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### The Historical development of Girard, Kansas, and its community

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THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF GIRARD,  
KANSAS, AND ITS COMMUNITY

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

Chairman of Thesis Committee

Chairman of Graduate Council

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KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

Pittsburg, Kansas

June, 1933

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<sup>1</sup>A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas, (1888), p. 1119.

<sup>2</sup>1882.



## CHAPTER I

### THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF GIRARD, KANSAS, AND ITS COMMUNITY

#### Early History

Kansas is rich in historic facts. Her traditions may be traced to the Spanish conquest of the native Indians of Mexico. In the sixteenth century Coronado came northward seeking for the mythical kingdom of Quivera, and claimed it by the right of conquest and discovery as a part of the kingdom of Spain. France nearly two centuries later sent out explorers who explored the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and declared at the mouth of each stream that all the land drained by these rivers and their tributaries belonged to the Kingdom of France. During the early part of the nineteenth century American explorers, trappers, and frontiersmen traversed the land now called Kansas.<sup>1</sup>

Early explorers called the land "The Great American Desert."

From time immemorial it had been the home of nomadic tribes and the vast pastures of countless herds of buffalo; then, the place of sojourn of half-civilized and half-disheartened tribes from east of the Great River, retiring or retreating before ceaseless flow of the mysterious tide of civilization.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas, (1883), p. 1119.

<sup>2</sup>Idem. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1119.



The Indian was never permitted to remain unmolested by the ever-moving pioneer. The settlers rapidly migrated westward and settled the western lands. The Indian was moved on and on, each time with the promise of receiving a permanent home, but this was not to be had under the policy of "Manifest Destiny."

In 1854, Kansas was made a territory and opened for settlement. The Indians were removed to other lands. Now a far more important conflict took place between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery people, who were struggling for the mastery and supremacy over the Republic. "In Kansas the war was begun; and there the first victories, presaging the full triumph of Liberty, were won."<sup>3</sup>

#### The "Neutral Land" Controversy and its Effect on Girard

No history of Girard and its community would be complete without a reference to the Cherokee "Neutral Land" Question. The bitterness and the hatred to which it gave rise confused even clear-sighted men who were striving to solve the question of the disposition of the land held by the United States in trust for the Cherokee Nation.

Prior to 1827, the land now comprising Cherokee and Crawford Counties belonged to the Osage Indians. A treaty was signed in 1827 between the United States and the Osage Indians

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<sup>3</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1119.



providing that a strip of land fifty miles north and south by twenty-five miles east and west should be left unoccupied by both the white and the red man as a neutral region.<sup>4</sup> But with the rapid expansion of the United States in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the government was forced to cede the "Neutral Lands" to the Cherokee Nation in part payment for their lands in Georgia which they had been forced to vacate.<sup>5</sup> This transaction took place, December 29, 1835.<sup>6</sup>

On July 19, 1866, a treaty was consummated between the Cherokee Nation and the United States, whereby the Cherokee Nation ceded the "Neutral Lands" to the United States in trust.<sup>7</sup> The land was to be sold in parcels not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to the highest bidder with cash in hand. There was also a proviso that "nothing in the articles shall prevent the Secretary of Interior from selling the whole of said lands not occupied by actual settlers at the date of the ratification of this treaty."<sup>8</sup>

The "Neutral Lands" were sold on credit to the American Emigrant Company of Des Moines, Iowa, August 30, 1868, by the

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<sup>4</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1150.

<sup>5</sup>Idem.

<sup>6</sup>Idem.

<sup>7</sup>Deed Record, Book C, p. 51.

<sup>8</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1150.



Secretary of Interior, James Harlan. This sale was declared null and void by his successor, Secretary O. H. Browning, as the treaty rights required that the lands be sold for cash.<sup>9</sup> He then sold the lands to James F. Joy of Detroit, Michigan, October 1, 1870, under terms<sup>10</sup> similar to the first transaction.<sup>11</sup>

James F. Joy, after purchasing the "Neutral Lands", transferred them by a warranty deed to the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad Company, September 8, 1870.<sup>12</sup> A patent was issued to the railroad company by the General Land Office of the United States, November 2, 1870.<sup>13</sup>

In the meantime, the people knowing that the United States had a right to sell the Cherokee Lands under the treaty rights August 11, 1866, expected that the Department of Interior would sell the land to bona fide settlers at a dollar and a quarter per acre, as other public land had been sold. Consequently, many people moved into the "Neutral Lands" and staked out claims.<sup>14</sup> When the settlers learned

<sup>9</sup>S. J. Crawford, Kansas in the Sixties, p. 308.

<sup>10</sup>See Appendix A for terms of sale.

<sup>11</sup>Deed Record, Book C, pp. 49, 50.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 50.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 123.

<sup>14</sup>S. J. Crawford, op. cit., p. 312.



that the government had sold the lands to James F. Joy they protested by sending W. R. Laughlin to Washington. Mr. Laughlin returned to the "Neutral Lands" after several months at the Capital with a favorable report, but insisted that if anything was to be accomplished a great deal of money must be raised to fight for their rights. Thus, an organization for that purpose sprang up in each community known as the Land League, which soon developed into a "semi-secret organization."<sup>15</sup> Men who did not agree with the organization were often intimidated to join the League. Those who would not join were often persecuted.<sup>16</sup> The Land League sought to prove that the sale of the "Neutral Lands" to Joy was illegal.<sup>17</sup>

Numerous depredations<sup>18</sup> were committed by the settlers against the railroad and its employees which necessitated the presence of United States soldiers.<sup>19</sup>

On the twenty-seventh day of May, 1871, the United States Supreme Court handed down its decision that James F. Joy's

<sup>15</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).

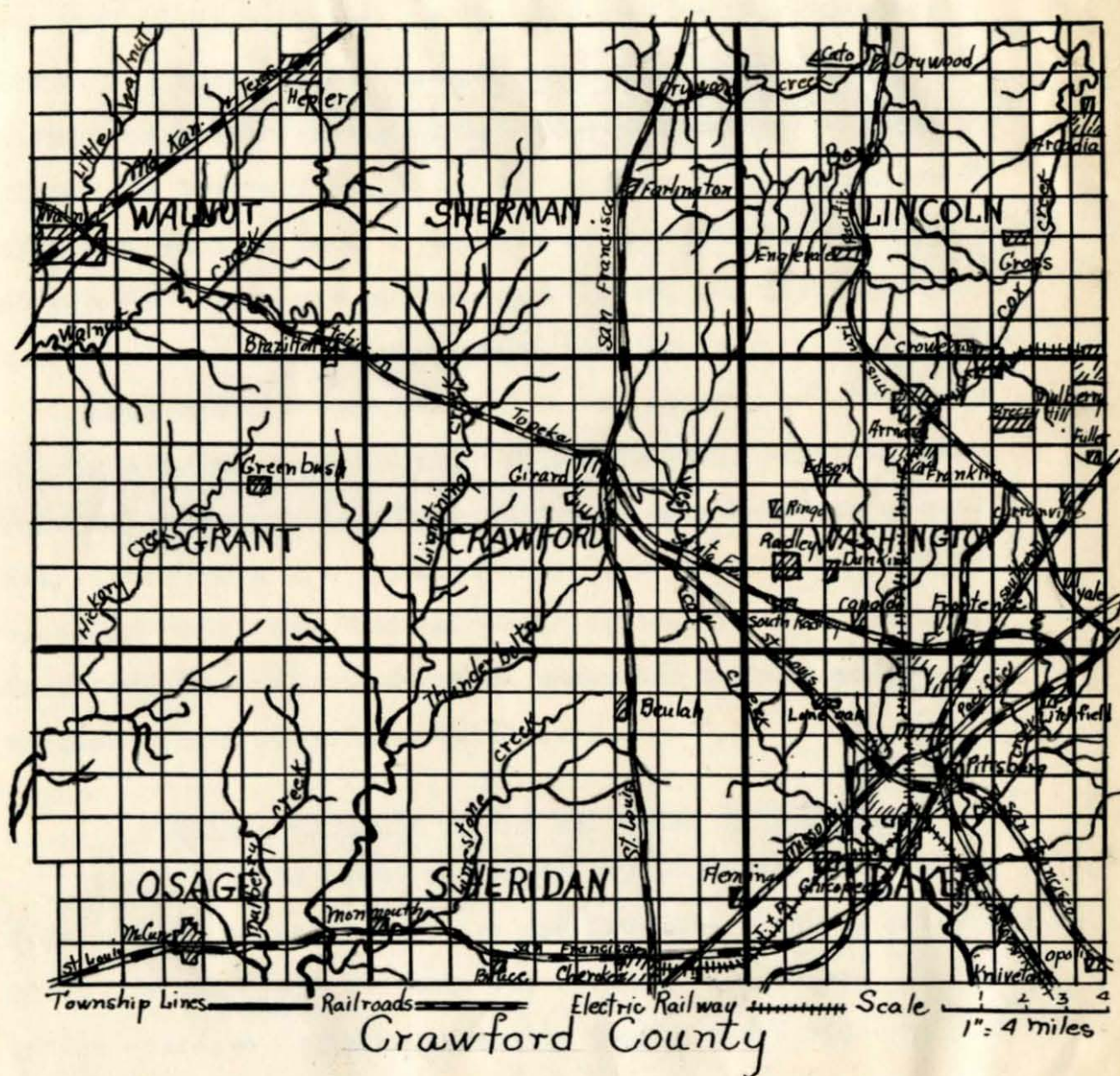
<sup>16</sup>Girard Press, (January 27, 1870).

<sup>17</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., pp. 1150, 1151.

<sup>18</sup>Fort Scott Press, (May 1, 1869); Girard Press, (January 27, 1870); A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1151.

<sup>19</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1151; Girard Press, (January 7, 1926).







title to the "Neutral Lands" was valid.<sup>20</sup>

This final decision of the court made it clear to the settler what he must do in order to retain his land. Those who had not secretly or openly bought their lands quickly did so, or moved away. Conditions became normal around Girard where most of the agitation and depredations took place. By February 11, 1873, the last soldier was removed<sup>21</sup> from the "Neutral Land." Enemies became friends and neighbors. Peace and prosperity reigned. Girard began to grow once more and its permanency was assured.

