, to the present site of Baxter Springs and located upon one hundred sixty acres of land near Spring River. His land included the springs which, until recently, flowed from the side of a hill near Military Road. He operated an inn and general

⁴Hugh Campbell, Journal, "The Southern Kansas Boundary Survey," edited by Martha B. Caldwell, Kansas Historical Quarterly, VI (November, 1937), 347.

⁵Eugene Bandel, Journal, "Frontier Life in the Army," edited by Ralph P. Bieber, Southwest Historical Series (8 vols., Glendale, California, 1932), II, 138.

store which were known as "Baxter's Place."⁶ He also was engaged in "farming, stock raising and buying and selling mineral leases."⁷ To substantiate the latter occupation C. C. Baxter writes:

John L. Baxter fell mortally wounded, but said to his son

Also we find in John L. Baxter's old ledger, written by his own hand, a number of mentioned leases leased by him to others for lead mine work. Here is one of the old notations quoted from his book:

"Agreement between J.L. Baxter and Ransom Moss. I, John L. Baxter, have let to the said Moss 100 hundred feet square of mineral land as long as he, the said Moss, works it after the (skip) of Mining Rules yearly by paying the (skip) rent. Signed John L. Baxter--- Ransom Moss."⁸

seven of her children, three boys and four girls, moved to

John L. Baxter, with his parents attended the Methodist church, but later, upon his own interpretation of the Bible joined the Baptist church, and became an ordained minister in 1843. The same year, he composed a number of songs which were used in worship by the church. Besides his other vocations, "he found time to act as community veterinarian."⁹

From Thomas Nevin Vanberg, John L. Baxter leased some land about two and one half miles northeast of Baxter Springs. Living upon the land was a man named Commons who refused to vacate upon the request of Baxter. One morning, in 1859,

⁶Personal letter from C.C. Baxter, grandson of John L. Baxter to the author, dated March 31, 1940, giving copy of his family record, Dublin, Texas.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid.

John Baxter, his son W. T. Baxter and his son-in-law, Jim Killebrew went to the lease to persuade Commons to give them possession. As they approached the place, "some one from inside the cabin opened fire with a load of buckshot."¹⁰ John L. Baxter fell mortally wounded, but said to his son "Tom, they've killed me, shoot them!"¹¹ His son seized Killebrew's gun, rushed to the cabin, forced the door open, fired two shots, killing two men. The third man who was Commons escaped through the back door into the woods.¹²

After the death of John L. Baxter, his wife, Sara, and seven of her children, three boys and four girls, moved to Bonham, Texas, in 1860. At the beginning of the war W. T. Baxter enlisted with Federal troops and served as corporal in the 144th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, throughout the war. Cyrious and J.A. Baxter, two other sons of John L. Baxter, joined the Confederate Army at Bonham, Texas.¹³

The Survey of the Southern Kansas Boundary

Probably the most authentic written source as to the time that John L. Baxter was known to reside in the vicinity of Baxter Springs is recorded in the Private Journal of Colonel Joseph E. Johnston who supervised the surveying of

¹⁰Ibid., 107.

¹¹Ibid. See map on page 18 of this thesis.

¹²Ibid., op. cit., II, 124.

¹³Ibid.

the southern Kansas boundary line in 1857. This journal was written by pencil in an account book and is now in the library of William and Mary College.¹⁴

The first survey of the southern border of Kansas Territory was started near Baxter Springs. This survey was provided by Congress in 1856, about two years after the formation of Kansas Territory and was to be made along the thirty-seventh parallel.¹⁵

On May 16, 1857, Colonel Joseph E. Johnston with two companions of the 6th Infantry and two squadrons of the 1st cavalry with "two-fifth of six months provision,"¹⁶ started from Leavenworth and proceeded over the Military Road to the southeastern corner of Kansas Territory.¹⁷ Beside the troops, Eugene Bandel estimated that the train consisted "of over one hundred wagons, each drawn by six mules, most of them laden by provisions. Besides this a herd of one hundred and fifty oxen along."¹⁸

The same year, on April 29, an astronomical party whose purpose it was to assist in this survey, set out from St.

¹⁴Joseph E. Johnston, "Surveying the Southern Boundary Line of Kansas," edited by Nyles H. Miller, Kansas Historical Quarterly, I (February, 1932), 104.

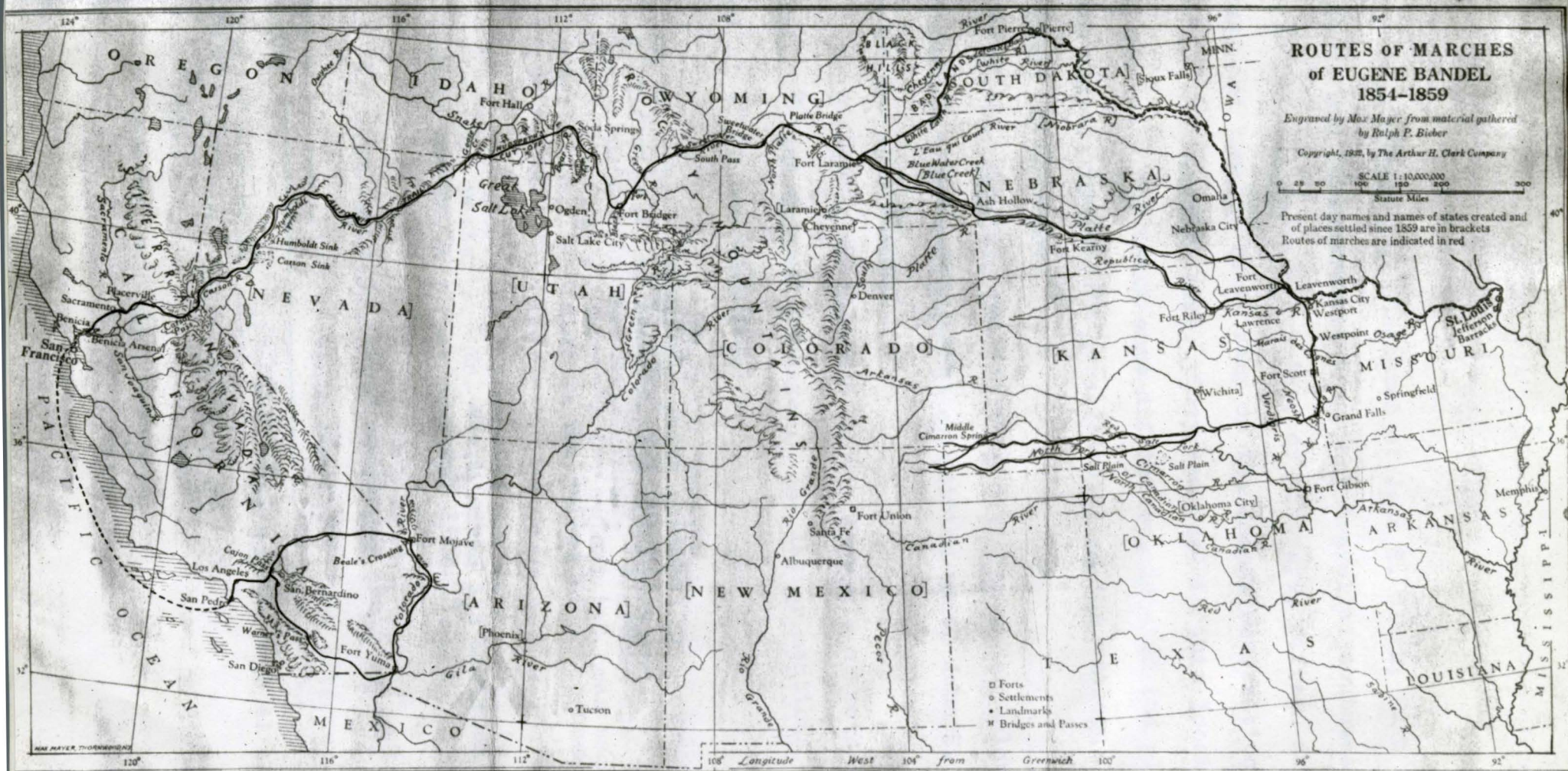
¹⁵Ibid. See map on page 41 of this thesis.

¹⁶Ibid., 107.

¹⁷Ibid. See map on page 18 of this thesis.

¹⁸Bandel, op. cit., II, 124.

THE SOUTHERN KANSAS BOUNDARY SURVEY.



FROM
SOUTHWEST HISTORICAL SERIES, VOL. II.

EDITED BY

RALPH P. BIEBER

Page 331

PUBLISHED 1932.

Louis. The expedition consisted of John H. Clark, Hugh Campbell and three assistants. They travelled southwest and arrived at the western boundary of Missouri, fifteen days later, and located their camp on the Quapaw Reservation just west of the Missouri line. They remained in this location for two weeks and, with some difficulty, located the place, where the thirty-seventh parallel crosses the western boundary of Missouri.¹⁹

The two parties, the military division under Colonel Johnston and the astronomical expedition under John H. Clark, met at Baxter Springs.

This meeting is recorded in the Journals of both Hugh Campbell²⁰ and Colonel Johnston. The latter mentions "Baxter's" in the following:

On May 28th....Found the party encamped on a creek a half mile N. of Baxters, the 2nd below the road. Coal abundant in the neighborhood. A strong chalybeate spring at Baxter's (or rather two near each other), each is rising in the vertex of an obtuse cone of red mud.

May 29th. Moved to the edge of the wood opps. to the ford near Baxter's. Mr. Clark fixed his meridian about 150 ft. W of the Missouri line.²¹

The combined expeditions continued their journey westward along the thirty-seventh parallel. The astronomical

¹⁹ Campbell, op. cit., 339. See map on page 41 of this thesis.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Johnston, op. cit., 110.

division moved in front of the surveying party and established eleven observation stations along the southern boundary line, four hundred sixty-three miles in length.²²

A monument constructed of native stone has recently been erected upon the southern corner of Kansas to mark the beginning of this undertaking. The ground for the location of the marker was secured through the efforts of Mr. Ira Perkins,²³ and the work of construction was carried on under a National Youth's project in 1938. A bronze plate, describing the Johnston expedition was supplied by the Kansas Historical Society.²⁴

Following the settlement and departure of the Baxter family, Baxter Springs was used as a military camp during the Civil War but a permanent settlement began in 1866 when Capt. M. Mann and J.J. Barnes laid out the eighty acres for the town site,²⁵ which included eight blocks on each side of military road.²⁶

After the war, soldiers released from army service and others with the desire "to go west", satisfied their spirit of adventure in driving cattle, seeking farms and establishing

²²Campbell, op. cit., 376. See map on page 41 this thesis.

²³Interview with Mr. Ira Perkins, March 18, 1940.

²⁴From the data recorded on the monument.

²⁵Andreas, op. cit., 1167.

²⁶Interview with L.D. Brewster, April 18, 1940.

trade. They found Baxter Springs an advantageous location for all three vocations.

The Cattle Industry

There came, at this time, a great demand for beef in the markets of the northern cities. Texas stock raisers, keenly alert to the high prices offered for cattle in the North, prepared to profit in these markets by collecting large herds on the southern plains.²⁷

The route through Baxter Springs became the shortest distance from the Texas ranches to the northern markets. The Military Road from Ft. Gibson north to Leavenworth was well established. The hazards from driving the cattle through Indian Territory being past, the great expanse of grazing lands, the abundance of water at all seasons, made Baxter Springs a very desirable location, for a pause in the long journey. Here the cattle were fattened and made in shape for the further drives or shipment to Kansas City, Missouri.²⁸

Mr. Enoch Wright who was one of the first settlers in Baxter Springs began his education in the cattle business upon the prairies of Texas. He was "in the saddle" at the age of six, and at twelve, he accompanied his father who drove

²⁷ Edward Everett Dale, The Range of the Cattle Industry, (Oklahoma City, 1930), 49.

²⁸ Interview with Mr. Enoch Wright, February 30, 1940.
See Appendix and map on page 48 of this thesis.

one of the first herds over the long distance from Texas to the southern line of Kansas. Starting with this herd which consisted of eight hundred fifty longhorns from Williams County, in February, 1867, they arrived at Devil's Promenade, seven miles south of Baxter Springs in June, where they sold the cattle on the Quapaw Reservation. Mr. Wright, latter spent several years driving cattle, in herds varying in size from one thousand to two thousand head.²⁹

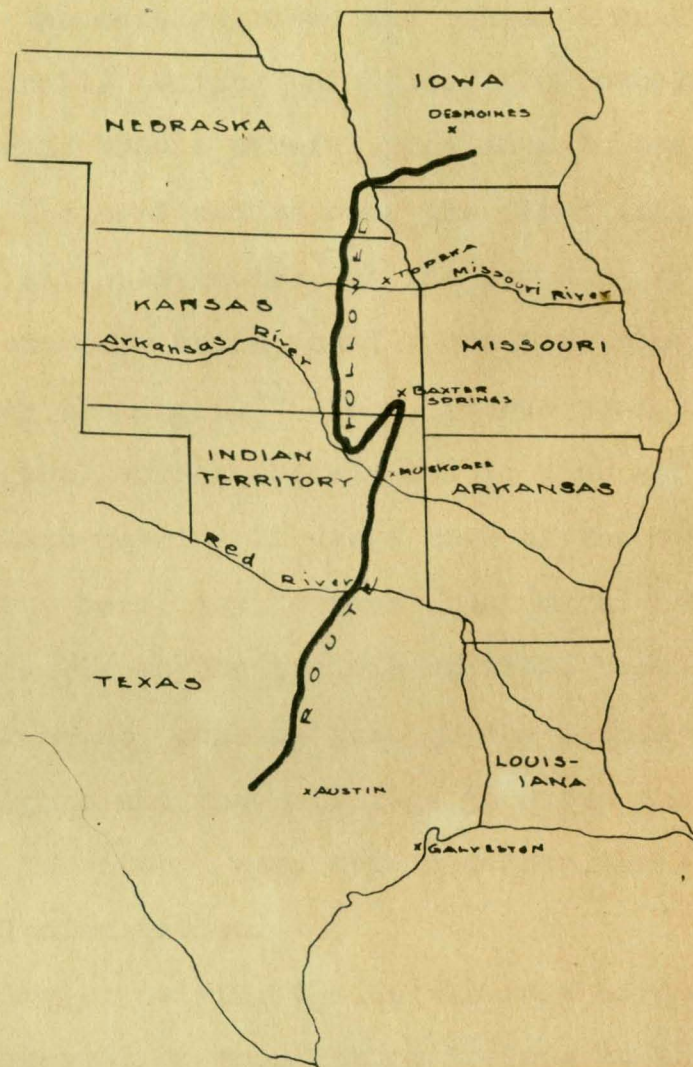
Harvey Ray and George Duffield were among the earlier drovers to reach Baxter Springs. They drove a herd of one thousand head of cattle from central Texas to Iowa in 1866. In a diary one of the men described the many hardships that beset the drovers, in guiding the cattle through Indian Territory.³⁰

The trip from Texas to Baxter Springs usually took from one hundred to one hundred ten days, making an average of about ten miles a day. A herd would string out over the prairie for more than two miles, with cowboys riding along either side of the long line. Ordinarily there were fifteen to twenty men with each herd of one thousand or fifteen hundred head of cattle. Provisions and cooking supplies were carried in a chuck wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen. The

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ W.W. Baldwin, "Driving Cattle from Texas to Iowa," in Annals of Iowa, Vol. XIV, No. 4 (April, 1924), 252, 255, 256. See Appendix and map on page 46 of this thesis.