Thus, ended a dark chapter in the history of Girard and its neighboring communities. It is a miracle that the town remained alive during this conflict as many settlers moved away. Emigrants also shunned Girard, preferring to settle elsewhere until the "Neutral Land" controversy was settled. If a few citizens had not shown undaunted courage and perseverance Girard would have faded away.<sup>22</sup>

#### Crawford County's Origin and Early Settlement

The origin of Crawford County may be traced to McGee County which embraced Cherokee and Crawford Counties prior to 1860. In that year the name was changed to Cherokee, in honor of the Cherokee Indians. Cherokee County was divided by the

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<sup>20</sup> Clara H. Hazelrigg, History of Kansas (1895), pp. 170, 171.

<sup>21</sup> Idem.

<sup>22</sup> Girard Press, (January 27, 1870).



state legislature, February 13, 1867, into two counties. Bourbon County received a strip of land six miles wide off of the northern end. The remaining land was divided as follows: Crawford<sup>23</sup> County was the name applied to the northern division which embraced a tract of land twenty-three miles north and south and twenty-six miles east and west. It contains 592 square miles, or about 378,880 acres of land.<sup>24</sup>

The first known settler was John Hathaway in Lincoln township in 1844. In 1848, John Lemon, a blacksmith, settled in Osage township. Baker township was first settled in 1851 by P. M. Smith, "but did not erect a dwelling, being content to live during his short stay in a tent."<sup>25</sup> A man by the name of Smear built the first log cabin in Baker township, 1856. The Howards, the Fowlers, the Hales, and the Hathaways had settled in Lincoln township by 1852. The first school was taught here in 1858 in a cabin formerly used as a home. By 1857 a few people lived in Walnut township. Sherman township was first settled by Harden Matthews in 1850. In 1861 President Buchanan sent soldiers into the "Neutral Lands" to drive out the settlers by burning their homes and destroying

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<sup>23</sup>Crawford County was named after Governor Samuel J. Crawford, who was Governor of Kansas when the county was established.

<sup>24</sup>Independent News, (December 20, 1900).

<sup>25</sup>A Cyclopedia of Kansas History, I, 471.



their crops. However, other settlers soon took their places. In 1861 a man named Banks settled on Cow Creek in Crawford township. Several settlements were made in Grant and Washington township.<sup>26</sup>

### County Organizations

J. W. Wallace of Lincoln township, Lafayette Manlove from Sheridan township, Harry Schoen from Sherman township were appointed as special commissioners to organize Crawford County. F. M. Logan was appointed clerk; but he was unable to serve in this capacity at the time of the meeting which was held at the home of William Campbell near the site of Crawfordville.

The first meeting of the special commissioners was held March 16, 1867. After taking an oath of office they organized the Board of Commissioners; J. W. Wallace was chosen clerk. The first order of the Board was "That the County of Crawford be and is hereby laid off into nine representative townships,"<sup>28</sup> the second order was the establishment of precincts, the third was dividing the county into three commissioners districts and the fourth instructed the County Clerk to give thirty days notice of a special election for county and

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<sup>26</sup>Kansas History, A Cyclopedia of Kansas History, I, 471.

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

<sup>28</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1120.



township officers, and for a permanent location of the county seat.<sup>29</sup>

The first county election was held on April 15, 1867.<sup>30</sup> The county seat was not selected at this election. Rossville and Center contested for the honor of securing the county seat. Rossville was a small village two miles northeast of Girard, on what was then known as the Silket farm.<sup>31</sup> Center was located on the northwest quarter section on which a part of Girard is located. No meetings of the county commissioners were ever held at either of these places.<sup>32</sup>

On September 2, 1867, Crawfordsville was selected as a temporary county seat. At an election held early in 1868, Girard was selected as the county seat. On May 11, 1868, the county commissioners ordered the removal of county records and offices to Girard. D. W. Crouse of Crawfordsville applied in September, 1868, to the District Court and secured a writ of mandamus on the County Clerk to compel him to remove

<sup>29</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1120.

<sup>30</sup>Results of the election were: Commissioners, J. W. Wallace, Andrew Hussong, and F. M. Mason; Clerk, F. M. Logan; Sheriff, J. M. Ryan. F. M. Logan failed to qualify, so Lafayette Manlove was appointed to fill the vacancy.

<sup>31</sup>The Silket farm is now known as the Woodling farm. It is one mile north and one mile east of Girard.

<sup>32</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1120.

<sup>33</sup>Records of County Clerk (November 7, 1866), Book B, 78.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., p. 80.



the county records back to Crawfordville. The court based its decision on the fact that a petition should have been circulated and signed by qualified voters prior to the election. Thus, the County Clerk was forced to return the records to Crawfordville.<sup>33</sup> On November 7, 1868, the Board of County Commissioners was presented with a petition of 577 names by G. A. Block calling for a special election, December 15, 1868, for the purpose of locating a permanent county seat.<sup>34</sup> The Board of County Commissioners met on December 19, 1868, as a Board of Canvassers and "after a careful and accurate canvass of the votes cast December 15, 1868, it was found Girard had secured 375 votes; while Crawfordville received 312 votes."<sup>35</sup> Girard was therefor duly declared the capital of Crawford County, Kansas. With the rapid increase of population of Pittsburg, Kansas, a county seat war was threatened during the late nineties. People of Pittsburg became dissatisfied with the inconvenience of attending court at Girard and so a group of influential citizens of Pittsburg induced Senator W. H. Ryan of Girard to secure for them a court of common pleas. He secured the passage of such a bill in 1899, subject to the

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<sup>33</sup> A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1120; Kansas History, I, 472, 473.

<sup>34</sup> Records of County Clerk (November 7, 1868), Book B, 78.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., p. 80.



referendum vote of the citizens of Crawford County.<sup>36</sup>

Many people opposed the court on the grounds that it would be too costly. Girard, of course, was opposed to the establishment of such a court in Pittsburg. They were favorable to it if it would sit at Girard, the county seat. On the other hand, many favored it believing that the majority of cases originated in Pittsburg and its adjacent territory and it would thereby save the county the costs of mileage fees paid to jurors, since a large percentage of jurors were always from that area.<sup>37</sup>

At this time, Cherokee wanted the County High School that Crawford County was planning to establish. For a number of years Girard citizens had had in mind the establishment of a County High School, but "many thought that during a Presidential election year it was not best to submit such a proposition and were willing to wait."<sup>38</sup> But the action of Cherokee in selecting this opportune time made it necessary for Girard to assert itself. Girard opposed Cherokee because it was located on the "extreme southern border" of Crawford County

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<sup>36</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 20, 1919).

<sup>37</sup>Idem.

<sup>38</sup>Girard Press, (April 5, 1900).

while Girard occupied the geographical center of the county.<sup>39</sup>

Pittsburg and Girard were suspected of a collusive agreement. In

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39 A petition

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40 Abatua

41 Ibid. 10.

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Emery schoolhouse located two miles west of Girard on

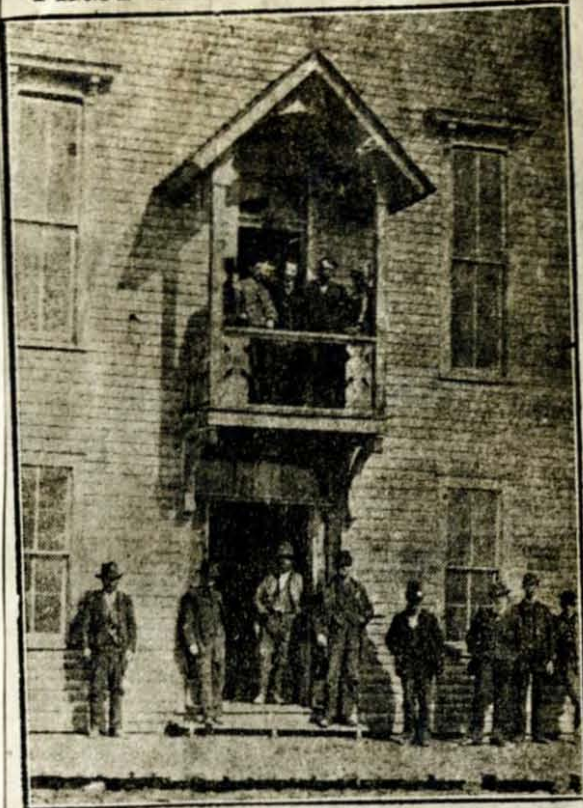
highway number 57 in the town of Crawfordsville

for a schoolhouse, Girard and Court House according to W. L.

Eddy of Girard, December 28, 1932.

43 Ibid.

## FIRST GIRARD COURTHOUSE



This frame courthouse was erected about 1871. It stood on the north side of the square where the old jail building stands. After the county seat was moved from Crawfordsville, erection of a brick courthouse was begun. While it was under construction a wind storm blew it over. The frame building then was erected and served until Girard turned over a brick building in 1890.

## First Permanent Court House



while Girard occupied the geographical center of the county.<sup>39</sup> Pittsburg and Girard were suspected of a logrolling agreement. This was undoubtedly true for at the general election, November 7, 1899, 3095 votes were cast for and 2940 votes were cast against the establishment of a Court of Common Pleas in Pittsburg.<sup>40</sup> The general election held on November 6, 1900, gave the following vote on the location of the County High School: Cherokee received 3977 votes to Girard's 1928.<sup>41</sup>

#### County Court Houses

The first court house of Crawford County was located in thirty by seventy-two feet in size. Its foundation was the schoolhouse<sup>42</sup> of Crawfordsville. A court house was soon erected in Crawfordsville across the road east of the schoolhouse.<sup>43</sup> After the county seat was moved to Girard in 1868, stories in height. The contract was let to a Mr. Shanahan.

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<sup>39</sup>A petition praying for the establishment and location of a County High School was presented to the County Commissioners, May 7, 1890. The County Commissioners on that date made necessary provisions to submit the establishment of a County High School at Cherokee to the "qualified electors of said county at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the sixth day of November, A. D., 1900." This procedure will be found in the Commissioners Records, Book J, 101.

<sup>40</sup>Abstract of Votes Cast, Vol. A, 42.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid., Vol. B, 10.

<sup>42</sup>Emery schoolhouse located two miles west of Girard on highway number 57 is the same building used by Crawfordsville for a schoolhouse, church and court house according to W. L. Eddy of Girard, December 28, 1932.

<sup>43</sup>Idem.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid., no page given for this.

<sup>45</sup>Idem.



a house that had been erected by James Hull was used by the county officials.<sup>44</sup> This building was located on the south side of the square.<sup>45</sup>

On Tuesday, April 4, 1871, a proposition to vote \$15,000 in bonds to be used in the erection of a court house was defeated, 1066 votes being cast against the project to only 148 votes for the bond issue.<sup>46</sup>

On January 2, 1872, the county commissioners instructed D. Wilder to draft plans for a building to be used for county offices and court room.<sup>47</sup> The building as drafted was to be thirty by seventy-two feet in size. Its foundation was constructed of stone to the first joist. Brick was then laid for the walls, being eighteen inches in thickness and two stories in height. The contract was let to a Mr. Shanahan. He failed to enter into contract and so the bid was let to the next lowest bidder, Moore and Sinthicum, for \$7052.<sup>48</sup> Before the building was completed it was destroyed by a tornado which razed the walls to the ground. The County Clerk's Record for August 20, 1872, gives a petition received from the bondsmen of Moore and Sinthicum praying that the county commissioners

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Mr. Leonard said, "I will remember how the bondsmen escaped payment of the Moore and Sinthicum bond. They secured the election of a Mr. Vickers to the state legislature, who succeeded in passing a bill to that effect."

<sup>44</sup> Kansas History, I, 471

<sup>45</sup> Girard Press, (February 12, 1874).

<sup>46</sup> Commissioner Records, Book B, 258. by the Under Motor

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., no page given for this.

<sup>48</sup> County Clerk's Record, Book C, 369.

<sup>48</sup> Idem.



would give them "such relief as the nature of the case demanded."<sup>49</sup>

A petition signed by 190 qualified voters was presented to the county commissioners, March 2, 1874, asking that the commissioners submit to the voters on April 7, 1874, a proposition of voting bonds to the amount of \$50,000 to be used in the construction of a court house, county jail, and a county poor house (poor house to cost \$2000). The voters overwhelmingly voted the proposition down.<sup>50</sup>

The commissioners now decided to build a two-story frame building on the site occupied by the court house building that had been destroyed in the summer of 1872, while under construction.<sup>51</sup> A contract was let to W. C. Adamson and J. T. Bell for \$2870 on July 24, 1874, and was to be finished by September 25, 1874.<sup>52</sup>

In 1899, Girard built a court house and donated it to the county. A petition signed by fifty qualified voters of Girard was presented to the city council, February 25, 1889, asking

<sup>49</sup> Interview with J. T. Leonard of Girard, April 2, 1933. Mr. Leonard said, "I well remember how the bondsmen escaped payment of the Moore and Sinthicum bond. They secured the election of a Mr. Vickers to the state legislature, who succeeded in securing the passage of a bill to that effect."

<sup>50</sup> County Clerk's Record, Book C, 276-282.

<sup>51</sup> This is the same site now occupied by the Condor Motor Company building on the north side of the public square.

<sup>52</sup> County Clerk's Record, Book C, 358.

that a special election be called to vote on a proposition of issuing \$20,000 in bonds to be used in constructing a City Hall.<sup>53</sup> The election was held March 19, 1887, and resulted in three hundred seven votes being cast in favor of the project and only four votes against it.<sup>54</sup> On July

11, 1888, the county commissioners gave Girard the right to build

Company

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day.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>53</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 97-102.

<sup>54</sup>Ibid., Court House Built by Girard for Crawford County

<sup>55</sup>Commissioners Proceedings, Book F, 223.

<sup>56</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 135, 136.

<sup>57</sup>Ibid., pp. 175-179.

<sup>58</sup>Commissioners Proceedings, Book F, 223.

<sup>59</sup>Independent News, (December 20, 1903).



that a special election be called to vote on a proposition of issuing \$20,000 in bonds to be used in constructing a City Hall.<sup>53</sup> The election was held March 19, 1889, and resulted in three hundred seven votes being cast in favor of the project and only four votes against it.<sup>54</sup> On July 11, 1889, the county commissioners gave Girard the right to build their City Hall in the public square.<sup>55</sup> John Viets and Company was awarded the contract for the City Hall and it was to be completed May 1, 1890.<sup>56</sup>

On April 28, 1890, the city council and mayor met and decided that for the best interest of Girard it would give the City Hall to the county to be used for a court house.<sup>57</sup> It was accepted by the county commissioners on the following day.<sup>58</sup>

The building presented was a handsome brick building, two stories high above a stone basement. It was later remodeled and made modern at a cost of \$2000.<sup>59</sup> The building

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<sup>53</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 97-102.

<sup>54</sup>Ibid., pp. 135,136.

<sup>55</sup>Commissioners Proceedings, Book F, 223.

<sup>56</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 135,136.

<sup>57</sup>Ibid., pp. 176-179.

<sup>58</sup>Commissioners Proceedings, Book F, 222.

<sup>59</sup>Independent News, (December 20, 1900).



as it was originally constructed had four fronts, one for each side of the square. In remodeling the building the east and west entrances were closed.

In the spring of 1919, the above building was declared to be in a dangerous condition by the State Fire Marshall. The County Commissioners<sup>60</sup> advertised for bids which were to close at twelve o'clock noon, November 24, 1919. Plans for the new court house were made by Tonini and Bramblet, architects from Oklahoma City. J. J. Rooney was awarded the building contract by the commissioners.<sup>61</sup>

A magnificent structure was built. It was constructed of stone on the outside while the inside walls were of marble. It is three stories high with a sub-basement. The building's outside dimensions are: 125 feet and 2 inches by 97 feet.

Reinforced concrete was used in the construction of the building.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>60</sup>County Commissioners were: Clarence Cover, Chairman; John Beitzinger, member; Oscar Ward, member.

<sup>61</sup>At the request of the Crawford County Taxpayers' Association John Beitzinger, a member of the County Commissioners gave the following costs of the Court House: Paid to Contractors (building and equipment) \$401,703.01. Paid to Tonini and Bramblet, architects (fee for building plans at 5% of total cost) \$20,085.15. Total cost \$421,788.16; the Girard Press, December 15, 1921.

<sup>62</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>67</sup>County Clerk's Record, Book 6, 1, page 1.



The new court house was dedicated June 1,<sup>63</sup> 1922, by Judge J. S. West of the Kansas Supreme Court who was a native of the Cato community.<sup>64</sup> Following Judge West's address, Miss Rosa Lee Strong, the youngest granddaughter of Dr. C. H. Strong, appeared on the archway over the north entrance which was occupied by the speaker and B. S. Gaitskill (Master of Ceremonies) and christened the building by breaking a bottle of milk upon it.<sup>65</sup> Then the Boy Scouts, who were stationed on top of the Court House, raised the American Flag over the building while the audience sang the Star-Spangled Banner.<sup>66</sup>

#### County Jail

Crawford County did not have a county jail prior to 1874. All her prisoners were kept in the Fort Scott jail.<sup>67</sup> At a

<sup>63</sup> See footnote 16, page 30.

<sup>64</sup> A complete program of "Girard Day" may be found in the Girard Press, dated June 1, 1922. Mr. J. M. Vincent of Girard's Kiwanis Club was responsible for the dedicatory exercises, Girard Press, May 11, 1922.

<sup>65</sup> In a letter to Miss Rosa Lee Strong, C. C. Cory, a prominent lawyer of Kansas, commended Miss Strong in breaking "a bottle of milk instead of the traditional beverage--" He further relates in his letter, "Your County is the only one in eastern Kansas that never had a legalized saloon." These quotations were taken from the original letter written to Miss Strong of Girard, Kansas. A copy of this letter may be found in the Girard Press, June 8, 1922.

<sup>66</sup> Girard Press, (June 8, 1922).

<sup>67</sup> County Clerk's Record, Book C, 1, passim.



special session of the County Commissioners, October 15, 1874, it was decided to build a county jail. It was to be constructed of "two by six joist layed flat-side down one upon another and each one spiked together flat down."<sup>68</sup> Its dimensions were: fourteen by sixteen feet. It was located behind the Court House that was built in 1874.<sup>69</sup>

On May 15, 1885, the citizens of Girard voted 271 for, to 7 against a proposition that Girard build a county jail. C. Cadwell was awarded the contract by the city for \$4550. Its dimensions were thirty feet by fifty-two feet and was two stories high. The building was to be made of bricks.<sup>70</sup> It was located on the site occupied by the two-story court house on the north side of the square. The court house being moved across the street into the present court house yard where it remained until a new building was completed in 1890.

In the spring of 1919 the State Fire Marshall condemned the county jail building.<sup>71</sup> Plans for the new jail building

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<sup>68</sup>This building was later moved and annexed to a home located on North Cherokee street where it now serves as a kitchen, according to W. K. Potter and M. V. Tubbs of Girard.

<sup>69</sup>County Clerk's Record, Book C, 394.

<sup>70</sup>Records of City Clerk, (1885), p. 145.

<sup>71</sup>After the building was torn down, the site was purchased by A. D. Condor, who erected a garage building upon it.



were prepared by Tonini and Bramblet of Oklahoma City. J. J. Rooney received the construction contract. The building was built of reinforced concrete. It is three stories high with a sub-basement.<sup>72</sup> The new jail building is located one block south of the southeast corner of the public square.<sup>73</sup> The jail was built at a total cost of \$98,937.18.<sup>74</sup> Sheriff Milt Gould moved into the new jail, Wednesday, January 4, 1922.<sup>75</sup>

#### County Farm

The first paupers of Crawford County were taken care of in private homes. The first county poor house was located in a Girard building, known as the Bishop House. T. B. Stafford was the first superintendent for a term of five months, commencing February 1, 1874.<sup>76</sup>

On April 17, 1873, the Board of County Commissioners visited several farms near Girard. They selected the present

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<sup>72</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>73</sup>The new jail site was purchased by the Girard Commercial Club, it being understood that the proceeds from the sale of the old jail site on the north side of the square would be turned over to them, Girard Press, January 5, 1922.

<sup>74</sup>Taken from John Beitzinger's report to the Taxpayers' Association, Girard Press, December 15, 1921.

<sup>75</sup>Girard Press, (January 5, 1922).

<sup>76</sup>County Clerk's Record, Book C, 262, 263.

farm now known as the County Farm. They purchased from Urban J. Gillette his right and title to the land for \$300.<sup>77</sup> On July 18, 1873, the commissioners cleared the land of its indebtedness by paying the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad Company \$1852.11.<sup>78</sup>

A \$2000 building program was planned for the County Farm in 1874, but was defeated at an election held for the purpose of voting bonds.<sup>79</sup>

On January 16, 1875, a contract was let to J. T. Adams for \$464.50, who built the first building at the County Farm.<sup>80</sup> Since that time a modern dormitory, two large two-story buildings, and several smaller buildings have been built at the County Farm. Crawford County has one of the finest and best equipped farms for paupers in the state. It is located about two and a half miles southeast of Girard on County Highway No. 7.