A CATTLE TRAIL IN 1866



FROM
ANNALS OF IOWA
VOL. XIV, NO. 4, THIRD SERIES
Page 252.

MAP SHOWING THE ROUTE FOLLOWED BY GEORGE
C. DUFFIELD IN DRIVING A HERD OF 1000 CATTLE
FROM TEXAS TO IOWA IN 1866. (DRAWING BY D.C. MOTT.)

food consisted mostly of sweet potatoes, salt bacon, onions and coffee. Irish potatoes were added to the diet after they crossed the Red River.

At night, the cattle grazed and rested a half mile or more from the trail. During this time, the cowboys, in relays of two hours each, kept a careful vigilance to prevent theft of any part of the herd and to stop the first indication of a stampede. The slightest noise, as the striking of a match, might start a stampede which usually occurred when the animals were "bedded" for the night.³¹ Then, it was that the cowboys sang their original verses usually set to slow and solemn hymn tunes.³² Each morning it was a task of the cowboys to separate from the herd, any "strays" that might have come from the wild cattle on the prairie or those bearing the brands of other herds, passing through the country.

Grazing rights and the privilege to drive the cattle through Indian Territory, were obtained from the Indian chief in each Indian nation.

The industry of driving the cattle northward grew so rapidly that the section from Baxter Springs to the Arkansas River became filled with Texas longhorns.³³ "From any knoll

³¹ Interview with Mr. Enoch Wright, February 23, 1940.

³² Ralph Henry Gabriel, editor, The Pageant of America (15 vols., New Haven, 1926), III, 182.

³³ Interview with Mr. Enoch Wright, February 23, 1940.

³⁴ The Baxter Springs Herald, February 29, 1888.

could be seen thousands of sleek beeves, their branching horns glistening in the sunlight and their herders watchfully riding in the distance."³⁴ It would have been impossible to count the number of narrow trails made by the cattle passing over this section of the prairie, at that time.³⁵

Baxter Springs became the first frontier cattle town on the southern border of Kansas.³⁶ Knowing the benefits, that might be derived, in keeping the continual flow of cattle through Baxter Springs, an active southwestern Stock Yards and Drovers Association was organized in 1868 for the purpose of buying and selling cattle.³⁷ The association advertized:

Corrals are prepared for twenty thousand cattle with ample grazing ground and an abundance of pure water thus avoiding night herding and relieving drovers of much care and anxiety. Large and commodious sale yards will be established in the city at which stock will be disposed of daily under the supervision of experienced salesmen. The association will buy and sell stock and goods on commission; make cash advances on stock, furnish drovers and their employees all kinds of supplies and if so desired, take charge of and herd stock until sold....

Cattle coming to this market will be driven over as fine a grass country as there is in the world, well supplied with water and not attended with the hardships and fatigue incident to the western route to Abilene and other points on the Pacific Railroad.³⁸

³⁴Oliver G. Swan, editor, Frontier Days, (Philadelphia, 1928), 259.

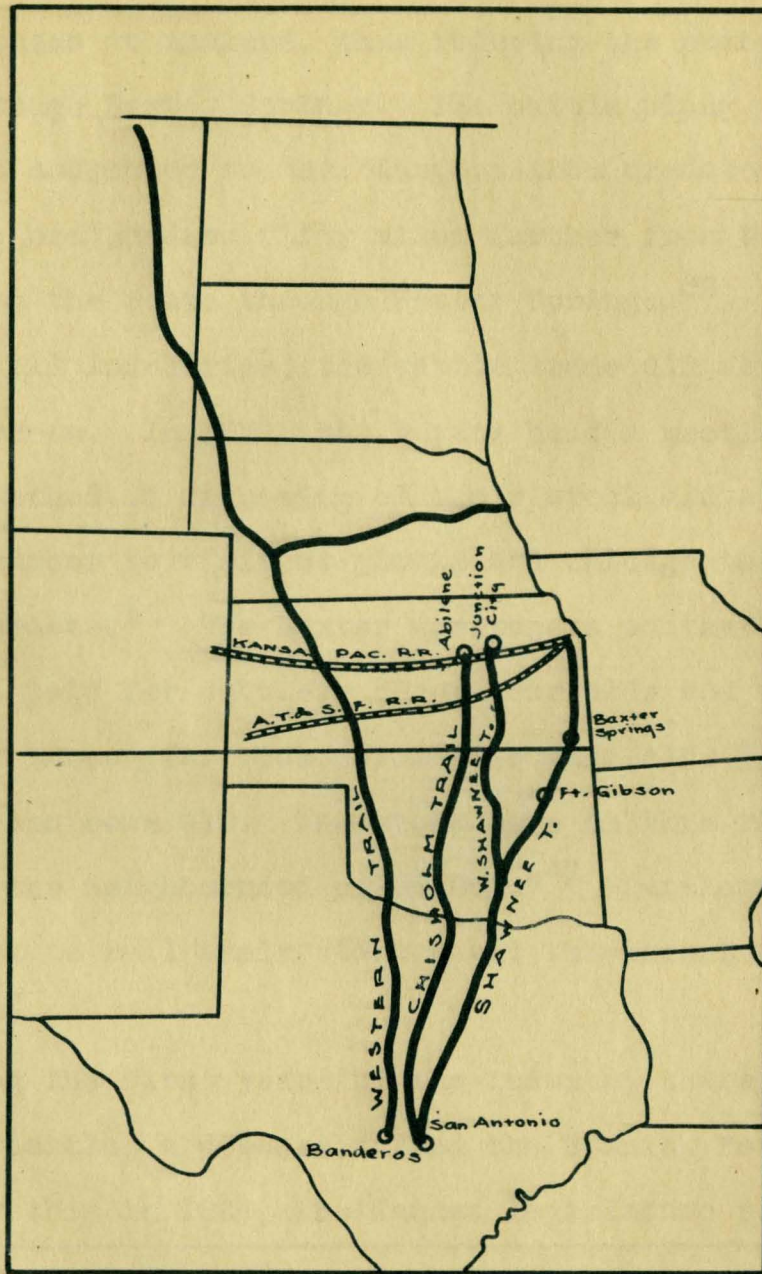
³⁵Interview with Mr. Enoch Wright, February 23, 1940.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷The Baxter Springs Herald, February 22, 1868.

³⁸The Baxter Springs Herald, February 29, 1868.

CATTLE TRAILS



FROM
CATTLE RANGE INDUSTRY
BY

EDWARD EVERETT DALE

Page 62

PUBLISHED 1930

From the last paragraph it is evident that more herds of cattle were being driven farther west through the central part of Kansas to Abilene, thus reducing the number being driven through Baxter Springs. The cattle along this western route were subjected to more dangers from predatory Indians and it was one hundred fifty miles farther from the eastern states than the route through Baxter Springs.³⁹

Like all industries, the cattle trade did not have continued success. In 1871, the buyers held a meeting to consider the best method of disposing of their stock and appointed one of their number to visit St. Louis and Chicago to look after their interests.⁴⁰ The Baxter newspapers of that time quoted the prices paid for cattle. "Four year olds and up are worth about \$20; three year olds, \$15. Two year olds \$10: yearlings \$6. and cows \$10. The stock here in this vicinity number in the neighborhood of 50,000."⁴¹ Cattlemen were advised not to sell their stock until the market prices improved.⁴²

During the first years of the industry there developed among the cattle, a disease called the Spanish fever. On account of this in 1867, the Kansas Legislature passed a law

³⁹Paul Gibbons, "News from Kansas in 1870", from old files of Titusville, Pa. Morning Herald. Kansas Historical Quarterly, VII (May, 1938), 178. See map page 49 this thesis.

⁴⁰The Baxter Springs Examiner, September 14, 1871.

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴²Ibid.

which prohibited Texas cattle being driven into Kansas "east of the sixth principal meridian and north of township 19, except during December, January and February."⁴³

Believing that this law was a detriment to the cattle industry a large number of stockmen met in the "Wiggins House" in Baxter Springs, December 1, 1871, and formed resolutions protesting against the law. They advised that there should be a change in the law so that stock could be driven into the state by October 15; that the hazards from the disease after that date were passed; that during the period the cattle were held on the border, prairie fires and cold weather exhausted the ranges, and caused intense suffering to the stock.⁴⁴

With the coming of the railroad to Baxter Springs, the cattle trade became more active. The stock could now be placed on the Kansas City markets by one night of travel. The Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company built large and commodious pens, which were constructed so that cattle could be handled, separated and sorted with very little trouble.⁴⁵

The revival of the cattle business is also indicated in

⁴³Joseph G. McCoy, "Historical Sketches of the Cattle Trade," Kansas Historical Collections, XI, 124.

⁴⁴The Cherokee Sentinel, December 8, 1871.

⁴⁵Baxter Springs Sentinel, June 8, 1872.

the item from a Baxter Springs paper: ⁴⁹ This land was

open to settlement as other public lands in homesteads for one
The prairies on the State Line are now covered with immense herds of Texas cattle, and our city once more begins to feel the healthy influence of a brisk trade. At least twenty thousand cattle are now on the line. The shipments for the past two weeks have been very heavy and still they come. Our streets are crowded with cowboys and mustangs; our hotels are jammed to overflowing with stock dealers and lead-seekers, merchants, artisans, and professional men, all begin to feel that a new era has dawned upon us.⁴⁶

The cattle business continued in varying degrees of success until the early "nineties" but the scenes of the

In 1869, Mr. D. S. Chubb, who is one of the earliest industry gradually moved to the south and west, as other farmers to settle in this community, in company with his towns along the border of Kansas were developed.⁴⁷

From 1867 to 1872, Baxter Springs experienced a very phenomenal growth. This was due to the cattle industry, the immigration of settlers who took up claims, and the incoming trades people.

This was about the Immigration of Farmers at that time. Mr.

In spite of the controversy over the sale of Cherokee Neutral Lands, many people selected farms near the town. The southern line of Cherokee Neutral Lands was near the northern line of the present limits of Baxter Springs.⁴⁸

In 1867, the Quapaw Indians ceded to the government, the

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Interview with Mr. Ira Perkins, March 18, 1940.

⁴⁸ Interview with L.D. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

land known as the Quapaw or half mile strip.⁴⁹ This land was open to settlement as other public lands in homesteads for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.⁵⁰ This strip of land is between Baxter Springs and the state line.

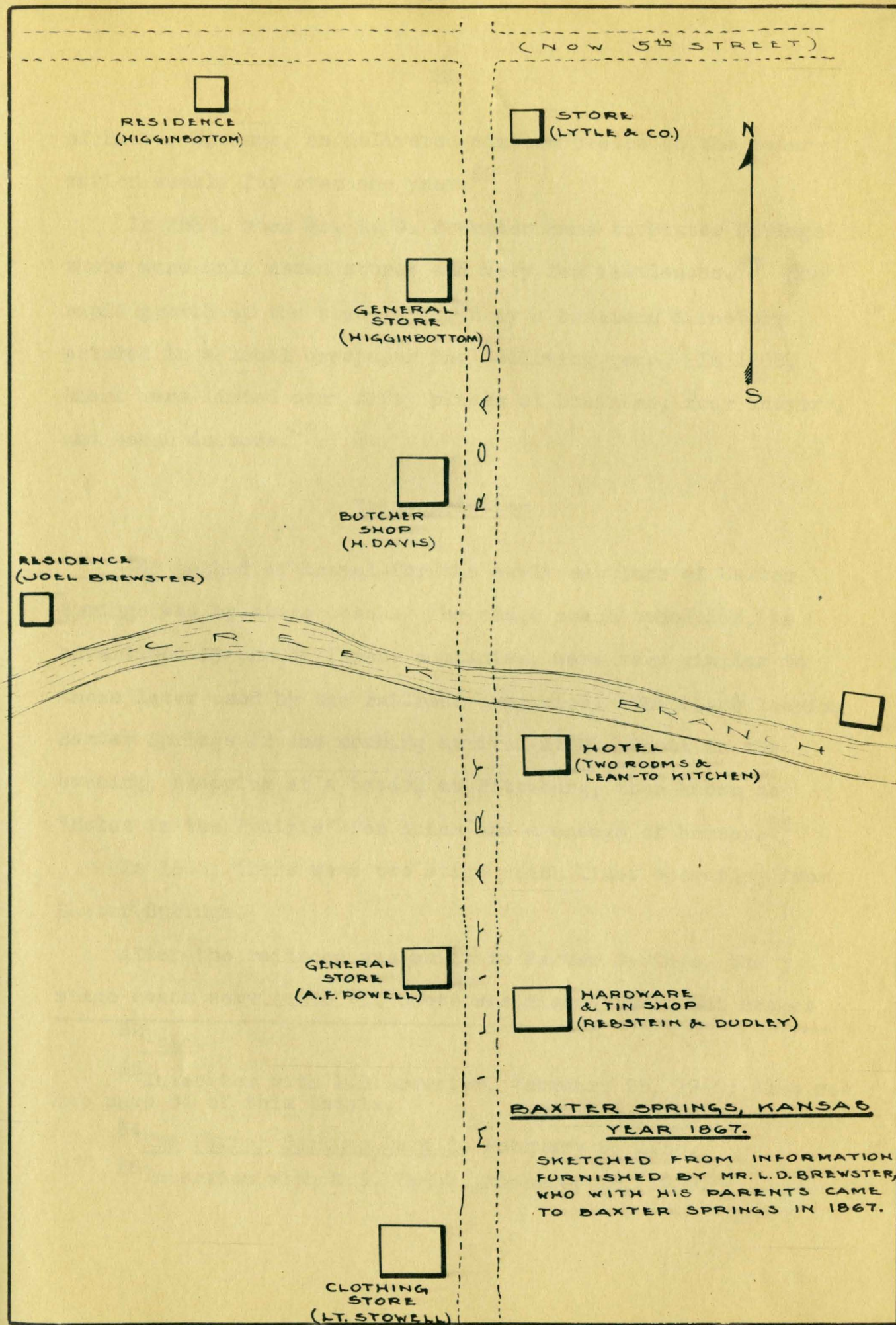
Early settlers say that in this period, Military Road was constantly lined with immigrant or covered wagons. With their families, a few articles of furniture, and their stock the farmers moved into this locality, took claims and began the improvement of their lands.⁵¹

In 1869, Mr. D. S. Chubb, who is one of the earliest farmers to settle in this community, in company with his brother drove in a covered wagon from St. Louis to Baxter Springs, taking twenty-one days for the trip. He selected his homestead which is located near the state line and is the present site of Treece, Kansas. From the hard wood on the Neosho River, he built a log cabin, twelve by fourteen feet. This was about the size of the homes built at that time. Mr. Chubb in later years, engaged in the cattle business, being as he stated, "in the saddle thirty-five years." While three hundred Modoc Indians were encamped in Indian Territory south

⁴⁹The Cherokee Sentinel, November 27, 1868.

⁵⁰Interview with D. S. Chubb November 18, 1939. Mr. Chubb is ninety-two years of age and has lived near Baxter Springs for seventy-one years.

⁵¹Ibid.



of Baxter Springs, he delivered sixteen beeves to the reservation weekly for over one year.⁵²

In 1867, when Mr. L. D. Brewster came to Baxter Springs there were only seven stores and very few residences.⁵³ The rapid growth of the town is shown by a business directory printed in a local newspaper the following year. In 1868, there were listed over fifty places of business, four lawyers, and seven doctors.⁵⁴

Transportation

The method of travel for the early settlers of Baxter Springs was by stage coach. The stage coach schedules, as advertised by the different companies, were very similar to those later used by the railroad companies. The coach leaving Baxter Springs in the morning arrived at Ft. Scott in the evening, stopping at a tavern at Pittsburg, then known as "Holes in the Prairie" for lunch and a change of horses.⁵⁵

In 1868, there were two stage coach lines operating from Baxter Springs.

After the railroad was built to Baxter Springs, the stage coach service to Ft. Scott was discontinued but stages

⁵²Ibid.

⁵³Interview with L.D.Brewster, February 23, 1940; also see map page 54 of this thesis.

⁵⁴The Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

⁵⁵Interview with D.S. Chubb, November 18, 1939.

continued to carry mail to other points not reached by the railroad.⁵⁶

By 1888, the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf railroad was known as The Kansas, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad and the line had been extended to Joplin, Missouri, from Baxter Springs, and from Ft. Scott to Birmingham. It also connected at Parsons, Kansas, with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad which had extended its line to Galveston.⁵⁷ Later the road was taken over by the Frisco which extended a line south.

In 1912 the Kansas City, Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf built a line through Baxter Springs to Joplin, connecting with the Kansas City Southern.⁵⁸

The transportation in Baxter Springs was improved by the Southwestern Street Car Railway, which began to operate between Joplin and Picher, Oklahoma in 1918. This company continued its thirty minute service for twenty years, when trucks and private motor cars made the operating of the street cars unnecessary. The tracks were removed in 1939.

⁵⁶ Interview with Ira Perkins, March 18, 1940.

⁵⁷ Scenes Near Baxter Springs, (a pamphlet) Baxter Springs Investment Company (Chicago, 1888), 1.

⁵⁸ Interview with C. A. B. Whitner, Station Agent, Baxter Springs, April 20, 1940.

Counties and County Officers, in General Laws Passed by Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas at General and Special Sessions of the year 1880. Chapter XXX, 68-69.

CHAPTER IV

THE ORGANIZATION OF CHEROKEE COUNTY AND THE LOCATION OF THE COUNTY SEAT

The first territorial legislature held in 1855, established thirty-three counties in Kansas Territory. Since the survey of Kansas had hardly begun, the definition of the boundary lines was made by distance, only, "the starting point being the main channel of the Kansas river at the point where it crosses the Missouri line."¹ McGee County which included most of the "Neutral Lands" was among the counties designated at this time, and was outlined as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of Bourbon County; thence south to the southern boundary of this Territory; thence west on said boundary twenty-four miles; thence north to a point due west of the place of beginning; thence east twenty-four miles to the place of beginning.²

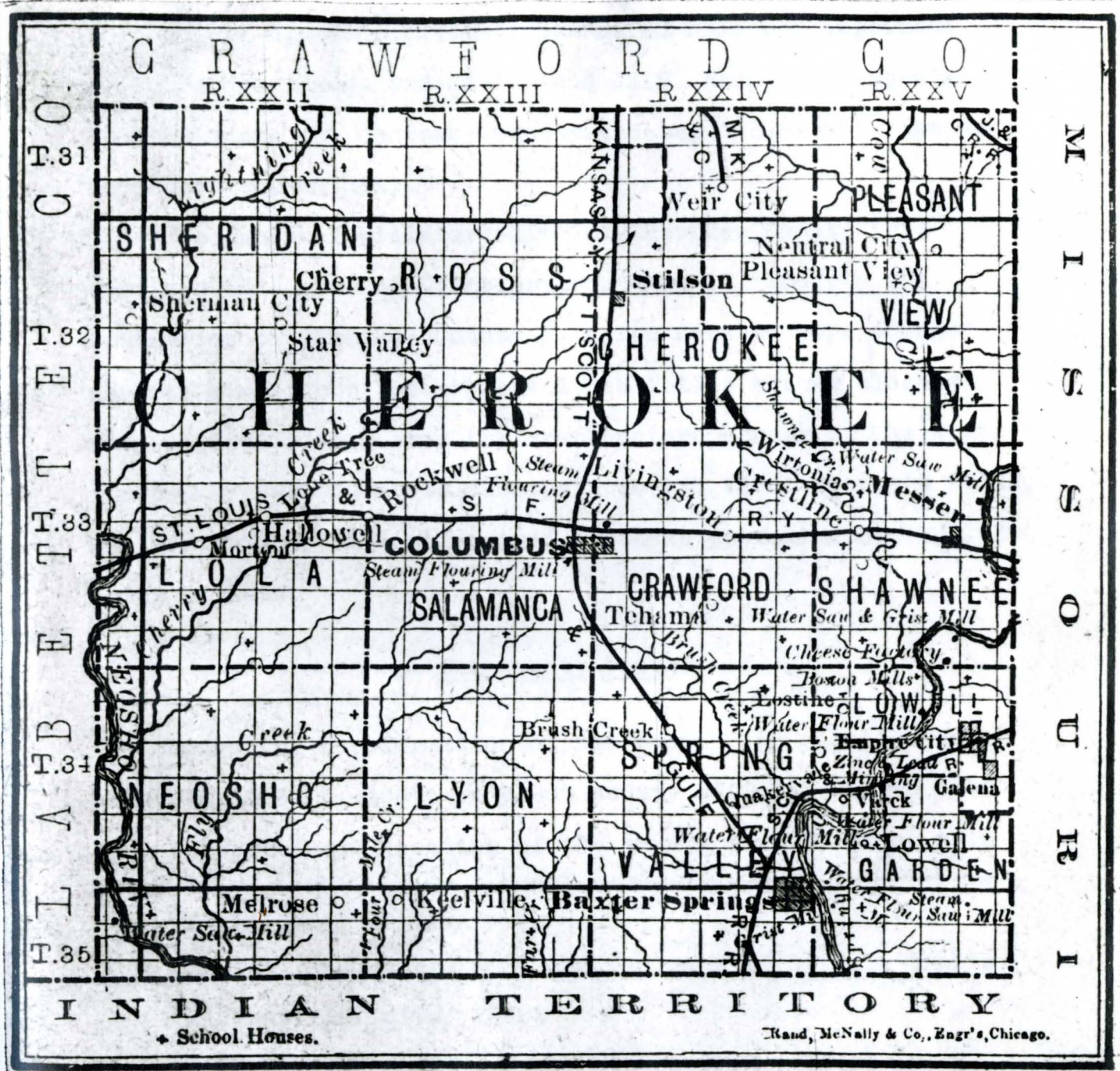
Cherokee County

Originally the county was named for A. M. McGee who was a pro-slavery leader, at that time, but on February 18th, 1860, the legislature changed the name to Cherokee County in honor of the Cherokee Indians.³

¹Helen G. Gill, "The Establishment of Counties in Kansas," Kansas Historical Collection, VIII, 450.

²Ibid. See map page 7 of this thesis.

³Counties and County Officers, in General Laws Passed by Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas at General and Specil Sessions of the year 1860. Chapter XXX, 68-69.



FROM
HISTORY OF THE STATE OF KANSAS
BY
A.T. ANDREAS
Page 1149
PUBLISHED 1883

time On account of the difficulties which arose between the settlers and James F. Joy, pertaining to the titles of the land, the organization of Cherokee County was delayed.⁴

August 3, 1866, Governor Samuel J. Crawford appointed A. V. Peters, Reese Cadwalader, and J. W. Wallace as special commissioners for Cherokee County and named Pleasant View as temporary county seat.⁵

The Kansas legislature divided Cherokee County into Crawford and Cherokee Counties, February 13, 1867.⁶ The boundaries of Cherokee County in a few details were changed several times, but the present lines follow rather closely the original plan. From the southeastern corner of the state the county extends north twenty-three and three quarters miles, and west twenty-five miles, and contains approximately 384,000 acres of land.⁷

The County Seat

Following the formation of the county, an election was held, November 5, 1867, to elect county officers and to vote upon the permanent location of the county seat.⁸ About this

⁴Register of Officers, B, 1.

⁵Allison, op. cit., 60. See map page 18 of this thesis.

⁶Andreas, op. cit., 1149.

⁷Personal letter from Chas. H. Armstrong, county clerk, to the author dated March 19, 1940.

⁸Journal A, Cherokee County, 5.

time the county was divided into nine townships.⁹

On the 24th of June, 1867, five of the leading citizens of Baxter Springs described the original plot of Baxter Springs and made application for the incorporation of the town.¹⁰ Baxter Springs was the largest town in the county at that time, and became an applicant for the county offices.¹¹

For some reason the county commissioners delayed the canvass of the votes cast in the election in regard to the location of the county seat. The following is an item from a local newspaper:

Our readers will remember that under the law, at the first election after the organization of a county, the electors shall vote for a suitable place for county seat. This vote shall be canvassed as other votes, and if any place receives a majority of all the votes cast for that purpose, the Clerk of the Court shall certify the vote to the Secretary of State....

The electors voted on this question last fall, which vote the commissioners refused to canvass. Therefore the Supreme Court, upon presentation of the facts in the case, issued the writ of mandamus compelling the Board to comply with the requirements of the law. The vote cast at the election resulted in the choice of Baxter Springs for the county seat; and we expect to see the public offices removed here in a short time.

There are no buildings at Pleasant View suitable for county purposes--the Clerk's office is kept at a private house--courts and meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held in stores, shops, and such places as can be temporarily obtained, and persons having

⁹Andreas, op. cit., 1154.

¹⁰Corporations Book I, Secretary of State Office, 356.

¹¹Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

occasion to transact business, are not able to find the suitable accommodations. Therefore we hail with joy the permanent location of the county seat at our thriving and flourishing city. Six-eighths of the business required to be transacted at the county seat originates in our township, and three-fourths of the taxes of the county are collected from Spring Valley. We undertake to say that our citizens will provide suitable temporary buildings until permanent ones can be erected by the county.¹²

In the canvass of the votes, the Board of Commissioners announced that Baxter Springs received one hundred thirty-nine votes and Cherokee Center three. On April 10, 1868, the commissioners met at Pleasant View and adjourned to meet at Baxter Springs April 17th, at which meeting, Thomas Little was allowed five dollars for hauling the county records from Pleasant View to Baxter Springs.¹³

The determination of some of the settlers to move the county seat from Baxter Springs is apparent from the number of elections for that purpose that are recorded in the Commissioners' Journal. Hardly had the county offices been established at Baxter Springs until another election was held May 2, 1868.

The returns from this election are recorded as follows:¹⁴

¹²Ibid.

¹³Journal A, 5-11.

¹⁴Election Returns, I, Cherokee County 1867-1868, 9.