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<sup>77</sup> County Clerk's Record, Book C, 115.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid., p. 162.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid., pp. 276-282.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid., p. 460.



## CHAPTER II

### EARLY HISTORY OF GIRARD AND ITS COMMUNITY

#### Crawfordsville

After the Civil War was over, thousands of people emigrated to Kansas. Her progress was rapid. Her cities and towns rapidly increased in population. Many new ones were founded.

Among the new towns was Crawfordsville, located in southeastern Kansas. It lay within that strip of land known as the "Cherokee Neutral Lands". It was laid out in 1866 on the banks of Lightning Creek, two miles west of Girard, Kansas, and one-half mile north of the Mission road (same as Highway No. 57). In 1867, Crawfordsville was made the first county seat of Crawford County.<sup>1</sup> The early history of Crawfordsville may be well told in the words of Mr. Eddy: "Col. Percy Daniels, a brother-in-law of Mr. Eddy, being discharged from the United States army after the Civil War desired to go west for his health." He did so, and after careful consideration he selected southeast Kansas as the place to establish a home and regain his health. He sent word back to Mr. Eddy, who was then living at Worcester, Massachusetts, to come to Kansas if he had any money. Mr. Eddy said,

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Mr. W. L. Eddy of Girard, Kansas, on December 28, 1932, an account of the early history of Crawfordsville was obtained. A more detailed account of Mr. Eddy's may be found in the Pittsburg Headlight, May 19, 1926.

"I had saved a thousand dollars so I immediately left for Kansas."<sup>2</sup> In the meantime, Colonel Daniels, W. W. Jones, Daniel Crouse, bought an Indian head-right and formed the Crawfordsville Town Company.<sup>3</sup> At Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. Eddy invested his money in goods and equipment. He then set out by wagon for Crawfordsville where he arrived in October of 1867. A log cabin received the supplies with which he and Colonel Daniels opened a store. There was one other store in Crawfordsville. It was owned by Pete Smith, who also owned a store at Cato,<sup>4</sup> Kansas.<sup>5</sup> Crawfordsville had a population of about 250. It boasted of two stores, a blacksmith shop, a doctor's office, a schoolhouse that also served as a court house and church.<sup>6</sup> "In all," said Mr. Eddy, "there were perhaps fourteen or fifteen buildings in Crawfordsville."<sup>6</sup> Mr. Eddy's store stood on the site now occupied by the farm home of Ernest Van Ness. The old town well of Crawfordsville is still in use. An old cottonwood tree marks the spot

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<sup>2</sup>Interview with Mr. W. L. Eddy, (December 28, 1932).

<sup>3</sup>Idem.

<sup>4</sup>A small town in the northern part of Crawford county.

<sup>5</sup>W. L. Eddy, op. cit., p. 7, 1880.

<sup>6</sup>Idem. Eddy, op. cit.

<sup>7</sup>Idem.



where the first cabin stood in that now extinct city. The old tree is rapidly decaying and its location will soon be but a memory. The Emery schoolhouse located one-half mile south of the former site of Crawfordsville on Highway No. 57 is the same building used by Crawfordsville for its schoolhouse, court house and church when it was a reality. About half a mile west and a quarter of a mile north of the old cottonwood tree which marked the square of Crawfordsville is a small graveyard containing two graves.<sup>7</sup>

In 1873 Colonel Daniels sold his interest in the store to his partner, Mr. Eddy, who later sold out to George E. Howard and Mr. Hammond of Boston, Massachusetts. They ran the store for about a year when they moved it to Girard, a town two miles east and one-half mile south of Crawfordsville.<sup>8</sup>

Crawfordsville was doomed to die after the railroad survey had missed it in 1869. The town company had a hard time to keep the village alive after Girard was established on the railroad site in opposition to it. Thus, Crawfordsville which had its origin in 1862 was absorbed by Girard and by 1870 it no longer existed and is to-day only a memory in the minds of early settlers.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Only one headstone remains to-day. It has the following inscription: "In memory of our darling Freman, son of J. A. and M. A. Girard. Died Feb. 7, 1880."

<sup>8</sup> W. L. Eddy, op. cit.

<sup>9</sup> Idem.

Origin of Girard

"On the twenty-ninth day of February, 1858, a fair



10 Girard

11 The house

of Girard by

12

13 Historical Biographical Record of Crawford County, Kansas, by H. M. Authors, p. 425.

14

15 Dr. C. H. Strong, Father of Girard

16

17 Girard Press, (January 27, 1870).

18

19 Company was composed of the following men: A. Danford, president; C. H. Strong, secretary; Dr. Couch, Dr. E. F. Soper, E. J. Boering, Levi Hatch, John Losh, D. S. McIntosh, and Col. J. Alexander. A. T. Andrews, op. cit., p. 1120.



Origin of Girard

"On the twenty-eighth day of February, 1868, a deer sped across the beautiful prairie on which Girard now stands."<sup>10</sup> The deer<sup>11</sup> was killed near the southeast corner of the square by Dr. C. H. Strong, who had left Crawfordsville that morning for the expressed purpose of obtaining supplies to celebrate his birthday and also to select a new county seat. It seems that Dr. Strong had applied to the Crawfordsville Town Company for a lot for a drug store and had been refused. He named the new town site "Girard" after his home town in Pennsylvania.<sup>12</sup>

John Losh, Zeek Booring and Charles H. Strong qualified before H. Martin, justice of peace, and applied to the Secretary of State for a charter for Girard City<sup>13</sup> on the twenty-ninth day of March, 1868.<sup>14</sup>

Following this the Girard Town Company<sup>15</sup> was organized

<sup>10</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>11</sup>The horns of this deer were given to W. J. Eldridge of Girard by Dr. Strong prior to his death.

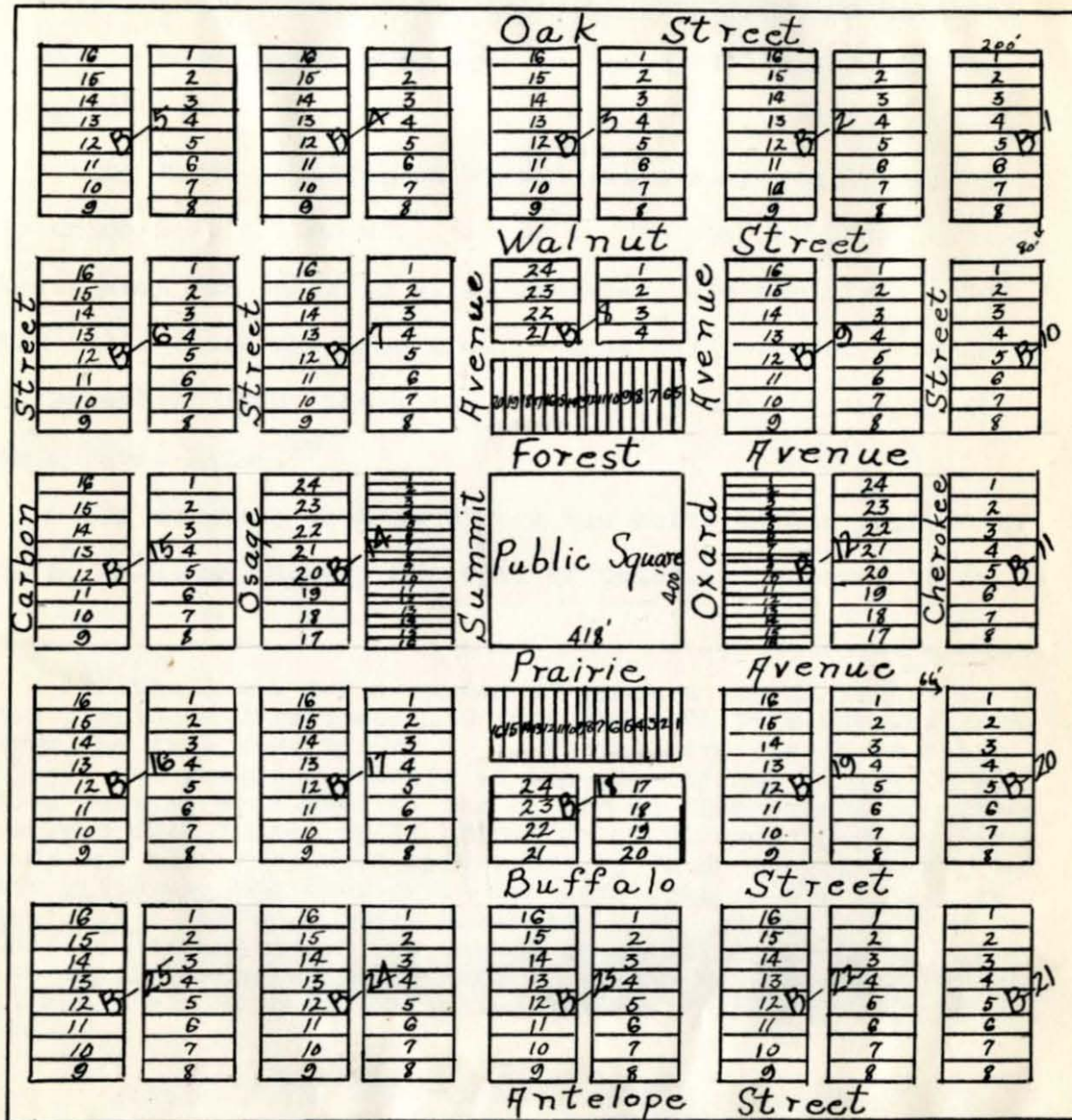
<sup>12</sup>History and Biographical Record of Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, p. 425.

<sup>13</sup>Idem.

<sup>14</sup>Girard Press, (January 27, 1870).

<sup>15</sup>Company was composed of the following men: A. Danford, president; C. H. Strong, secretary; Dr. Couch, Dr. B. F. Hepler, E. J. Boering, Levi Hatch, John Losh, D. S. McIntosh, and Col. J. Alexander. A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1120.