Precinct	For Baxter Springs	For Geographical Center	For the Center
Baxter Springs	542	14	5
Lowell	40	1	90
Lola Township	1	100	
Pleasant View Township	11	99	34
Shawnee Township		62	
Peterville, Shawnee Township		59	108
Neosho Township	6	59	118
Sheridan Township		82	62
Sherman City		77	67
Salamanca Township		86	81
Totals			
Baxter Springs	600		
Geographical Center		639	
The Center			95
Totals		983	920

On May 15, 1868, the County Commissioners declared no place received the majority of votes and a notice was given that another election would be held, Tuesday, May 26, 1868, to vote upon a permanent location of the "Seat of Justice." The two places Baxter Springs and the Geographical Center which is now Columbus, having received the most votes, became the places for which the citizens voted.¹⁵ In the election returns, the following notations were made:¹⁶

Pender and P. W. Rogers voted to grant the special election while¹⁵ Journal A, 13.

Rebuke of Baxter Springs voted against it. The election was set for February 18, 1869,¹⁸ and the returns¹⁶ Election Returns, I, 1867-1878, 10.

¹⁷ Journal A, 15.

¹⁸ ibid., 55.

May 26, 1868

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Baxter Springs</u>	<u>Geographical Center</u>
Spring Valley Township (Baxter Springs precinct)	862	34
Spring Valley Township (Lowell precinct)	70	106
Salamanca Township		118
Shawnee Township	3	62
Petersville	1	67
Neosho Township	2	81
Lola Township		111
Sheridan Township		85
Sheridan Township (Sherman City)		102
Pleasant View	<u>27</u>	<u>134</u>
Totals	965	920

After canvassing the votes on May 30, 1868, the commissioners found that Baxter Springs received the majority of the votes, and proclaimed Baxter Springs to be the county seat.¹⁷

At the beginning of the next year, the courthouse controversy again was revived. The County Commissioners, Wm. C. Pender, P.W. Rogers and M. Rebstine, voted upon a petition presented by the citizens, asking the board to call a special election in each township to vote upon the question of the removal and permanent location of the county seat. Wm. C. Pender and P. W. Rogers voted to grant the special election while M. Rebstine of Baxter Springs voted against it. The election was set for Begruary 16, 1869,¹⁸ and the returns were canvassed by the commissioners February 20th. The

¹⁷ Journal A, 15.

¹⁸ Ibid., 53.

following were the tabulated votes:¹⁹

<u>Precincts</u>	<u>For Baxter Springs</u>	<u>For Columbus</u>	<u>For Peters- ville</u>
Pleasant View	5	109	
Baxter Springs	1045	31	
Lyon		25	
Lowell	60	93	
Shawnee		130	
Sherman City		108	
Crawford		57	
Petersville	1	22	1
Ratcliff		73	
Neutral City	7	43	
Neosho		42	
Salamanca		66	
Lola		352	
Totals	1118	1151	1

The following notation is made in the Commissioners' Journal, February 20, 1869:

The Board of County Commissioners convened at the County Clerk's office in Baxter Springs for the purpose of canvassing the vote for the County Seat. Members of the Board present were M. Rebstine, Wm. C. Pender, R.W. Rogers and Wm. Little County Clerk, J.H. Dyer Deputy...

Columbus having received the majority of all the votes cast is declared to be the County Seat of Cherokee County, Kansas. All officers required by law to keep their respective offices at the county seat will take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

M. Rebstine
Chairman of County Board.²⁰

In each election the majority of votes for Baxter Springs was cast in the Baxter Springs precinct. Consequently the

¹⁹Election Returns, I, 13-14.

²⁰Journal A, 60.

election officials of that precinct were accused of "stuffing the ballot box."²¹

At the county commissioners' meeting, in which the votes of the last election were canvassed, an incident occurred showing a method of counting votes in those days. When all the votes, except those from Lola Township were counted, Baxter Springs had received the majority for the county seat. Capt. Sidney S. Smith, who was the official in charge of the votes from Lola Township, announced that he had lost the votes, and asked permission to search for the package in his saddle bags. After two or three hours, he returned to the meeting, to suddenly discover the "lost" package in the lining of his coat. The three hundred fifty-two votes that he had brought from Lola Township gave Columbus a majority of thirty-three votes over Baxter Springs for the location of the county seat.²²

Neither faction could accuse the other of fraud for it was evident that both had practiced it. Columbus had selected Lola Township as the precinct to produce enough votes to defeat Baxter Springs.²³

Following the canvass of the votes without an order from the Board of Commissioners, the official county records were mysteriously moved to Columbus.

²¹Allison, op. cit., 63.

²²Ibid.

²³Andreas, op. cit., 1154.

Allison wrote:

A little after nightfall, without much ado, the records were quickly loaded into a two-horse wagon which was driven out of town, before it was known to anybody, excepting the friends of the movement.²⁴

Eugene F. Ware wrote that "armed men rode into Baxter Springs, took what public records there were there, and moved them to the new town of Columbus."²⁵ He also stated that Baxter Springs lost the county seat for two reasons, (1) that geographically the town is in the southeastern corner of the county; (2) that the citizens of Baxter Springs being anxious for the completion of the railroad to that point had endorsed the James F. Joy plan for the sale of "Neutral Lands". On account of this action, the farmers became prejudiced against Baxter Springs and registered their feelings in their votes.²⁶

The first meeting of the county commissioners to be held in Columbus was April 5, 1869.²⁷ The county seat was established at Columbus but the jail for the county prisoners remained at Baxter Springs.

In 1871, Baxter Springs voted \$10,000 in bonds for a courthouse and jail which the city intended to donate to the

²⁴Allison, op. cit., 64.

²⁵Ware, op. cit., 157.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Journal A, Cherokee County, 20.

county, in case Baxter Springs would again become the county seat. This building was completed in 1872.²⁸

February 10, 1873, the mayor and the council of Baxter Springs made another attempt to secure the county seat by petitioning the board of county commissioners for a special county election to vote upon the removal of the county seat to Baxter Springs; stating that the building at Columbus was unfit to preserve the county records; that not having a jail at Columbus, imposed an extra tax on the county to pay for the board of the prisoners; and that the financial condition of the county did not permit the building of a courthouse.

The council authorized the mayor "to convey to the county of Cherokee, the State of Kansas, all that portion of the piece and parcel of land within the corporate limits of said city known as the city courthouse together with all appurtenances thereunto belonging." The title should so remain as long as the county seat was located at Baxter Springs.²⁹

February 11, 1873, the board decided that the petition was insufficient and the order for the election was denied.³⁰

February 16, 1874, the records show a contract between the mayor and council of Baxter Springs and Cherokee County

²⁸Andreas, op. cit., 1161.

²⁹Journal B-C, 230.

³⁰Ibid., 231.

for the keeping of the county prisoners.³¹ November 16, 1880, the county jail at Columbus being ready for occupancy, the sheriff was ordered by the board of commissioners "to immediately transfer all prisoners in his charge or under his custody at Baxter Springs, Kansas or elsewhere to the jail at Columbus."³²

It being approved, the town was incorporated and L. G. Denton was elected the first mayor.² In order to give the citizens clear titles to their home sites, the United States Government deeded one hundred sixty acres in trust, to Mayor Denton in 1871.³ At this time the town is said to have had fifteen hundred population.⁴

The removal of the county seat did not prove a great misfortune to Baxter Springs.⁵ The leaders of the town took advantage of the opportunity to establish stores and industries to supply the needs of the rapidly increasing population, which resulted from the discovery of lead, the cattle industry and the settlement of the country by the farmers.

³¹Ibid. the great expense of building that took place from

³²Journal D 2, 537.

¹Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

²Andrews, op. cit., 1162.

³Deed Record Book F, 88-89. Also see copy in Appendix.

⁴Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

⁵Gallison, op. cit., 87.

70

1867 to 1873. Eugene P. Wagoner travelled over Neutral
Lands in 1868, described the lumber sources:

CHAPTER V

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BAXTER SPRINGS

In the southern portion of the tract, the forests
heavy. I remember in places where the trees were
over, and their stumps, and the Koshong
and Spring rivers, and the Koshong
indestructible.

In 1868, a bill was introduced into the Kansas legisla-
ture to incorporate Baxter Springs into a city of the second
class.¹ The bill being approved, the town was incorporated
and L. G. Denton was elected the first mayor.² In order to
give the citizens clear titles to their home sites, the United
States Government deeded one hundred sixty acres in trust, to
Mayor Denton in 1871.³ At this time the town is said to have
had fifteen hundred population.⁴ for the building at that time.

The removal of the county seat did not prove a great
misfortune to Baxter Springs.⁵ The leaders of the town took
advantage of the opportunity to establish stores and indus-
tries to supply the needs of the rapidly increasing popula-
tion, which resulted from the discovery of lead, the cattle
industry and the settlement of the country by the farmers.
They also took advantage of the natural resources of the
county for the great expanse of building that took place from

¹Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

²Andreas, op. cit., 1162.

³Deed Record Book F, 55-66. Also see copy in Appendix.

⁴Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

⁵Allison, op. cit., 67. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

1867 to 1873. Eugene F. Ware, having travelled over Neutral Lands in 1865, described the lumber sources: "We, wondering over the broad expanse of our beautiful and fertile prairies, are greeted on every hand, with the sheering sight. In the southern portion of the tract, the forests of Spring River and the Neosho were very dense and heavy. I remember in places where aged black walnut trees had grown up, and in their maturity had fallen over, and their trunks, four and five feet in thickness, were lying on the ground. We camped on both the Neosho and Spring rivers, and there seemed to be a vast amount of seasoned black walnuts lying there, apparently, indestructible."⁶

Mr. L. D. Brewster remembers that the cutting and hauling the logs from the Island in Spring River, became an active industry, to supply the lumber for the building at that time.⁷

The activity in building is shown in the following:

Eighty house carpenters are constantly at work, night and day, and yet the demand for houses remains unsupplied. The various saw mills in the vicinity run to their utmost capacity, without intermission, fail to meet the wants of the increasing population and the constant cry is "lumber, lumber, lumber."....

In addition to the quantity of building material furnished at home, fifty teams are constantly engaged in hauling from neighboring pineries of Missouri and the Indian Nation and as many more might find constant employment. Two shingle mills, with a capacity for turning out 20,000 per day are now in daily operation....

Fifty large and commodious buildings are now in process of erection, twenty of which are for business purposes....

Although rapidly increasing in population as a city, this rapid growth is met with corresponding prosperity

⁶Ware, op. cit.,

⁷Interview with L. D. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

¹¹Interview with Mr. L. D. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

of the country surrounding us, all of which is being rapidly settled up with a hardy and thrifty race of honest and enterprising pioneers. The eye, wondering over the broad expanse of our beautiful and fertile prairies, is greeted on every hand, with the cheering sight of the simple cottage of the adventurous pioneers.⁸

To supply the demand of the travelers, Mr. Joel Brewster built a three-story hotel, being located at 10th Street and Military Avenue. The window frames were constructed of walnut, the doors of walnut with cherry panelling and the floors of white ash and pine.⁹ The woods were obtained from the timber along Spring River. The hotel was reported to be in operation in October, 1868.¹⁰

It was found that the clay on the present location of Kiwanis Park possessed the qualities for the manufacture of brick. A plant was established and there the brick was made for the construction of the brick houses on River or Twelfth Street, the courthouse, now the Johnston Library, and the Lincoln School.¹¹ These public buildings are still in use and in good condition, while the brick houses constructed at that time are among the nicest homes in Baxter Springs.

In the rapid progress of expanding the town, the building of churches was not neglected. The Methodists organized in 1867, and purchased a frame schoolhouse which was evacuated

⁸The Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

⁹Interview with Mr. L.D. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

¹⁰The Cherokee Sentinel, Baxter Springs, October 30, 1868.

¹¹Interview with Mr. L.D. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

by the schools in 1872. The Presbyterians organized in 1868 erected a church at the cost of \$4000.00 in 1871. The Baptists built a brick church in 1872, now used by the colored Baptists, while the Catholics constructed a brick church in 1871, which is now the negro school. The Episcopalians completed their church in 1880¹² on Twelfth Street, now the rebuilt home of Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Heilman.

Lead Industry

Andreas gave 1872 as the date that lead was discovered in the vicinity of Baxter Springs,¹³ but the presence of small deposits of lead on and near the surface was known to the earliest settlers.¹⁴ Evidence of the mineral was often discovered at the roots of trees being uprooted by a storm, but the trees were put back into place, and the ore not disturbed, for the settlers had to pay royalty on all mineral taken out of the ground.¹⁵ When firearms came into the possession of the Indians, they melted the lead over wood fires and shaped their bullets.¹⁶ The cowboys picked up chunks of pure lead

¹²Andreas, op. cit., 1162.

¹³Ibid., 1151.

¹⁴Interview with Mr. Enoch Wright, February 30, 1940.

¹⁵Irene Stone, "Lead and Zinc Fields of Kansas," Kansas Historical Collections, VII, 244.

¹⁶Interview with George Van Dusen, February 23, 1940.

which they melted in a small receptacle, resembling a soup dipper, and then ran the molten metal into their crudely constructed bullet molds.¹⁷

In the seventies, the deposits of lead uncovered in the vicinity of Baxter Springs, were small but they apparently gave the citizens great hopes for the discovery of the mineral in larger quantities. At that time it was thought that the zinc had no value, and when found with the lead, it was discarded.¹⁸ The quantity of lead, described in the following item is an amusing comparison to the output in later years:

We learned from D. C. Bulloch our Police Judge that on Thursday, Messrs Vaughan Bros, made a big strike on their new diggings on Water Street. He says that they are now at a depth of fourteen feet, that during the early part of the week they have been taking out considerable quantities of lead, and on Thursday they raised twelve hundred pounds.¹⁹

Spring Branch seemed to be a rather valuable source of lead but on account of the swiftness of the water, the ore was difficult to mine.²⁰ However the amount of lead taken from the shallow mines in the vicinity, was enough to supply a small smelter which had the capacity of smelting about one

¹⁷Interview with Enoch Wright, February 23, 1940.

¹⁸Interview with Chas. Opperman, April 20, 1940.

¹⁹Baxter Springs Sentinel, June 22, 1872.

²⁰Interview with Ira Perkins, March 18, 1940.

wagon load of ore a day.²¹ The smelter located on the hill at the north end of Cherokee Avenue, was the first smelter in the mining district. Later lead ore was hauled, by wagons, from Lowell, Galena and Joplin to be smelted in this plant.²² Evidently by 1876, some of the zinc was being saved, as is indicated in the notice of car shipments: "Baxter Springs since the 8th inst, shipped thirty-two cars of lead, seven of zinc, six of cattle and nine of ties."²³

The tradition is that during this period of rapid growth, the population of Baxter Springs reached 10,000,²⁴ while written sources estimated the number of people, 4000 in 1872²⁵ and 5000 in 1875.²⁶

Large deposits of lead were discovered on Short Creek, the present site of Galena, in 1877.²⁷ Following this new discovery, Galena became the point of interest for the mining industry and many houses were moved from Baxter Springs to Galena. Mr. A. Willard dismantled seventeen residences and moved the lumber to Galena to build the Willard Hotel.²⁸

²¹Interview with Ira Perkins, March 18, 1940.

²²Interview with Enoch Wright, February 23, 1940.

²³Baxter Springs Republican, July 14, 1876.

²⁴Interview with Chas. Opperman, April 19, 1940

²⁵Andreas, op. cit., 1161.

²⁶Allison, op. cit., 15.

²⁷Andreas, op. cit., 1151.

²⁸Interview with John Archer, February 22, 1940.

At this time the cattle drovers were bringing fewer cattle through Baxter Springs, the trails farther west being used.²⁹ The town experienced a few years of depression, but the Baxter Springs citizens and business men seemed ever alert to promote the possibilities of the town.

A Health Resort

Though the springs had been known for their medicinal value for many years, a special effort toward developing the town into a health resort was not begun until the early eighties.³⁰ The newspapers carried large advertisements proclaiming the healing values of the Chalybeate and White Sulphur Springs.³¹ A park, a block square including the springs was laid out on Military Avenue. The following is a description of the park:

The springs are well protected, over each has been built a neat pagoda of fancy design. In the northwest corner of the park is an admirably arranged bath house affording hot and cold baths at all times. During the summer and fall months a silver cornet band discourses sweet music from a band stand located in the center of the park.³²

The park became a promenade for the young people of the

²⁹See map page 49 of this thesis.

³⁰Scenes near Baxter Springs, 11.

³¹Baxter Springs News, December 21, 1882.

³²Scenes near Baxter Springs, 11.

RESIDENCE		RESIDENCE		BATH HOUSE	
RESIDENCE		VACANT		SPRING X NO. 1.	
RESIDENCE (CRUM)		RESIDENCE (R. BIRUM)		SPRING PARK PAGODA X NO. 2	
COUNCIL		RESIDENCE (DOTY)		STREET	
RESIDENCE		VACANT		RESIDENCE (HOMPHERY)	
RESIDENCE		RESIDENCE		RESIDENCE (BECK)	
VACANT LOTS		CARPENTER SHOP		RESIDENCE (DR. CRAIG)	
SPRINGS HOTEL		VACANT LOTS		STREET	
BLACKSMITH SHOP		VACANT LOTS		LUMBER YARD	
VACANT LOTS		LIVERY STABLE		RESIDENCE	
RESIDENCE		VACANT LOTS		RESIDENCE	
FEED STORE		BARBER SHOP		VACANT LOTS	
FURNITURE		DRY GOODS		LIVERY STABLE	
RESIDENCE (DR. DUNCAN)		POLSTERS		STREET	
OCCIDENTAL HOTEL		DRUG STORE		VACANT LOTS	
DR. DUNCAN MEDICAL & SURGICAL INSTR.		VACANT LOTS		VACANT LOTS	
SHERIDAN		VACANT LOTS		VACANT LOTS	
LIVERY STABLE		MEAT MARKET		VACANT LOTS	
RESIDENCE (JONES)		GROCERIES		VACANT LOTS	
RESIDENCE (GARRETT)		BATTERY		VACANT LOTS	
LONG-BELL LUMBER CO.		BARBER SHOP		VACANT LOTS	
CO'S OFFICE		BOOT & SHOE SHOP		VACANT LOTS	
DELT OFFICE		STAR BAKERY		VACANT LOTS	
CARPENTER SHOP		JEWELRY STORE		VACANT LOTS	
N.E.O. SHOP		BOOT & SHOE SHOP		VACANT LOTS	
OFFICE		DRUG STORE		VACANT LOTS	
VACANT LOTS		CANDY		VACANT LOTS	
M.E. CHURCH		GROCERIES		VACANT LOTS	
RESIDENCE		BAXTER BANK		VACANT LOTS	
VACANT LOTS		HARDWARE		VACANT LOTS	
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RESIDENCE		POST OFFICE		VACANT LOTS	

village as well as for visitors.³³

Springs Hotel, built a block from the springs was described as being "sixty feet across the front, eighty feet deep, having three stories, divided into spacious rooms."³⁴ Mr. H. A. Burgess operated the hotel for those who sought the curative benefits of the springs and the baths.³⁵

As another feature, for the improvement of health, Baxter Springs was advertized as a winter resort, having "extreme mildness of climate and aridity of atmosphere in the winter.

The temperature is uniformly warm, seldom below zero."³⁶ As an inducement for fishermen, the river was described as "abounding in fish such as salmon, black bass, and crappie;" and for the hunter there were deer, wild turkeys, prairie chickens and quail.³⁷

The flow of the springs gradually decreased, and disappeared entirely about twenty-five years ago. The tradition is that the course of the water was changed either by the drilling of a deep well or the development of the mines near the town.³⁸

³³ Interview with Mrs. Chas. Opperman, April 20, 1940.

³⁴ Baxter Springs News, August 17, 1882.

³⁵ Baxter Springs News, September 14, 1882.

³⁶ Baxter Springs News, December 28, 1882.

³⁷ Baxter Springs News, December 21, 1882.

³⁸ Interview with Chas. Opperman, April 20, 1940.

Revival of the Cattle Industry

In the eighties, Baxter Springs again benefitted from the cattle trade, though the methods had changed from those of '67 to '73". Both in Kansas and Indian Territory large ranches were established, land in Indian territory being leased from the Indians. Here the cattle were fattened upon prairie grass and held until the months that shipment across the line was allowed. One writer said:

In my travels over the territory last February, I saw thousands of cattle and horses that had not eaten a mouthful of corn or oats, but had subsisted entirely, through the winter upon grass on the prairie and strange as it may appear, the stock was looking well.³⁹

Large herds were owned by the Naylor Brothers, Crowell and Wright, Lon Goodner, L.M. Wright and the Chubb Brothers.⁴⁰

Sheep Industry

An attempt was made to raise sheep at this time. There were herds of 4000 and 5000 on ranches in southern Kansas near the line. But owing to a disease breaking out among the sheep, and the forage not being suited to the animals, there was little profit in the industry.⁴¹

³⁹ Baxter Springs News, August 31, 1882.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Interview with Mr. Fred Bartlett, April 20, 1940.

In the eighties Baxter Springs became a hay market. The hay was cut from the prairies of Indian Territory, placed under large sheds and during the winter months, the roads were filled with wagons, hauling the hay to Baxter Springs, where it was shipped to northern markets.⁴²

Water Power

About 1886, a dam to make use of the water power, and a bridge were constructed across Spring River. A publication described the project:

....A large iron bridge 550 feet in length, constructed at the cost of \$15,000 spans the river here and just below the bridge is the dam recently constructed at the cost of nearly \$25,000. This supplies a water power of from 600 to 800 horse-power, at the lowest stages of water--a capacity which can be doubled by raising the dam two feet more. The breast of the dam between the abutments is 240 feet long--the space of the head-gates being fifty feet....Two large turbine wheels of 150 horse-power are already in position and the power is ready to be supplied to mills and factories at nominal rates.⁴³

A flour mill operated by Mr. A. Willard, a planing mill by Mr. Ira Perkins and an Electric Light Plant by Mr. Alexander Warner, were located near the dam. With the development of greater power in the dam constructed at Lowell, the dam at Baxter Springs was discarded. The flour mill burned

⁴²Interview with Chas. Opperman, April 20, 1940.

⁴²Interview with Mr. Enoch Wright, February 23, 1940.

⁴³Scenes near Baxter Springs, 9.

and the planing mill was moved to Spring Branch.⁴⁴ In 1888, the town had a disastrous fire, in which most of the frame store buildings on Military Street were burned. These buildings were replaced by brick buildings many of which are still in use. In 1884, it was estimated that the population declined to eighteen hundred, and for a few years, the town was dependent entirely upon the resources of the agricultural area surrounding it. In 1903, zinc and lead were discovered, south of Baxter Springs, in larger deposits. Still larger mineral areas were developed in 1916, until the Tri-State district became known as the largest lead and zinc producing region in the world.⁴⁵

Soldiers' Reunion

The outstanding feature for entertainment in Baxter Springs from 1883 to 1914 was the Ex-Union Soldiers' and Inter-State Reunion.⁴⁶ The first reunion was held just twenty years after the battle and massacre at Baxter Springs during the Civil War. Many of the survivors, both commanding officers, and soldiers, attended. General Blair who was in charge of this district, at the time of the battle, was in command at the reunion. Major J. B. Pond who was in command

⁴⁴Interview with Chas. Opperman, April 20, 1940.

⁴⁵Ibid.

⁴⁶Allison, op. cit., 195.

of the fort, Dr. W. H. Warner who was post surgeon, and Capt. Arnold who was a member of Gen. Blunt's escort were all present at the first reunion which was held on the old battle grounds.⁴⁷ A sham battle was a special feature of the programs of these celebrations. In 1884, it was estimated that 12,000 to 15,000 people watched this battle. "The hills and country around the battlefield were black with people who watched the maneuvering of the troops, with keen interest."⁴⁸ People came from the radius of many miles, to the reunions and camped near the grounds. "Tents for all who desired them were furnished on application, besides wood, hay, lamps, oil, etc."⁴⁹ Senators, governors, soldiers, and prominent political leaders, in the state appeared upon the programs. The following is a list of those who were speakers at the first reunion: the development of Baxter Springs, the beauty of the

Eminent speakers and distinguished soldiers have accepted invitations and will be present and deliver addresses, among whom are senators Plumb and Ingalls, Hon. D.C. Haskell, B.W. Perkins, Department Commander, T.J. Anderson, S.N., Commander W. Warner, Gov. Charles Robinson, Col. John A. Martin, Col. J. R. Hallowell, Col. W. B. Stone, Hon. T.P. Anderson, Col. J.F. St. Clair, Dean Lewis and many others.⁵⁰

⁴⁷"Border Tier Reunion at Baxter Springs," October 4, 5 and 6th, 1883", Scrapbook belonging to Mr. W. E. Price, Baxter Springs.

⁴⁸Reunion Daily News, October 11, 1884.

⁴⁹Ibid.

⁵⁰"Border Tier Reunion at Baxter Springs, October 4, 5 and 6th, 1883." op. cit.

The reunion grew to such an extent that a charter for a stock company known as the Inter-State Reunion Association was obtained in 1890. One hundred acres on the banks of Spring River were bought for the permanent location of this celebration. The association erected a large amphitheater, beautified the grounds, established a water system, and the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway built a track to the grounds. In later years as many as fifty thousand people attended each of these reunions.⁵¹ On account of there being few civil war veterans, who were living in 1914, the reunions were discontinued.⁵²

The Planting of Trees

In the development of Baxter Springs, the beauty of the town was not neglected. People were encouraged to plant trees along each street that was laid out.⁵³ Among those who were especially interested in preserving and adding to the natural beauty were Mr. L. M. Perkins, Mr. Frank Perkins and Mr. O. B. Bartlett, who planted many elms and hard maples that have grown into large trees.⁵⁴ The people of Baxter Springs owe

⁵¹Allison, op. cit., 197.

⁵²Interview with Mr. Chas. Opperman, April 20, 1940.

⁵³Interview with Mr. Enoch Wright, February 30, 1940.

⁵⁴Interview with Mr. Fred Bartlett, April 20, 1940.

⁵⁵Andreas, op. cit., 1162.

much to the pioneers who transplanted shrubs and saplings from the timber along Spring River to the yards, streets, and parks. Mr. Frank Perkins who was a lover of the beauties of nature developed a beautiful garden about his home, from which flowers and shrubbery of all kinds were distributed gratuitously to the gardens of the town.⁵⁵

Public Schools

Before the town was incorporated, provision for the education of the children was made. The first schoolhouse was a log cabin, located just south of Spring Park. The benches and desks were hewn from logs, and the first teacher was Miss Lillie Van Epp.⁵⁶ In 1868, a notice was printed that bonds had been voted for the schools, were ready for sale.

Bonds are issued in sums of fifty and twenty-five dollars so as to place them within the reach of all. Every citizen is directly interested in the matter, and no difficulty should be experienced in converting the entire amount (\$2,000) into cash.⁵⁷

A small frame schoolhouse containing two rooms was built from the proceeds of these bonds. It was located on the present site of the city hall, and was later used as the Methodist Church.⁵⁸

⁵⁵Ibid.

⁵⁶Interview with L. D. Brewster, February 23, 1940; also see map on page 76 of this thesis.

⁵⁷Baxter Springs Herald, February 28, 1868.

⁵⁸Andreas, op. cit., 1162.