Original Plat of Girard Scale  $\frac{1'' = 400'}{100' \quad 200' \quad 300' \quad 400'}$



June 1,<sup>16</sup> 1868.<sup>17</sup> The town was laid out by the Town Company knowing that James F. Joy was the purchaser of the land. However, "with true courage and high hopes the Town Company expended money, gave away lots to those who would build on them."<sup>18</sup>

The first building in Girard was a store building, built by Colonel J. Alexander.<sup>19</sup> Later in the year of 1868, a blacksmith shop was built by A. A. Fletcher, and the first hotel was built about the same time. James Hull erected a building in December, 1868, which was temporarily used by the county as a court house.<sup>20</sup>

The original town of Girard was surveyed and platted by D. L. McIntosh, County Surveyor of Crawford County. It is

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<sup>16</sup>June 1 was for a number of years a day of festivity for the people of Girard and its vicinity. On this day the horns from the deer shot by Dr. C. H. Strong were placed on exhibition. The original records of the proceedings of the first town meeting were read to the public on this occasion. These records were loaned by Mr. Eldridge of Girard, in whose care they had been intrusted by Dr. Strong prior to his death, to the Pittsburg Sun (before it was purchased by the Pittsburg Headlight) and were never returned; although every effort was made to secure them. The day of celebration gradually lost its significance and as it was too close to the Fourth of July it was discontinued. (Interview with W. J. Eldridge, March 26, 1933.)

<sup>17</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., (January 27, 1870).

<sup>19</sup>Other buildings were constructed in the following order: C. H. Strong, a dwelling house; Chauncey Doyle, a saloon; Nelson Sinnet, a general store.

<sup>20</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1120.



"situated on the West Half of the North West Quarter of section twenty-four (24) in Township Twenty-nine (29) south of Range Twenty-three (23) East in the County of Crawford and State of Kansas- - -."<sup>21</sup>

### Geographical Description

Girard's geographical position is enviable. It is located in the center of the fifth largest county in population in the state. Nature has favored it with a favorable topography. On the north and east the water flows by a gentle declivity into the north and middle branches of Cow Creek. On the west and south, Lightning and Thunderbolt creeks receive their waters from a gentle sloping plain.

Therefore, as Girard is located on the headwaters of these streams it is high enough to view the greater part of Crawford County. With its 988 feet of elevation, it enjoys the gentle breezes from the Gulf of Mexico.

### Early Growth

But notwithstanding nature's bountiful gifts, Girard grew slowly in its early days. Emigrants avoided the "Neutral Lands" and it is a wonder that it remained alive. By February 3, 1870, the Girard Press states that it "was fairly started on the road to prosperity."

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<sup>21</sup> Original Plat of Girard, recorded and filed in Book A of Record, p. 311.



Girard's growth has never been of the mushroom type so often seen in the great west, but has been a slow, steady growth that insures stability and permanency. Less than two years after its origin, Girard could boast of "five hotels, eight saloons, six grocery stores, five dry-goods stores, two hardware stores, two furniture stores, one drug store, one newspaper and job printing office, and seventy-two dwelling-houses, a total of 140 buildings."<sup>22</sup> In March, 1871, Girard became a city of the third class.<sup>23</sup> By 1880, it had a population of 1500 people.<sup>24</sup> In 1883, it boasted a population of 2000 inhabitants.<sup>25</sup> It was incorporated a second-class city August 30, 1883.<sup>26</sup>

#### City Government

L. F. Crawford, N. Sinnet, D. W. Burnett, W. E. Blandon, and James Hull were appointed by Probate Judge of Crawford County to constitute a Board of Trustees. At the organization meeting of the Board, James Hull was elected permanent chairman and W. E. Blandon, permanent secretary.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Girard Press, (February 3, 1870).

<sup>23</sup> A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>24</sup> Girard Press, (January 8, 1880).

<sup>25</sup> A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1127.

<sup>26</sup> From the Governor's Proclamation of a Second-Class City, recorded in the City Office.

<sup>27</sup> Journal Book, Town of Girard, Kansas, (1870-71), p. 3.

At the first meeting of the City Council, April 7, 1871, the Charter<sup>28</sup> of the Town of Girard was presented and approved.<sup>29</sup>

The last meeting of the trustees was held on April 5, 1871, for a law had been passed in March of 1871, by the Kansas legislature, incorporating Girard as a third-class city. In April of 1871, the first city officials<sup>30</sup> were elected.<sup>31</sup> At the first meeting of the city council, April 7, 1871, A. M. Cook was elected city clerk.<sup>32</sup>

On February 9, 1910, a petition was filed with the city clerk asking that a special election be called for the purpose of submitting to the voters a proposition of the adoption of the commission form of government.<sup>33</sup> A special election held for that purpose, March 23, 1911, gave 351 votes for the proposition and 151 votes against it.<sup>34</sup> A.

<sup>28</sup>See Appendix B.

<sup>29</sup>Records of the City Clerk (1871), pp. 2,3.

<sup>30</sup>First city officials were: George Ryan, mayor; A. J. Vickers, J. E. Raymond, E. Fanger, H. P. Grund, and F. B. Andrus, councilmen.

<sup>31</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>32</sup>Records of City Clerk, (April 7, 1871), pp. 1,2.

<sup>33</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book C, 318.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., p. 325. Clerk, Book C, p. 329.



Burns was elected the first mayor<sup>35</sup> of Girard under this form of government, April 5, 1910.<sup>36</sup>

### Agriculture

Girard is primarily an agricultural city. Its community is noted for its fertile and productive soil. Numerous well-equipped farms are an evidence of this fact. The prosperity of Girard merchants depends to a large degree upon the resourcefulness and progressiveness of their rural neighbors. In many instances, nature's bountiful gift of excellent farm land has made the Girard merchant a well-to-do bourgeois.

### Milk and Cream Industry

A condensed milk plant was started in May, 1908. It was located in the old electric light building<sup>3</sup> which had been purchased by the city of Girard from A. T. Marshall. Milk routes were established by the firm in several rural communities. This industry did not prosper and it was soon discontinued.<sup>2</sup>

Higgle Brothers started a creamery business on their farm<sup>3</sup> near Girard in the summer of 1932. It manufactured

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<sup>35</sup>See Appendix C for list of Girard mayors since 1871.

<sup>36</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book C, p. 329.

<sup>2</sup>The Independent News, (May 14, 1908).

<sup>3</sup>Their farm was located one mile north and one mile east of the city limits.

### CHAPTER III

#### HISTORY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

##### Agriculture

Girard is primarily an agricultural city. Its community is noted for its fertile and productive soil. Numerous well-equipped farms are an evidence of this fact. The prosperity of Girard merchants depends to a large degree upon the resourcefulness and progressiveness of their rural neighbors. In many instances, nature's bountiful gift of excellent farm land has made the Girard merchant a well-to-do bourgeois.

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<sup>1</sup>The building and land were given by the city of Girard as a subsidy to John T. Hollinger for locating the plant in Girard. The plant was located one and one-half blocks east of the southeast corner of the square. Record of City Clerk, Book C, 203.

<sup>2</sup>The Independent News, (May 14, 1908).

<sup>3</sup>Their farm was located one mile north and one mile east of the city limits.



butter and had a capacity of using cream of 400 cows.<sup>4</sup>

The Girard Creamery and Cold Storage Company was organized November 9, 1899. The organization was a stock company, promoted by Henry Holzer and Dr. J. H. Cushenberry. The capital stock was \$5000.<sup>5</sup> The plant began its operation, February 7, 1900, and was located on east Forest Avenue, south of the Burgner, Bowman, Matthews Lumber Company.<sup>6</sup>

George Loomis opened a creamery business just north of the county jail March 15, 1909.<sup>7</sup> Its specialities were butter and ice cream. Mr. Loomis sold his creamery to a Mr. Mason, who operated it until 1918, when he sold it to H. A. Roselle. On March 21, 1922, the Roselle Creamery was burned.<sup>8</sup> Prior to the fire, Mr. Roselle had made extensive improvements in his plant. This had taken most of his money and he would have been forced to quit had it not been for fifty Girard citizens, who wished to see the creamery rebuilt.<sup>9</sup> They advanced \$12,000 to Mr. Roselle

<sup>4</sup>Girard Press, (June 15, 1882).

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., (November 16, 1899).

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., (February 8, 1900).

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., (February 18, 1909).

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., (March 23, 1922).

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., (March 30, 1922).

in the form of a loan, so that a new brick building plant, equipped with up-to-date machinery could be built. The new plant was opened June 22, 1922.<sup>10</sup> In 1931, Mr. Roselle sold his creamery to the Girard Creamery Company. This new firm is devoted entirely to the butter industry, all of which is sold to markets in Springfield, Missouri.<sup>11</sup>

### Girard Greenhouse

M. E. Soudry began the erection of the Girard Greenhouse in 1907 by building six houses containing 12,000 square feet of glass. He later made the following additions: in 1908, 20,000 square feet of glass; 1910, 45,000 square feet of glass; 1911, 50,000 square feet of glass. The plant was valued at that time at \$75,000. It was the next to the largest greenhouse in 1911 west of the Mississippi River. It was built primarily for growing lettuce. This firm at one time shipped daily one ton of lettuce.<sup>12</sup>

After the World War the price of lettuce rapidly

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<sup>10</sup> Girard Press, (July 2, 1922).

<sup>11</sup> Interview with J. H. Harlan, manager and secretary of the Girard Creamery Company, April 15, 1933.

<sup>12</sup> Interview with Mr. M. E. Soudry, of Girard, Kansas, December 31, 1932. Mr. Soudry is at present engaged in a truck garden and floral business in Girard.

<sup>13</sup> Interview with W. J. Elridge (March 25, 1933).



declined, until, it was unprofitable to operate the plant. Mr. Soudry sold his interests on November 1, 1931, to Brinkman Brothers of St. Louis, who after making extensive repairs, began the raising of vegetables which they trucked over a large trade area. Also, they have in connection with their vegetable business a floricultural industry with a retail floral shop in Pittsburg, Kansas.<sup>13</sup>

#### Elridge Nursery

In 1884, W. J. Elridge moved to Girard and established a nursery on a farm which is now used for a fair ground. In 1899, he moved to his present location one-half block west of the northwest corner of the public square where he has conducted a nursery business for thirty-four years.<sup>14</sup>

#### Banks

Crawford County had no bank before 1871. A man by the name of Richey had equipped a stone building for a bank, but on the eve of its opening, he decided against operating it. Instead, he asked Franklin Playter to open a bank. In June, 1871, Mr. Playter opened the first bank in Girard and Crawford County in his law office. Its name was the Crawford County Savings Bank, but most people called it the "Playter's

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<sup>13</sup>M. E. Soudry, op. cit.

<sup>14</sup>Interview with W. J. Elridge (March 26, 1933).