In 1872, the Lincoln School which was considered a remarkable structure, was completed. Bonds to the amount of \$11,000 were voted for its completion and furnishing. A local newspaper stated that the bonds having been voted, "assures the early completion of our beautiful school building, and educational facilities for five hundred children of our schools."⁵⁹ Andreas described the school building as "a large two-story brick structure containing twelve apartments. The building is of very imposing design, and made of brick and trimmed with cut stone, costing about \$25,000."⁶⁰ The building has been in continuous use as a schoolhouse for nearly seventy years. Miss Anna Dale, later Mrs. Edwin Hodgkins, was one of the first primary teacher in the Lincoln School.⁶¹

The school records having been destroyed, it is impossible to give a connected account of the early schools in Baxter Springs. In 1876, an article appeared in the local newspaper, lamenting the fact that it was necessary for young men and young women to attend schools of higher learning away from home and advocated the establishment of a High School.⁶²

In 1878, there were four departments in the schools, the

⁵⁹ Baxter Springs Sentinel, June 22, 1872.

⁶⁰ Andreas, op. cit., 1162.

⁶¹ Interview with Mrs. L. D. Brewster, April 18, 1940.
Mrs. Brewster is the daughter of Mrs. Hodgkins.

⁶² Baxter Springs Republican, September 29, 1876.

High School, the Grammar, the Intermediate and Primary. There were no high school teachers listed, but the other departments were taught by Lou Ingraham, W. W. Quigg and Mrs. C. T. Smith. The following report shows the attendance for November, 1878.⁶³

Schools	Total No. Enrolled			Average Daily Attendance
	Boys	Girls	Both	
High	25	20	45	33
Grammar	25	33	58	40
Intermediate	50	50	100	75
Primary	35	26	61	45
Total	135	129	264	193

In 1882, there appeared in a newspaper, an article setting forth the objectives of the public schools:

Baxter Springs graded schools will open, September 18, 1882, under the auspices of J.C. Wier as principal and superintendent.

Our object is to establish a permanent institution of learning; to make the character of its work such as to be surpassed no where else; to develop the minds of children after nature's plan, through a systematic and graded course of study; to give its students a thorough knowledge of all the branches which fit them for a useful life; and prepare them for entrance into higher institutions of learning. A main feature of instruction will be to prepare teachers for the work of common schools. Teachers who desire to attain proficiency in their work cannot afford to lose this excellent opportunity of obtaining the newest and most practical methods in teaching and school government. Our object is in short to meet the demands of all who seek an education. Students can enter the work anytime during the year, and will be allowed to select such branches as they wish to study.

⁶³ Interview with Miss Grace Perkins, April 18, 1940.
⁶⁴ The Times, Baxter Springs, Kansas, December 26, 1878.

There will be classes organized in all the common branches and in higher mathematics, the sciences and Latin when required. Students will receive weekly training in the art of writing and speaking. The superintendent will deliver occasional lectures on topics of interest to high school students.

Board and tuition can be obtained at reasonable rates. Citizens at home and abroad are particularly invited to examine the work of our schools before giving their patronage elsewhere.

J.C. Wier, Principal and Superintendent

W. B. Spencer

H. R. Crowell

Dr. H. B. McClellan

R. H. Sands

The Board of Education, July 3, 1882.⁶⁴

Among the early teachers and principals in Baxter Springs were Mrs. Ira Perkins, Mrs. John Polster and Mr. Edward Polster.

Gradually the high school course was extended to three years, and from 1900 to 1918, students of Baxter Springs, completed the fourth year at the Cherokee County High School at Columbus. The Lincoln School Building remained the only public school building until a new high school and grade building was completed in 1918, the city having voted \$195,000 for the project.⁶⁵

In 1927 Washington grade school was built at the cost of \$40,000 and in 1939, an auditorium and gymnasium was added to the high school building, costing about \$69,000.⁶⁶ At present

⁶⁴The Baxter Springs News, September 14, 1882.

⁶⁵Interview with Miss Grace Perkins, April 18, 1940.

⁶⁶Interview with Walter C. Hartley, April 22, 1940.

⁷¹Interview with Mrs. L.D. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

there are forty teachers and 1025 pupils in the schools.

The objectives of the school were (1) to give a thorough art course, (2) to make a specialty of educating art teachers and

Private Schools

(3) In 1868 and 1871, notices of private schools appeared in the Baxter Springs newspapers:

Miss Wilcox will on and after Monday next, teach in Worthen's Hall, instead of North Baxter vs hertofore.⁶⁷

A select school was opened in the old Masonic Hall in this place on last Monday by G.M. Myers and J. J. Mallory. Forty-nine scholars were enrolled the first day and the enrollment now numbers about sixty. They have room for at least as many more. Their room is a very pleasant one, being well lighted and ventilated. Their terms for Primary grade are \$6.00; Secondary \$7.50; Grammar \$9.00. Instruction in vocal music is included in the grammar grades.⁶⁸

In the eighties, Miss Hulda Wilson conducted a mission school, financed by the Quakers for the colored children at the present location of 642 W. 12th Street.⁶⁹

The Lyman School of Art was opened June 1, 1887, on the present 10th Street, at the cost of \$4000.⁷⁰ Scholarships were sold to the students, at \$100 each to raise money to construct the building.⁷¹ Fifty-two students were enrolled at the beginning. It was considered that Baxter Springs had

⁶⁷Baxter Springs Herald, February 29, 1868.

⁶⁸Cherokee Sentinel, September 15, 1871.

⁶⁹Interview with John Archer, February 22, 1940.

⁷⁰Scences Near Baxter Springs, Kansas, 15.

⁷¹Interview with Mrs. L.D. Brewster, February 23, 1940.

"unsurpassed scenery for the field of sketching and painting." The objectives of the school were (1) to give a thorough art course, (2) to make a specialty of educating art teachers and (3) to prepare pupils for business.⁷² A group of paintings from the Lyman Art School, placed in the Fine Arts Building at the World's Fair at Chicago, 1893, was said to be the finest in the Kansas exhibit.⁷³

In 1894, Prof. C.D. Bowman formally superintendent of the public schools, established the Baxter Springs Normal and Business College, in the present Johnston Library Building. This college offered classical courses as well as those for teacher training and business. It was considered one of the best colleges in the west, but on account of financial reasons, it was closed in 1897.⁷⁴

Mrs. Angelica Eastham conducted a private kindergarten in Baxter Springs for about twenty-five years, prior to 1920. Mrs. Eastham was a member of the Kansas Writers Club.⁷⁵

Niles Peter Johnston who died in 1905, the Johnston Library was established. Mr. L. D. Brewster, Mr. Charles P. Jones,

Museum

Mr. L. M. Perkins who came to Baxter Springs in 1882, established a museum which was known throughout the surrounding

⁷² Scenes Near Baxter Springs, Kansas, 15.

⁷³ The Sunflower State, Baxter Springs, October 21, 1893.

⁷⁴ The Baxter Springs News, February 13, 1897.

⁷⁵ Interview with Mrs. J.H. Boswell, April 20, 1940.

country, as containing one of the largest foreign collections west of Smithsonian Institute. Mr. Perkins began his travels at the age of seventeen and visited every continent, collecting rare articles representing the dress and customs of the people.⁷⁶ He constructed a dwelling in which the museum was housed at the corner of 13th and Cherokee Streets. After the death of Mr. Perkins, his sons presented the collection to the Kansas State Museum at Topeka, where it occupies a large section and is highly prized by the curator of the museum.⁷⁷ Mr. Perkins was the father of Mr. Frank Perkins who did much for the religious and civic interests of Baxter Springs, and of Mr. Ira Perkins of Galena.

The Library

The first library in Baxter Springs was located in the second story of a store building on Military Street and Miss Bertha Quigg was the librarian.⁷⁸ Through the bequest of Niles Peter Johnston who died in 1905, the Johnston Library was established. Mr. L. D. Brewster, Mr. Charles P. Jones, and Mr. Samuel H. Smith who were trustees of the Johnston estate, repaired and built an addition to the city hall, making it the permanent library building. The building is a

⁷⁶The Joplin Globe, October 14, 1906.

⁷⁷Interview with Mr. George Root, March 22, 1940.

⁷⁸Interview with Miss Grace Perkins, March 16, 1940.

picturesque, vine-covered two-story structure, built in 1872, for the courthouse when Baxter was hopeful of again obtaining the county seat. The park in which Johnston Library is situated was laid out for the Courthouse square, and is now completely shaded by large trees, having grown from those planted many years ago by the early settlers. In the thirty-three years since its establishment, the library has been directed by three librarians, Mr. Lyon ReRoy, Miss Lotta Smith and Miss Anna Webb.⁷⁹

Mounted Patrol

It is impossible to cover in this study all educational and civic organizations that have been active in the settlement and development of Baxter Springs. Such organizations as the Kiwanis Club, the Baxter Civic Club, the Woman's Club, and study clubs, are characteristic of other towns. But it seems necessary to mention the unique organization of the Mounted Troops of America which had its beginning in Baxter Springs. The organization in Baxter Springs was known as the "Tom Mix Patrol" and was organized in 1927 by Mr. Raymond Cook who was in charge of a group of boy scouts. From a group of seven boys the organization grew to one hundred eight boys, ages five to eighteen years, with each boy having his own horse. The boys developed exhibitions of skillful horsemanship

⁷⁹ Interview with Miss Anna Webb, March 16, 1940.

and gave performances at the American Royal in Kansas City, at the Petroleum Exposition at Tulsa and many county fairs. Since there were demands for organizations in other towns, the Mounted Troops of America became a national organization. At one time there were twenty-six organizations in different towns in Kansas and Oklahoma, but the depression has reduced the number to seventeen at present. Negotiations are now in progress to make the organization a part of the Boy Scouts of America.⁸⁰

Baxter Springs did not realize the ambitions of its founders who anticipated a distributing center for the Southwest, with a population of twenty-five thousand. It has had periods of prosperity and depression, due to the development and failure of various industries, but since the discovery of large deposits of zinc and lead ore in 1916, it has had a substantial growth. Due to its central location in the mining community, it has become a place of residence for those interested in the mining industry.

A history of the many persons who have been instrumental in the development of Baxter Springs might be written, but this study has included only the general features of the historical development.

⁸⁰Interview with Raymond Cook, April 13, 1940.

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Armstrong, Chas. H.

Mr. Armstrong is County Clerk of Cherokee County.

Baxter, C. C.

Mr. Baxter is the grandson of John L. Baxter, the first settler at Baxter Springs, Kansas.

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Boswell, Mrs. J. H.

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Mr. Brewster settled in Baxter Springs in 1869.

Brewster, Mrs. L. D.

Mrs. Brewster's father, Mr. Edwin Hodgkins, settled in Baxter Springs in 1868.

Chubb, D. S.

Mr. Chubb settled near Baxter Springs in 1869.

Cook, Raymond.

Hartley, Mrs. Grace.

Hartley, Walter.

Opperman, Chas.

Mrs. Opperman's father established a harness and saddle shop in Baxter Springs in 1870.

Opperman, Mrs. Chas.

Perkins, Miss Grace.

Miss Perkins' father settled in Baxter Springs in 1877.

Perkins, Ira.

Mr. Perkins came to Baxter Springs in 1877, and now resides in Galena, Kansas.

Price, W. E.

Root, George A.

Mr. Root of the State Historical Society placed the Perkins Collection from Baxter Springs in the museum at Topeka.

Van Dusen, George.

Van Dusen, Mrs. George.

Mrs. Van Dusen's father, Mr. Clarke, bought his farm from James F. Joy.

Webb, Miss Anna.

Miss Webb's home was upon the land formerly owned by John L. Baxter.

Whitener, C. A. B.

Wright, Enoch.

Mr. Wright drove one of the first herds of cattle to reach Baxter Springs from Texas.

GEORGE C. DUFFIN'S DIARY¹

May 31st 1885 Swimming Cattle is the order. We worked all day in the River & at dusk got the last Beefe over--& am now out of Texas--This day will long be remembered by me-- There was one of our party Drowned to day (Mr. Carr) & Several narrow escapes & I among the no.

June at Stampede last night among 6 droves & a general mix up and loss of Beeves. Hunt Cattle again. Men all tired & want to leave. as in the Indian country an annoyed by them believe they scare the Cattle to get pay to collect them--Spent the day in separating Beeves & Hunting--Two men & Sunch Beeves lost--Many Men in trouble. Horses all give out & Men refused to do anything.

July 8th Last night was another of those nights that try a man. It thundered & lightened all night & rained one hard rain. we stuck to our Beeves all night but could hear others in trouble. rode **APPENDIX** day with the cattle

9th Still cloudy followed a man that drove off one of my Beeves & got him. Other Herd came up & want on. it camped 1 1/2 Miles from us & that night at 9 o'clock it stampeded & ran one Mile & over. the next Morning

10th the Boys are hunting cattle & at noon they claim they have them all--We Moved up 12 miles & camped 2 Miles from Baxter Springs. we are now on the Quaw Paws land & have moved off the Shawness land (were ordered off hard rain today

11th are camped near Spring River. Wharton got back from Ft Scott with the information that all our letters have been sent to the dead letter office. Very warm. Herded all day.

12th went to Baxter. heard of my Poney. very warm looks like rain.

13 Went to Baxter & on to the other Camp. Found my Poney & returned to camp. We Killed a beefe this Morning by the persuasion of Indians & after we had it Butchered they would not buy it & we had to give it to them.

15th went to other camp & spent the day with the Boys. Ray came to our camp in evening.

¹W.W. Baldwin, "Driving Cattle from Texas to Iowa," in *Annals of Iowa*, XIV, No. 1 (April, 1924), 252-253.

GEORGE C. DUFFIELD'S DIARY¹

May 31st 1866 Swimming Cattle is the order We worked all day in the River & at dusk got the last Beefe over--& am now out of Texas--This day will long be remembered by me-- There was one of our party Drowned to day (Mr. Carr) & Several narrow escapes & I among the no.

June st Stampede last night among 6 droves & a general mix up and loss of Beeves. Hunt Cattle again Men all tired & want to leave. am in the Indian country am annoyed by them believe they scare the Cattle to get pay to collect them--Spent the day in seperating Beeves & Hunting--Two men & Bunch Beeves lost--Many Men in trouble. Horses all give out & Men refused to do anything.

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¹W.W. Baldwin, "Driving Cattle from Texas to Iowa," in Annals of Iowa, XIV, No. 1 (April, 1924), 252-256.

16th 3 Horses gone & hunt is the order of Morning Horse found & all right went to see Ray & other boys at Baxter Springs spent the day buying Hōrs & arranging things

17th Spent the day with Ray & others at Baxter

18th Spent the day trying to settle up with partners preparitory to starting around Kansas to get Home Horse stolen last night

19th Hard Rain & wind Beeves stampeded & ran most of the night was on my Horse all night out 25 Beeves this morning found all our Beeves & got the Hird all straight at dark

20 last night we had another of those Miserable nights rain poured down Beeves ran wind blew was on my Horse the Whole Night are out 100. at 10 Oclock Mr. Davis commenced work today found all our Beeves & are now ready to go to settling up with the other Party to get ready to take my share & go around Kansas.

Now know ye that the United States of America in consideration of the premises and in conformity with several acts of Congress in such case made and provided Have Given and Granted by these presents Do Give and Grant unto the said L. G. Denton Mayor as aforesaid in trust as aforesaid and to his successors the said tract above described To Have and to Hold the same together with all the rights, privileges immunities and appurtenances of whatsoever nature then unto belonging unto the said L. G. Denton Mayor as aforesaid in trust as aforesaid and to his successors and assigns in trust as aforesaid.

In Testimony Wherefore I Ulysses Grant, President of the United States of America have caused these Letters to be made Patent and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at the City of Washington the twenty-third day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one and of the Independence of United States the twenty-fifth.

By the President U. S. Grant

J. Farish, Sec.

Recorded at the General Land Office

Vol. 2, p. 234 July 28, 1871.

Deed Record Book F. Cherokee County, pp. 55-56.

The United States of America

To all to whom these presents shall come Greetings.

Whereas L. G. Denton Mayor of the incorporated city of Baxter Springs Cherokee County, Kansas, in trust for the several uses and benefits of the inhabitants thereof according to their respective interests by virtue of an Act of Congress approved March 2d 1867 entitled "An Act for the relief of the inhabitants of cities and towns upon the public land" has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a certificate of the register of the Land Office at Humboldt, Kansas whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said L. G. Denton, Mayor as aforesaid in trust as aforesaid according to the provision of the "Act of Congress of the 24th of April 1820 entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the public lands" for the North West quarter section one in Township thirty-five south of Range twenty-four East in the district of lands subject to sale at Humboldt, Kansas containing one hundred and sixty acres according to the official Plat of the survey of the said lands returned to the General Land office by the surveyor General which said tract has been purchased by the said L. G. Denton, mayor as aforesaid in trust as aforesaid.

Now know ye that the United States of America in consideration of the premises and in conformity with several acts of Congress in such case made and provided Have Given and Granted by these presents Do Give and Grant unto the said L. G. Denton Mayor as aforesaid in trust as aforesaid and to his successors the said tract above described. To Have and to Hold the same together with all the rights, privileges immunities and appurtenances of whatsoever nature then unto belonging unto the said L. G. Denton Mayor as aforesaid in trust as aforesaid and to his successors and assigns in trust as aforesaid.

In Testimony Wherefore I Ulyses Grant, President of the United States of America have caused these Letters to be made Patent and the seal of the General Land office to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at the City of Washington the twenty-third day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one and of the Independence of United States the ninety-fifth.

By the President U. S. Grant
" J. Parish, Sec.

Recorded at the General Land Office
Vol 2, p. 254 July 26, 1871.

REPORT OF MAJ. GEN. JAMES G. BLUNT, U. S. ARMY¹HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE FRONTIER,
Fort Scott, Kans., October 19, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the general commanding, the following facts:

On the 4th instant, upon the receipt of dispatches from Fort Smith, informing me that the command there was threatened with a superior force of the enemy, I immediately left for that post, accompanied by a part of my staff, and taking with me the records, papers, and property belonging to the headquarters of the district. My escort consisted of Company I, Third Wisconsin Cavalry, and Company A, Fourteenth Kansas, about 100 men (all the available mounted men that could be spared from this post). I arrived near Baxter Springs about 12 m. of the 6th, and being in advance of the escort and wagons, I halted near the camp at the Springs, commanded by Lieutenant James B. Pond, of the Third Wisconsin Cavalry. This camp, being in low ground under the hill, was not visible from the point where I halted, although not more than 400 yards distant. After the escort had closed up, and while waiting a few moments for the wagons, my attention was called to a body of men in line (about 100) advancing from the timber of Spring River, which was some 500 yards on our left. When within 300 yards, they halted; and they being all dressed in Federal uniform, I supposed them at first to be Lieutenant Pond's cavalry (of which he had two companies) on drill; and my first suspicion of their being an enemy was aroused by seeing several men, supposed to be officers, riding hurriedly up and down their line, and apparent confusion among the men. I directed the escort to be brought into line facing them, while I advanced toward their line to satisfy myself as to the character of the force. I had proceeded by 50 or 75 yards when they commenced an irregular firing, and at the same time I heard a brisk firing of musketry in Lieutenant Pond's camp, under the hill. Being no longer in doubt that they were rebels, I turned toward my escort to give the command to fire, when I discovered the line broken, and all of them in full gallop over the prairie, completely panic-stricken. Seeing the disorderly and disgraceful retreat of the escort, the enemy made a charge, using their revolvers, followed by another force of about 200, who were formed in the edge of the timber, and, being better mounted than the escort, they soon

¹Major James G. Blunt, Report of Action at Baxter Springs, O.6, 1863, War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Series I Part I (Washington, D.C., 1888), 688.

closed in on them. In vain I endeavored, with the assistance of Major (H. Z.) Curtis, my assistant adjutant-general, to halt and rally the escort, and succeeded only in rallying 15 men, after following them 1 1/2 miles. When turning upon them with this small force, they retreated back over the ground which they came, and formed in line upon the main road. After sending Lieutenant (J. E.) Tappan, of my staff, with 6 men to Fort Scott for troops, with the remaining 9 men I kept close to them, watching their movements closely, which, doubtless, impressed them with the belief that I had a larger force coming up, as they burned all the wagons, and moved hurriedly off south, on the Fort Gibson road.

On looking over the ground for the wounded, I soon discovered that every man who had fallen, except 3, who escaped by feigning death, had been murdered, all shot through the head. The brigade band, teamsters, and all headquarters' clerks who were first captured were murdered in the same way. On reaching Lieutenant Pond's camp. I found the command all safe. A part of the force, carrying a Federal flag, had attacked his camp in the rear, which was in close proximity to the timber, while a force of 300 advanced through the timber on the left of his camp, and were forming on the edge of the prairie, for the purpose of surrounding him. The unexpected meeting of my escort diverted their further plans, and enabled Lieutenant Pond to successfully resist the force that attacked his camp. And in this connection I desire to compliment Lieutenant Pond and his command, consisting of two companies of the Third Wisconsin Cavalry and one company of the Second Kansas Colored Volunteers, for their gallantry in repulsing the enemy.

Having ascertained that the rebel force, 600 strong, was under the command of Quantrill, and that they designed moving directly south, I immediately sent messengers to Fort Gibson and Fort Smith, directing the commands at those forts to intercept them, if possible, at the Arkansas River, while at the same time I kept scouting parties on their trail to watch their movements until I could procure troops to pursue them. After leaving the ground, they moved south on the Fort Gibson road until they had crossed Cabin Creek, when they made a detour to the right across the Verdigris, and crossed the Arkansas River, 18 miles west of Fort Gibson, on the morning of the 10th. At this point they captured a scout of 12 men, belonging to the First Indian Home Guards (Creeks), and murdered them all. On the night of the 11th, they camped on the North Fork of the Canadian River, 45 miles south of the Arkansas; since which I have no reliable information concerning them. From information obtained from a colored boy who escaped from Quantrill's command at Cabin Creek, I learned that they came direct from La Fayette

County, Missouri, by rapid marches, seeing no Federal troops on the route, and that their destination was to join the rebel forces south of the Arkansas. They evidently had no knowledge of my being en route south, and their design was to capture the force at Baxter Springs, which they supposed to consist only of one company of colored troops and a part of a company of cavalry, but which had been re-enforced the previous night by an additional company of cavalry and a 12-pounder mountain howitzer. Had the escort stood their ground and fought instead of running, I have no doubt that I could have driven them in a few minutes, and, with the addition of Lieutenant Pond's cavalry, pursued and captured many of them.

Inclosed is a list of the casualties.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. G. BLUNT

Major-General

Colonel MARSH, Chief of Staff.

*Nominal list, omitted, shows 79 killed, 8 wounded, and 5 missing. Inside the camp if possible. At the same time I ran through the enemy's ranks myself, and got safely inside, where I found the enemy's men as numerous as my own. In a moment every man was rallied, and we soon succeeded in getting the enemy outside the camp. This done, I called for men to get the howitzer, which stood just over the intrenchment, on the north side. Whether the men heard me or not I am unable to say, and the volleys of musketry and the yells of the enemy nearly drowned every other noise; but no one came to my assistance, I got the howitzer at work myself, and, after three shots into their ranks, succeeded in repulsing the main force, which retreated in good order over the hill north of camp, where I heard firing, and supposed they had attacked my cavalry, which was then out; but upon looking round, I discovered Major Henning, of our regiment, who had gallantly cut his way through the enemy, and rescued 3 of my men, who had been taken prisoners, and brought them safely to camp. The major informed me that General Blunt was close by, and that the enemy were driving him, and called for cavalry to go to the general's relief. This I could not furnish him, as every effective man had been sent out in the morning, and all I had was about 25 of my own company (6)

¹ Lieut. James B. Pond, Report of Action at Baxter Springs, O. G. 1253, War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Series I Part I (Washington, D. C., 1888), 228.

REPORT OF LIEUT. JAMES B. POND, THIRD WISCONSIN CAVALRY¹

BAXTER SPRING, CHEROKEE NATION,

October 7, 1863

COLONEL: I was attacked to-day by Quantrill with about 650 men, and, after one hour's hard fighting, I am able to report to you that I still hold the post, and the old flag floats over us as proudly as ever.

The attack was made from the woods east of the camp. It was unexpected, as I had sent my cavalry out not more than an hour previous to reconnoiter on the same road the enemy came in on. My men were at dinner when the attack was made, and most of them were obliged to break through the enemy's lines in order to get their arms, which were in camp. In doing this, 4 of my men were shot down. I was in my tent about 200 yards west of the camp when I heard the first firing. The reason for my camp being here was, that I had just arrived with re-enforcements, and the camp was not large enough to accomodate the whole of my command, and I had just had the men at work extending the defense up to my quarters. When I looked out, I saw the camp surrounded on all sides by mounted men two ranks deep. I called what men were near to me to get inside the camps if possible. At the same time I ran through the enemy's ranks myself, and got safely inside, where I found the enemy's men as numerous as my own. In a moment every man was rallied, and we soon succeeded in getting the enemy outside the camp. This done, I called for men to get the howitzer, which stood just over the intrenchment, on the north side. Whether the men heard me or not I am unable to say, and the volleys of musketry and the yells of the enemy nearly drowned every other noise; but no one came to my assistance, I got the howitzer at work myself, and, after three shots into their ranks, succeeded in repulsing the main force, which retreated in good order over the hill north of camp, where I heard firing, and supposed they had attacked my cavalry, which was then out; but upon looking round, I discovered Major Henning, of our regiment, who had gallantly cut his way through the enemy, and rescued 3 of my men, who had been taken prisoners, and brought them safely to camp. The major informed me that General Blunt was close by, and that the enemy were driving him, and called for cavalry to go to the general's relief. This I could not furnish him, as every effective man had been sent out in the morning, and all I had was about 25 of my own company (C)

¹Lieut. James B. Pond, Report of Action at Baxter Springs, O.6, 1863, War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Series I Part I (Washington, D. S., 1888), 688.

and 20 of Company D, Third Wisconsin Cavalry (none of which had serviceable horses), and 50 negroes. The major thought that, under the circumstances, I could do no better than hold my camp, while he went out in hopes to meet General Blunt, and inform him that my camp was still in our possession; and shortly afterward I discovered that General Blunt's escort and band had been massacred, their wagons burned, and the bodies burned and stripped of clothing, and left upon the ground, and the enemy had formed in line of battle on the prairie. At 2 o'clock a flag of truce approached. The bearer, George Todd, demanded the surrender of the camp, which, being refused, he stated that he demanded in the name of Colonel Quantrill, of the First Regiment, First Brigade, Army of the South, an exchange of prisoners. I answered that I had taken no prisoners; that I had wounded several of his men, whom I had seen fall from their horses, and would see that they were cared for, provided he would do the same by our men. He said he had 12 privates and the adjutant-general (Major Curtis) prisoners, and that I had killed about 50 of his men, and if I would promise to take care of his wounded, and see that they were paroled after they were able to leave, he would promise me that no harm should befall Major Curtis or our men. This, I think, was intended for a blind to find out what I had done, as they had already murdered Major Curtis and all the prisoners. This evening General Blunt came, accompanied by Tough, who, with 6 or 8 men, have been following Quantrill on his retreat, and report that he crossed the Neosho at the Fort Gibson road, and had gone south. Is there a braver man living than the general?

My losses are, 6 killed and 10 wounded, of Company C. Third Wisconsin Cavalry. Lieutenant (R. E.) Cook, of the Second (Kansas) Colored, and John Fry, the express rider, and 1 negro were killed. As near as I can learn, the casualties of General Blunt are about 80 killed and 6 or 7 wounded. Most of the killed are shot through the head, showing that they were taken prisoners and murdered. Lieutenant Farr, judge-advocate, is among the murdered; also Henry Peltage, and the entire brigade band.