Bank."<sup>15</sup> In 1872, Mr. Playter erected a two-story brick building, the first to be erected in Girard, from the bricks which were used in the county court house that had been destroyed by a tornado in the summer of 1872.<sup>16</sup> The building was completed and occupied January 9, 1873.<sup>17</sup> During the panic of 1873 every bank in Kansas south of Kansas City failed except the Playter bank of Girard and the Drake bank of Fort Scott. In March, 1877, the Playter private bank became the Crawford County Bank with Mr. Playter as president. The bank re-organized in August, 1877, and was to be known as the Merchants and Farmers Bank.<sup>18</sup> The Bank of Girard succeeded the Merchants and Farmers Bank in June, 1879, with Mr. Playter as vice-president. He sold his interests in December, 1879, which ended his banking career in Girard. On March 4, 1882, the Girard Bank failed. This was brought about by the fact that E. R. Moffet, its owner, "had become dissatisfied with the way in which the bank was

March 25, 1882, states that Mr. Moffet had paid a fifty per cent dividend amounting to \$43,000 to his depositors on Saturday, March 18, 1882.

<sup>15</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).

<sup>16</sup>Interview with J. T. Leonard, a pioneer banker of Girard, April 2, 1933. (3, 1929).

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

<sup>18</sup>Mr. Playter was president, J. E. Raymond was secretary, and J. T. Leonard was its cashier.

<sup>19</sup>Its first officers were: J. D. Barker, president; E. F. Grund, vice-president; and J. T. Leonard, cashier.



managed by his trusted cashier."<sup>19</sup>

After operating under several heads, Dr. H. W. Halderman bought the Girard Bank. He operated it as a private institution until 1905 when it was incorporated. After his death it was operated by Oscar W. Schaeffer<sup>20</sup> until it was sold in October, 1925, to the Crawford County Bank.<sup>21</sup>

In May, 1878, J. H. Booth started a private banking institution which was succeeded by the Citizen's Bank which was also a private bank.<sup>22</sup>

The Citizen's Bank was succeeded by the First National Bank of Girard, July 9, 1884, with a paid-up capital of \$50,000.<sup>23</sup> This bank has the distinction of having been managed by J. T. Leonard for forty-nine years (1884-1933). He is by far the oldest banker in Crawford County, having begun his career as a cashier in the Merchants and Farmers

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<sup>19</sup>Girard Press, (March 9, 1882). The Girard Press, March 23, 1882, states that Mr. Moffet had paid a fifty per cent dividend amounting to \$43,000 to his depositors on Saturday, March 18, 1882.

<sup>20</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., (October 3, 1929).

<sup>22</sup>The company was originally composed of: J. D. Barker, president; H. P. Grund, vice-president; J. T. Leonard, cashier; Col. E. N. Brown. A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>23</sup>Its first officers were: J. D. Barker, president; H. P. Grund, vice-president; and J. T. Leonard, cashier.

Bank in 1877.<sup>24</sup> The bank built its present building of two stories in 1898 at a cost of \$10,000.<sup>25</sup> The bank has enjoyed the confidence of its depositors since its origin and is considered an unusually strong banking institution.

Crawford County Bank was opened, October 1, 1907, under a state charter. Its first president<sup>26</sup> was W. H. Ryan, who was succeeded in January, 1910, by L. H. Lashley. This institution was thereafter commonly referred to as the "Lashley Bank." With the death of Mr. Lashley in November, 1924, Clay H. Burnett was elected its president, which office he held at the time of its failure in 1929. In October, 1925, it bought the assets of the Bank of Girard. The Crawford County Bank building, located on the northeast side of the square, was remodeled in 1926 at a cost of \$20,000, making it one of the finest bank buildings in Girard.<sup>27</sup>

This institution was one of Girard's most popular banks for many years, but when false and erroneous reports were

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<sup>24</sup>Interview with J. T. Leonard, (April 2, 1933).

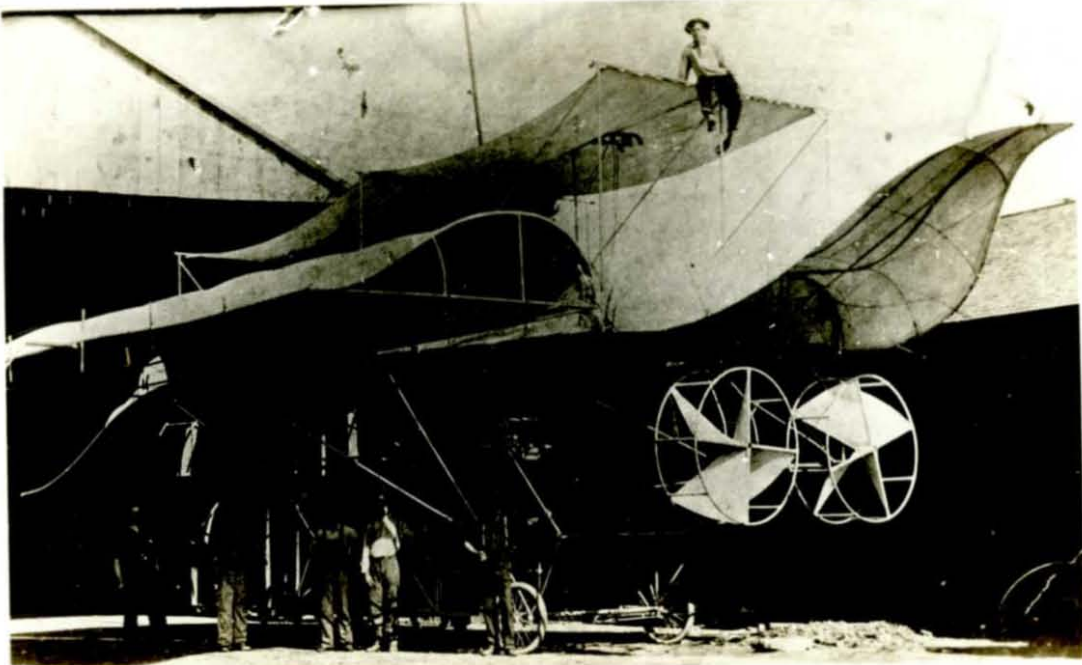
<sup>25</sup>Girard Press, (December 22, 1898).

<sup>26</sup>Other officers were: L. H. Lashley, vice-president; John E. Wagner, cashier; and H. H. Radley, assistant cashier.

<sup>27</sup>Girard Press, (July 8, 1926).



circulated as to its financial standing, depositors withdrew large sums of money so that the bank was forced to close its doors September 26, 1933.<sup>28</sup>



arrived in Girard in February, 1908, as shown on

#### <sup>29</sup> Girard Press. (Oct.) The Girard Airship

<sup>30</sup> Some of the men who were instrumental in organizing the bank are: H. H. Jensen, Ed. D. Strickler, J. E. Thayer, E. F. Leonard, Albert Glaser, S. J. Schrieber, and many others. H. H. Jensen has been its president since it opened in 1918. It has had the following cashiers: Albert Smith, E. H. Holt, and Ed. D. Strickler.

<sup>31</sup> Interview with W. E. Schifferdecker, Assistant Cashier, April 16, 1933.

circulated as to its financial standing, depositors withdrew large sums of money so that the bank was forced to close its doors September 26, 1929.<sup>28</sup>

The Girard National Bank was opened for business in July, 1918, under the name of the Farmers and Miners State Bank.<sup>29</sup> In 1923 the bank purchased its location from the Waylands. It is a two-story building located on the northwest corner of the square. On July 1, 1929, at the request of the stockholders and directors of the bank, the National Banking Department issued a charter permitting the bank to convert from a State bank into a National Bank. The name of the bank was then changed to the Girard National Bank. The present capital is \$30,000, surplus \$20,000 with total deposits of \$205,000.<sup>30</sup>

#### The Aerial Navigation Company of America

Mr. Henry Laurens Call, an idealist with mechanical ideas, arrived in Girard in February, 1908. He sought an

<sup>28</sup> Girard Press, (October 3, 1929).

<sup>29</sup> Some of the men who were instrumental in organizing the bank are: H. H. Janssen, Ed. C. Strickler, J. N. Thomson, H. F. Leonard, Albert Clausen, S. J. Beardsley, and many others. H. H. Janssen has been its president since it opened in 1918. It has had the following cashiers: Albert Smith, D. H. Holt, and Ed. C. Strickler.

<sup>30</sup> Interview with W. E. Schifferdecker, Assistant Cashier, April 16, 1933.



interview with J. A. Wayland,<sup>31</sup> owner of the Appeal to Reason, but finding that Mr. Wayland was not in town he presented himself to the editor of the Appeal, Mr. Fred D. Warren. He proposed to build an airplane large enough to carry a delegation from the Appeal to Reason to the Socialist Convention that was to be held during the month of May in Chicago. For \$2500 such a machine could be built. Mr. Warren stated that although skeptical of the project he felt interested enough to raise \$2500. This he did by allocating the sum to various officials on the Appeal's staff. Since such a project was so new and uncertain, it was thought best by Mr. Warren that the Appeal's name should not be connected with it until its success was a certainty.<sup>32</sup>

Mr. Call again visited Girard during the following month and informed several people that he intended to move to Girard and build an airship.<sup>33</sup> In April, 1908, he and his wife

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<sup>31</sup> Call was undoubtedly drawn to Girard as many others were in hope of being financed by Wayland, who was reputed to be wealthy.

<sup>32</sup> Interview with Fred. D. Warren, (January 21, 1933).

<sup>33</sup> Girard Press, (March 10, 1908). The Press also states that Mr. Call was a member of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science of New York. The paper was unfriendly toward Mr. Call's project which they correctly suspected was being promoted by the Appeal to Reason. It states that the Appeal is creating an aerial navy to be used in capturing the Czar of Russia and bring him to Girard and where he would be sentenced to four years of hard work feeding wire in a clothes pin machine, which was being operated by the Girard Manufacturing Company. The following issue claims that they



moved to Girard. He started at once to construct a huge ship in an old lumber yard located where the county jail now stands. It was fifty feet long, thirty-seven feet wide, and thirty feet high. Seamless steel tubing was used for the framework. It had two thousand feet of canvas for a sustaining surface. It was equipped so that it might travel on land and water, as well as in the air. Its propellers were at first constructed of canvas vanes, but were soon discarded in favor of our modern propellers.<sup>34</sup> This huge bird, as it was often called, was to be propelled by two twenty-horse power engines.<sup>35</sup>

Call's "Great Dream" was to make its initial flight, July 4, 1908. Girard sponsored a big celebration in honor of the occasion. Thousands of visitors came to Girard, only to be disappointed as the ship was unfinished.<sup>36</sup>

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had secretly learned that the plane was also to be used in distributing the Appeal to Reason in order to avoid so much trouble with the United States Post Office Authorities, Girard Press, March 20, 1908.

<sup>34</sup>It was equipped with all necessary parts of an automobile. Its cabin was a boat and was equipped with a rudder. It was later equipped with two forty-horse power motors which were installed by a factory representative, A. D. Cook of Hammondsport, N. Y., Girard Press, October 1, 1908.

<sup>35</sup>Girard Press, (July 9, 1908).

<sup>36</sup>Idem.



After considerable trouble<sup>37</sup> in moving the big ship from its barge to a flying field, located one-half mile east of Girard, it was unable to leave the ground in its trial flight.

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<sup>37</sup>The ship's weight of 3000 pounds was too much for its small wheels and a **A Later Airship Built by Mr. Call**

<sup>38</sup>Interview with Max Strubble, (January 28, 1933). Mr. Strubble's father, H. W. Strubble, was killed November 2, 1908, by being sucked into a revolving propeller while the engines were being tuned-up. Girard Press, November 5, 1908.

<sup>39</sup>Building was located two blocks east of the northeast side of the square.

<sup>40</sup>Interview with Jack McKee, a Girard contractor, who constructed the building, January 29, 1933.

<sup>41</sup>Interview with Max Strubble, (January 28, 1933).

After considerable trouble<sup>37</sup> in moving the big ship from its hangar to a flying field, located one-half mile east of Girard, it was unable to leave the ground in its trial flight.<sup>38</sup> A board walk, or runway, was built to enable the ship to take off more easily. After several unsuccessful attempts to fly the big ship, it was hauled back to Girard to a building<sup>39</sup> which had been partly constructed from the material used in the board walk.<sup>40</sup>

Mr. Call now set about to invent another type of plane which resembled our modern ones. He succeeded in flying one of his new type for a distance of several feet before it fell to the ground and was wrecked.<sup>41</sup>

Mr. Call not only manufactured airplanes, but also engines of two and four cylinder type. The engines were made from aluminium and were so successful that several were sold

<sup>37</sup>The ship's weight of 3000 pounds was too much for its small wheels and axles, which collapsed.

<sup>38</sup>Interview with Max Strubble, (January 28, 1933). Mr. Strubble's father, H. W. Strubble, was killed November 2, 1908, by being sucked into a revolving propeller while the engines were being tuned-up. Girard Press, November 5, 1908.

<sup>39</sup>Building was located two blocks east of the northeast side of the square.

<sup>40</sup>Interview with Zack McKee, a Girard contractor, who constructed the building, January 29, 1933.

<sup>41</sup>Interview with Max Strubble, (January 28, 1933).



in eastern United States to builders of planes.<sup>42</sup> Gradually, Mr. Call gave up his airplane manufacturing and devoted his twenty million dollar corporation<sup>43</sup> to a general repair shop.<sup>44</sup>

This industry raised and spent a vast sum of money during its short life. Few citizens suffered any considerable loss as most investors were well aware from the beginning that the whole project was an experiment which would likely end in a failure. Many Girard people have expressed their belief, that, if Call had secured experienced flyers his later ships would have flown with slight changes.

Girard citizens were early educated by Mr. Call in the possibilities of future advancement of aerial navigation. On August 18, 1927, Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh honored Girard<sup>45</sup> by flying over it in his famous "Spirit of St. Louis." This event recalled the days of 1908 when Girard

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<sup>42</sup>Interview with C. A. Hewitt, a Girard carpenter, who was employed to make wooden forms to be used in casting the motors, January 29, 1933.

<sup>43</sup>Aerial Navigation Company of America was incorporated under the laws of Arizona in 1908 for \$20,000,000. This fact was ascertained from a stock certificate which was given to the writer.

<sup>44</sup>Girard Press, (March 4, 1909).

<sup>45</sup>See Appendix D for message dropped by Col. Lindbergh in the court house yard. This message was later framed and placed in the Chamber of Commerce rooms.

could boast of having an airplane factory.<sup>46</sup>

### Brick and Tile Plants

Mr. C. Cadwell started a brick plant south of the new cemetery. After his death it was operated by his son, George Cadwell. He sold the plant to a firm by the name of Parker and Andrew, who abandoned it shortly afterwards. It seems that the top layer of clay made excellent brick while the underneath layers of clay made inferior brick.<sup>47</sup>

The Girard Brick and Tile Factory<sup>48</sup> was organized and chartered under the laws of Kansas in 1908. The plant was located one mile north of Girard on a five-acre tract of land purchased from F. M. May. H. C. Hermann of Deepwater, Missouri, a man of twenty years experience in burning clay, was employed as superintendent. The plant had a capacity of twelve to twenty thousand bricks per day.<sup>49</sup> It never made any bricks according to R. T. Grant<sup>50</sup> but confined its output to manufacturing tile. Excellent tile was made and

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<sup>46</sup>Girard Press, (August 18, 1927).

<sup>47</sup>Interview with J. T. Leonard, (April 2, 1933).

<sup>48</sup>Company had the following officers: J. R. Carpenter, president; W. J. Vane, secretary; H. H. Radley, treasurer.

<sup>49</sup>Girard Press, (October 1, 1908).

<sup>50</sup>Mr. Grant was a heavy investor in the company and later became its treasurer.

Interview with Harry Magie, (February 4, 1933).



large quantities were sold to local farmers but as the company lacked capital to market their products it was forced to quit when the local market had been supplied.<sup>51</sup>

### Broom Factory

In the east addition of what was once the old airplane building, located on east Forest Avenue, is an industry that may be traced back to the fourth generation of the Magie family. The Magies were Chicago broom makers, who came to Kansas after they were burned out by the Chicago fire. They settled on a farm north of Pittsburg, Kansas, where each generation in its turn occupied themselves by making brooms during the winter months. In November, 1889, John W. Magie was elected to the office of Register of Deeds. He moved to Girard that fall and established a broom factory in a barn located at the rear of his home on north Summit Avenue.<sup>52</sup> Shortly after the Aerial Navigation Company of America ceased its operation, Mr. Magie bought the present location. It is now operated by his son, Harry Magie. Mr. Magie supplies brooms to a large trade area; making regular deliveries by truck to all towns within it.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Interview with R. T. Grant, (April 15, 1933).

<sup>52</sup> Interview with Mrs. Charles Roderick, a sister of John W. Magie, who lives on 612 North Catalpa Street, Pittsburg, Kansas, February 11, 1933.

<sup>53</sup> Interview with Harry Magie, (February 4, 1933).

two years later at Decker's Bottling Works soda water company.<sup>50</sup>

A soda water factory, owned and operated by Ernest Decker, is located one-half block east of the square. This factory began its operation in 1916 and bottles sixteen different flavors of Decker's "Big Ben." A trade territory including twelve towns furnishes a ready market for the soft drink.<sup>54</sup>

in 1899, occupied a large Foundries the front part of which, George Endicott started a foundry in Girard in 1878.<sup>55</sup> His foundry was located in a frame building that was attached to the rear of the Ross Blacksmith Shop on south Ozark Street. Mr. Ross stated that the building used for a foundry was burned down about 1888 and was never re-built.<sup>56</sup>

An industry<sup>57</sup> that was of much benefit to Girard was started in 1884 by William Collins.<sup>58</sup> In November, 1885, John Tontz bought an interest in the foundry. The business was then operated under the name of Collins and Tontz.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>54</sup>Interview with Ernest Decker, (April 15, 1933).

<sup>55</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1123.

<sup>56</sup>Interview with Mr. E. G. Ross, (April 16, 1933).

<sup>57</sup>The foundry building is located just east of the Santa Fe Depot.

<sup>58</sup>Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).

<sup>59</sup>Ibid., (November 19, 1885).



Two years later it was incorporated as a stock company.<sup>60</sup>

Early in 1889, an addition (thirty-two by sixty feet) was built making it one of the largest foundries in Kansas.<sup>61</sup>

In 1890, C. Hitz became an owner under the firm of Tontz Brothers and Hitz.<sup>62</sup> Mr. C. Hitz became the sole proprietor in September, 1899.<sup>63</sup>

The Girard Foundry and Stove Company, as it was called in 1899, occupied a large building, the front part of which, two stories in height, was occupied by the finishing, storage, and packing rooms, the shipping department, and main office, the rear part contained an engine and boiler room and the foundry.<sup>64</sup>

This company manufactured the three classes of stoves: cook stove, cook heater, and heater. The "Pullman", "Wonder", "Kanawka", "Quick Step", and "No. 20 Globe" were the different types of cook stoves manufactured. The "Pride" and "Jo Dandy", both two-hole stoves; and the "Climax", a four-hole stove, were the types of cook heaters made. They made only one type of heater, "114 Red Oak." The company

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<sup>60</sup> Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., (February 7, 1889).

<sup>62</sup> Ibid., (November 21, 1895).

<sup>63</sup> Independent News, (December 20, 1900).

<sup>64</sup> Idem.

also made repairs for other makes of stoves as well as for their own brands.<sup>65</sup>

In 1926, the C. Hitz and Son Foundry (as it was then known) was sold to five men from Illinois. In addition to manufacturing stoves and stove repairs, they intended to manufacture a solid metal casket constructed of bronze and aluminium. They operated under the firm name, the Girard Foundry and Metal Casket Company. This company for some unknown reason failed to operate after making some extensive repairs in the plant.<sup>66</sup>

#### National Engineering Company

In the fall of 1930, the National Engineering Company began the manufacture of steel culverts in the old foundry building under the management of H. D. Cole. Steel culverts are constructed from old boilers and refinery tanks and are sold to county and state highway departments. The company employs two full-time salesmen to sell their culverts.<sup>67</sup>

#### Girard Manufacturing Company

This company was another project, promoted by the

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<sup>65</sup> Independent News, (December 20, 1900).

<sup>66</sup> Girard Press, (July 15, 1926).

<sup>67</sup> Interview with H. D. Cole, (February 4, 1933).



Appeal to Reason of Girard.<sup>68</sup> Mr. Wallace, a Canadian, induced officials of the Appeal to equip a factory for manufacturing a cereal coffee called "Nutre-To." The factory also manufactured "Nutral," a cooking oil made from cotton seed, and a wire clothes pin. The factory was first located in a building at the rear of the Appeal. The building was later moved to the west side where it burned and was never re-built.<sup>69</sup>

### Ice Industry

Today, in the northwestern part of Girard, a large pond and ice house remain as a memento of a once flourishing business.

In 1880, James McFarland built an ice pond which was located about one mile south of the southeast corner of the city limits of Girard. He next rented the Higgle pond (now called Burnett's Lake). In 1895 he constructed a large ice pond<sup>70</sup> across the road south of the Higgle pond. He also

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<sup>68</sup> Interview with Mr. Ben Warren of Girard. He stated that five men gave \$200 each for the establishment of the Girard Manufacturing Company. (April 16, 1933).