Here allow me to make mention of some of the noble acts of some of the men of my command. Sergeant (W. L.) McKenzie, of my company, exchanged eleven shots with a rebel officer, and succeeded in killing his horse. The man then dismounted, and took to the timber, followed by McKenzie, who, with only one shot in his revolver, killed his man, while his adversary was firing at him. Sergeant (R. W.) Smith, I think, was the coolest man on the ground, and did not fail to see that every order was executed to the letter. Sergeant (R.) Chestnut, of Company D, Third Wisconsin Cavalry, commanded the men of his company, and did nobly. The darkies fought

like devils. Thirteen of them were wounded the first round, and not one but what fought the thing through.

The number of the enemy killed, as far as heard from, are 11, and I know that we wounded more than twice that number, which they carried off the field.

There are several other interesting items, of which I will give a full detail in future.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES B. POND,

First Lieut. Co. C, Third Wis. Cav., Comdg. Post,
Fort Blair. Lieut. Col. C. W. Blair,
Commanding Post, Fort Scott.

Let us take a view of our camp in the morning, and before the attack; Sixty men gone foraging over the line into Missouri; Six or eight were in the woods of Spring River; some gathering material to fix up their quarters, others wandering about for pleasure. We had concluded our walk, and for about one hour had been reading "No Name" aloud to a wounded mail carrier. Lieut. Cook, commanding the colored infantry, was about forty rods east of camp in the woods, practicing at the target with his revolver with several others standing around. Several of our men who had their wives in camp had tents pitched east of our earthworks.

All was quiet and nothing suspected. It was noon. The men were at the Springs, standing around the pots awaiting the call to dinner, whilst their arms were in camp.

The enemy came from the southeast, and those men in the woods were first taken prisoners, and after the battle set at liberty. Quantrell had with him a detachment from Cooper's command, who took no part in the fight, but remained in the woods to guard these prisoners.

The enemy had cautiously surrounded our camp before a gun was fired, their main force on the north. Its detail from the east first came upon the target men. Lieut. Cook ran, with a view of getting to camp; was followed and killed, whilst those with him surrendered and were liberated. They next came upon the men in tents outside of camp. Two were killed, a child shot through the lungs, and a woman through the heel. With a dash these raiders were between our men--mostly colored--at the dinner pots and the camp and their arms. In reaching camp six or eight were wounded.

BATTLE AT BAXTER SPRINGS¹

A Description Written by Dr. W. H. Warner Who was a Surgeon
at "Fort Blair" at the time of the "Massacre"

On the 4th of October, our garrison was reinforced by Company C., 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry, and Capt. James B. Pond, of that company took command. On the morning of the 6th a large detail from the cavalry, of sixty men, was sent out foraging, commanded by Sergeant Homer Pond. Besides this detail many of the cavalry boys were out after material for building quarters, so that our command at the Springs was greatly reduced; and aside from the colored infantry we had not over twenty or twenty-five men in camp, including the sick and non-combatants.

Let us take a view of our camp in the morning, and before the attack; Sixty men gone foraging over the line into Missouri; Six or eight were in the woods of Spring River; some gathering material to fix up their quarters, others wandering about for pleasure. We had concluded our walk, and for about one hour had been reading "No Name" aloud to a wounded mail carrier. Lieut. Cook, commanding the colored infantry, was about forty rods east of camp in the woods, practicing at the target with his revolver with several others standing around. Several of our men who had their wives in camp had tents pitched east of our earthworks.

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¹Wm. H. Warner, Girard Press, Girard Kansas, June 6, 1872.

but none killed. One bold Reb. dashed to the center of our camp, but was winged, and fell just outside the works. Only two of the enemy were killed.

For about ten minutes there was a fierce rattle of musketry after the men had reached their guns. During this time we were watching the main body of the enemy, as they fled out of the woods on the ridge north of Baxter's orchard, galloping and yelling like hyenas. We anticipated a charge from the north, and our little howitzer commenced speaking to them in words of warning, placed very nearly where now stands Van Epp's log cabin, throwing shell towards the enemy; but soon we noticed a counter march of the enemy to the woods, and those who had made the attack upon us had withdrawn, and there was not an enemy to be seen. Thus were we left in suspense for several hours, ignorant of the fearful carnage upon the prairie. Anticipating a second attack, our men were making a "good ready," and in double quick time our little garrison was prepared to punish the dastards who were then doing their hellish work over the hill, and through the vallies of Willow and Brush Creeks.

In the middle of the afternoon Major B. S. Henning rode into our camp and told us of the calamitous massacre upon the prairie, and the fearful slaughter of Blunt's body guard, staff officers, and band, and asked for an escort to look for Gen. Blunt. Three of our cavalry boys at once volunteered to the duty, and in haste mounted for the search. They returned with the General just before sundown. In the meantime Quantrell's band came in sight, and filed in double column on the hill, where now stands the city of Baxter, and halted for a few minutes, as we supposed, for a second attack upon our camp, but they too plainly saw that if they came down upon us it would be at a great sacrifice, for after hearing of the massacre upon the prairies every man was determined never to surrender to certain death, and we are positive, although our forces only numbered about one hundred, that his band of three hundred or more never could have taken our camp. He soon ordered forward, and was next heard from in Texas with his booty.

It is supposed that as the enemy's main body filed out of the woods from the east, to charge our camp from the north they discovered Blunt's command, ordered a retreat from us, and a charge upon him.

Blunt had halted his command at the ravine, about one mile north of the Springs, had ordered his band to the front, with a view of playing as the command came into our camp, where they intended to halt for dinner. The band were in position, their books before them, and their instruments

ready for playing, when the enemy was discovered coming down upon them. Several of the staff officers were dismounted, and riding in the ambulance, who scarcely had time to seize the reins before the enemy's fire opened. A panic was created throughout the whole line of cavalry. They were surprised and unprepared to meet the enemy, and fled like sheep in every direction. As brave, courageous and true boys as ever faced fire became at once demoralized and overcome with fear, and, after a few fired a volley, ran for dear life, pursued in hot haste by an unknown enemy. Thus was the flight and pursuit kept up to the end--a sad picture to contemplate, but not from any fault of the men. A charitable world will forever look with commiseration upon the unfortunate situation of this noble band of patriots; but some blamed the officers of the command for suffering the surprise, charging it to recklessness, carelessness, or inefficiency.

If this force had maintained their ground, much less would have been the mortality and greater the honor to our arms. We state these things in no spirit of fault-finding. From the circumstances, nothing else could have been expected. The enemy was taken for friends until close upon them, they supposing them to be our cavalry from the "Springs," come out to do honor to the Major General and his gallant staff and escort, and had no time after it was discovered to form for battle, and every man acted from the first impulse of fear, and only thought of his own safety; and there was a general run, and a running general.

The entire train was taken, all head-quarters papers, and the clothing, uniforms, money, and arms of Blunt's staff, two of whom were killed, Major Curtis, Adjutant General, and Capt. Farr, Judge Advocate.

The driver of the band wagon moved out on the prairie and endeavored to run before the enemy, but they were soon over-taken and every member shot through the head. Nearly or quite every member of this band were Wisconsin boys, led by the lion-hearted Pilage, our companion before mentioned, who was a celebrated German musician of our state; but the band was not German, as supposed by some. The length of our article reminds us that we must not longer dwell upon this fearful scene of cowardly warfare. There is scarcely such another incident known in the history of the war, where the one-half, or more, of a whole command was killed in cold blood after surrendering. When the shades of night had covered the scenes of this awful day, ten wounded soldiers crept into our camp whom the enemy had left upon the field for dead, terribly wounded yet all but one or two recovered. There were ten or twelve wounded upon the prairie, and about ninety killed. There were about fourteen wounded at our

camp, and four or six killed. We have forgotten the exact number.

The day following the massacre, for we cannot call it a battle, was the saddest and most gloomy that we ever experienced. From early dawn until the evening shades were our men engaged in finding and bringing in the dead, lying where they were hunted down, and fell within an area of miles around on the north and west of the Springs. We could only recognize our acquaintances by their dress. They were arranged in file, under the shades of the beautiful grove east of Baxter's old orchard, until the final rites of burial were held, and the impressive salute over the trench told their comrades that the last sad duty had been performed.

A few days after the scenes we have related above. Our camp was removed from the Springs, upon the hill before referred to, east of Baxter, where we remained until this post was evacuated. We were pleased that a man of taste, who respects the memories of the past, especially the sacrifices of the brave boys in blue, has possession of this historic hill, and some day we will ask him to set a monument where once stood our log quarters, 8 by 10, in which we bound up the wounds of our boys, in safety from the hissing bullets, and again sent them out to meet this dastardly, daring, damnable devil Quantrell and his murdering band.

A hundred incidents in connexion with our narrative pass upon our minds, which the length of our article forbids relating. We feel grateful, with other friends of the deceased, to the kind-hearted and sympathetic people of Baxter for their care of our dead comrades' remains. We shall never regret being present at this cemetery on "Decoration Day," though the pleasures of the occasion were alloyed with many painful recollections.

From Baxter Springs Herald Benjamin R. Evans, Editor Baxter
Springs Kansas. February 22,
1868 p.3 col.2

From Editorial

THE Kansas Stage Company have put on comfortable coaches,
and are now making regular tri-weekly trips to Fort Scott.
This line connects at Fort Scott with Barlow and Sanderson's
coaches for Kansas City and Pleasant Hill, Mo. They have
also put on a coach between this point and the Catholic
Mission, connecting with Tizwell & Parker's Line for Ottawa,
the present terminus of the Lawrence and Galveston railroad.
This company, as fast as circumstances will permit, design
extending their line to Sherman, Texas, connecting at that
point with stages for Galveston. In connection with this
line of coaches, Mr. Gallaher has opened an express business
between Baxter and Fort Scott, which will be of great benefit
to our citizens.

Hotels--Two--Spring Valley, Baxter House.
Furniture Ware Rooms--One--J. M. Davis.
Steam Saw Mill--One--Wheeler, Dickinson & Co.
Bakery--One--William Schmidt.
Shingle Machines--Two--McGarvin & Edwards, Wheeler &
Dickinson.
Wagonmakers, One--A. S. Mathews
Contractors and Builders, Four--R. McGarvin, Winn &
Edwards, McCreary Bros., Reed & Co.
Blacksmiths, Three--Chas. Harvey, Dunbar & Custer,
H. Bolton.
House and Sign Painters, One--Mackay & Taylor.
Plasterers, Two--Wm. Peake, Geo. H. Averill.
Billiard Saloons, Two--Dixon and Olsen, Parker & Co.
Barbers, One--H. Beers.
Cabinet Makers, One--J. W. Keenan.
Merchant Tailors, One--Chas. and Copeland
Attorneys at Law--Veatch & Sumner, W. M. Matheny, W. H.
Horner, W. H. Higby.

¹The Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY¹

From Editorial

... "One horse towns," neighbors, cannot present the following showing:

Printing Officer--One--The Baxter Springs Herald. Circulates, weekly, six hundred copies into all portions of Southern Kansas, Southwest Missouri, and the Western and Northwestern States.

Dry Goods--Seven--Nowl & McMillan, Phillips & Botsford, Higginbotham & Stone, Worthen & Parker, A. F. Powell, Christy & Cooper, Lytle & Co.

Clothing--Two--L. T. Stowell, L. Goodman.

Hardware and Agricultural Implements--One--Rebstein & Dudley.

Drugs--Two--Gregg & Prickett, Weaver Bros.

Stoves and Tinware--One--Mathews & Son.

Boots and Shoes--One--B. F. Townsend.

Groceries and Provisions--Three--J. W. Skinner, Cooper & Hunt, D. A. Phelps.

Harness & Saddlery--One--A. Burney.

Watchmakers & Jewelers--Two--D. Y. Ellis, D. A. Chapel.

Daguerrean Galleries--One--L. P. Johnson.

Livery Stables--Two--Noel & McMillan, A. Willard.

Meat Markets--Three--A. J. Horner, H. B. Fields, Walker & Co.

Hotels--Two--Spring Valley, Baxter House.

Furniture Ware Rooms--One--J. M. Davis.

Steam Saw Mill--One--Wheeler, Dickinson & Co.

Bakeries--One--William Schmidt.

Shingle Machines--Two McGarvin & Edwards, Wheeler & Dickinson.

Wagonmakers, One--A. S. Mathews

Contractors and Builders, Four--R. McGarvin, Winn & Edwards, McCreary Bros., Reed & Co.

Blacksmiths, Three--Chas. Harvey, Dunbar & Castor, H. Belton.

House and Sign Painters, One--Mackey & Taylor.

Plasterers, Two--Wm. Peake, Geo. H. Averill.

Billiard Saloons, Two--Dimon and Gheen, Parker & Co.

Barbers, One--H. Beers.

Cabinet Makers, One--J. W. Keenan.

Merchant Tailors, One--Gheen and Copeland

Attorneys at Law--Veatch & Sumner, W. M. Matheny, W. H. Horner, W. H. Higby.

¹The Baxter Springs Herald, February 8, 1868.

Physicians and Surgeons--J. D. McClure, A. M. Hutchinson,
G. W. Cummings, Wm. Street, E. P. Grigg, J. M. Davis.

Masonic Lodges, one. Edd Fellows Lodges, one.

Stage Lines, carrying U. S. Mail--Tri-weekly to
Fort Scott, connecting with Pacific railroad lines, A. Willard,
proprietor. Tri-weekly to Neosho, Southwest Mo., connecting
at that point with the Southwestern Stage Company's line of
coaches for Sedalia via Carthage, Lamar and Osceola, Mo.,
and also with O. Tuller & Co's. fine line of four-horse
Concord coaches for Sarcoxie, Mount Vernon, Springfield,
Jerome, terminus of S. W. Pacific railroad, Bolivar, Warsaw
and Sedalia. Weekly to Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, A.
Willard, proprietor. Weekly for Catholic Mission.