<sup>69</sup> Interview with Max Strubble, a former employee, January 28, 1933.

<sup>70</sup> This pond is about one block long by one-half of a block wide and has a depth ranging from three to seven feet.

erected in the same year an ice house in which 3500 tons of ice could be stored.<sup>71</sup>

No doubt, the reader is well aware of the fact that this method of producing ice is obsolete. The McFarland Ice Company for several years has supplied their customers with ice manufactured by the Pittsburg, Kansas, Independent Ice Company which supplies ice to nearly every town within a radius of twenty miles.

#### The Milling Industry

Throughout the Mills Chemical Company Girard Press, re-

"Cranolene" was discovered by G. A. Mills. Mr. Mills, who for twenty years had suffered from Eczema, was attacked with Erysipelas. After trying numerous cures, he recalled that his grandmother had often said that cranberry poultice was good for curing Erysipelas. The results were not satisfactory at first, but he discovered that by adding the juice and pulp of cranberries to a certain healing oil he was almost immediately cured and that his Eczema was also healing where the preparation had been applied to areas affected by Erysipelas.<sup>72</sup>

Mr. Mills for a number of years manufactured and sold his discovery which he called "Cranolene." Later the

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<sup>71</sup>Interview with Mrs. Atha McFarland of Girard, Kansas, (March 26, 1933).



formula was purchased by Ben Warren of Girard, who is its present owner. Mr. Warren has his formula prepared in the laboratories of Parke-Davis of Detroit, Michigan. "Cranolene" is sold through jobbing houses to retailers of drugs. Several advertisements are carried in magazines and newspapers so that a large volume of his business is sold directly to the user.<sup>72</sup>

### The Milling Industry

Throughout the early issues of the Girard Press, repeated calls are found requesting that somebody erect a flouring mill in Girard. In the Girard Press, October 13, 1870, a news item states that, John Tontz and Christian Hitz of Tontzville in Miami County, Kansas, had met with a group of Girard business men and had promised to move their mill to Girard, provided that \$500 would be paid to them, one-half to be paid upon completion of the mill building and the other half when the mill was in operation. The mill was completed in the spring of 1871. A two and a half story frame building<sup>73</sup> was erected two blocks north<sup>74</sup> of the present site of

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<sup>72</sup> Interview with Ben Warren, (April 16, 1933).

<sup>73</sup> The size of the building was twenty-six by forty feet.

<sup>74</sup> The old mill pond still exists just north of the intersection of the Frisco and Santa Fe railroads.



the mill now owned by the Boyd-Pate Grain and Milling Company. The mill was erected and equipped at a cost of \$10,000 and was the first business in Girard of any great importance. In 1879, John Tontz retired from active partnership and in June, 1882, he sold his interests to Mr. Hitz for \$3,800.<sup>75</sup>

In the same year, Mr. Hitz erected a new brick mill two blocks south of their first mill where it still stands to-day at the intersection of the St. Johns street and the Frisco railroad.<sup>76</sup> The old mill building was converted into an elevator at the new site.<sup>77</sup> This mill had a flour capacity of 125 barrels and a meal capacity of 50 barrels per day. They made the following brands of hard wheat flour: "The Big H", "Banner Patent", and "High Comfort". Their soft wheat brands of flour were: "City Belle", "Straight Patent", and "Snow Flake."

It was owned by Mrs. C. Hitz and children. It was managed by C. W. Hitz, a son.

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<sup>75</sup> Girard Press, (June 22, 1882).

<sup>76</sup> The new building was erected three and a half stories high above a stone basement and roofed with tin. It was thirty-six by forty feet in size. A two-story brick engine house (twelve by thirty-six feet) was attached to the main building and on its south there was a boiler room (twelve by thirty-six feet) constructed of brick which was one story high. A furnace draught was obtained by a brick chimney, ten feet in size at the base and sixty-five feet high. The engine room contained a sixty-five horse power engine, Independent News, December 20, 1900.

<sup>77</sup> This elevator had a storage capacity of 25,000 bushels and a daily handling capacity of 5,000 bushels. Independent News, December 20, 1900.



During the World War period the storage capacity of flour and meal was enlarged by a two-story brick addition on the north side of the main mill building.

In 1923 this milling company<sup>78</sup> was incorporated<sup>79</sup> under the State Laws of Kansas with a capital stock of \$250,000. During August of 1923, a contract was let to the Southwestern Engineering Company of Springfield, Missouri, for \$32,350<sup>80</sup> to erect a new 75,000 bushel elevator.<sup>81</sup> In July, 1926, the C. Hitz and Son Milling Company was leased to the Kansas Flour Mills Corporation.<sup>82</sup> In April, 1928, the Boyd-Pate Grain and Milling Company bought the mills. They are the present owners and they manufacture the following brands of mixed feed: "Reindeer", "Jersey", and "O. K." They also make a corn meal, "Reindeer."

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<sup>78</sup>Company was owned by Mrs. C. Hitz and children. It was managed by C. W. Hitz, a son.

<sup>79</sup>Officers were: C. W. Hitz, president; J. M. Vincent, secretary, and J. T. Leonard, treasurer.

<sup>80</sup>Girard Press, (August 30, 1923). 15, 1933).

<sup>81</sup>It was to be 120 feet high and with 15 bins with a combined capacity of 75,000 bushels. It has two elevators with a capacity of 2000 bushels per hour. A 200 h. p. motor was installed.

<sup>82</sup>Girard Press, (July 15, 1926).

<sup>83</sup>Girard Press, (February 1, 1922).

<sup>84</sup>Interview with Wm. Beckoway, (January 22, 1933).

They ship the greater part of their products into the cotton states. The plant has a daily (twenty-four hours) capacity of 350 barrels.<sup>83</sup>

The Crawford County Mills were started in 1870 by a stock company, after the Girard Mills were started. These mills were two and a half stories high and were propelled by a twenty-five horse power engine. In 1875 they were sold to Franklin Playter.<sup>84</sup> After passing through several hands it finally burned down. The mills were located south of the C. Hitz and Son Foundry building. The present site is occupied by the storage tanks of the Wright Oil Company.<sup>85</sup>

James Brown and Company erected an elevator at the present site<sup>86</sup> of the Farmers Co-operative Elevator. It was propelled by an eighteen horse power engine.<sup>87</sup> After passing through several hands it was bought from Moore and Taft in 1911 by William Reckeway. He sold it to the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company in 1917.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>83</sup>Interview with V. C. Boyd, (April 16, 1933).

<sup>84</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1122.

<sup>85</sup>Interview with J. T. Leonard, (April 2, 1933).

<sup>86</sup>It is located two blocks south of the Frisco depot.

<sup>87</sup>Girard Press, (February 1, 1872).

<sup>88</sup>Interview with Wm. Reckeway, (January 28, 1933).



The Farmers Co-Operative Association was organized January 8, 1917. It was incorporated for \$150,000 under the laws of Kansas. Its capital stock today is \$83,325. The Association owns and operates six branch elevators in Crawford County.<sup>89</sup> The business is managed by a general manager, C. A. Clark, who is selected by a board of nine directors who are chosen by the stockholders for a period of three years.

No record has been left when the Custom Mills were established. They were, however, operating as early as 1883.<sup>90</sup> They were located west of the First National Bank building. After passing through several hands, they were

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<sup>89</sup>Elevators are located at Beulah, Monmouth, McCune, Brazilton, Walnut, and Farlington, Kansas. The main office is located at Girard. All buying or selling in quantity lots is handled through the main office. The Association is composed of over 900 stockholders. Each share of stock costs \$25. No person can own over \$2000 worth of stock. Out of the annual earnings of the company, 3 to 5 per cent is set aside as a sinking fund for bad investments and losses. Then 8 per cent is paid on the capital stock, if the profits have been enough. Any remaining profits are then distributed to each stockholder in proportion to the amount of purchases made by him during the current year. This Association sells grain, flour, feed, coal, International and Massey Harris Farm Implements, and Union Certified gasoline, kerosene, and motor oils. Interview with Emmett Bosie (bookkeeper), January 28, 1933.

<sup>90</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1122.

<sup>96</sup>Mr. Reskeway charges one cent per pound for his flour in making an exchange for any given number of pounds of wheat.

taken over in 1900 by Leigh and Gerken from Mr. Hitz and Mr. Bush.<sup>91</sup> The new firm attempted to buy the mills<sup>92</sup> but were unable to do so. They then bought their present location<sup>93</sup> in the same year. In February, 1908, Leigh and Gerken installed electric power<sup>94</sup> and thereafter was called the Electric Mills. The mills are now operated by Gerken and Messenger. Their business is principally confined to producing and selling mixed feeds.<sup>95</sup>

Reckeway Mills were built in 1918 and were located one-half block east of the southeast corner of the square. The biggest volume of business of this enterprise is exchanging flour for wheat with farmers.<sup>96</sup> He makes both hard and soft wheat flours. His soft wheat brand is known as the "Primrose" while the hard wheat brand is called "Flavo". He also produces: corn meal, whole wheat flour,

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<sup>91</sup>Interview with Fred A. Gerken, (January 7, 1933).

<sup>92</sup>The mill building was ordered by the City Council, August 5, 1907, to be town down as it was a fire hazard. Records of City Clerk, (August 5, 1907).

<sup>93</sup>Located one-half block north of the northeast corner of the public square.

<sup>94</sup>Girard Press, (February 6, 1908).

<sup>95</sup>Interview with Fred Gerken, (January 7, 1933).

<sup>96</sup>Mr. Reckeway charges one cent per pound for his flour in making an exchange for any given number of pounds of wheat.



graham flour, pancake flour. The capacity of this mill is twenty-five barrels per day.<sup>97</sup>

### Smelters

The nearness of Girard to the coal fields and the large zinc ore mines created a movement, that began as early as February 12, 1880,<sup>98</sup> to secure smelters for Girard.

A. S. Johnson of Girard in April, 1888, made an unsuccessful attempt to locate smelters in Girard. It seems that certain parties secured an injunction "to have the smelters company enjoined from building, locating, and operating a smelter upon the ground donated to the company." Thus, Mr. Johnson's efforts were fruitless.<sup>99</sup>

The citizens of Girard were now determined more than ever to have a smelter plant.<sup>100</sup> By September, 1888, a

<sup>97</sup>Interview with William Reckewey, (January 28, 1933.)

<sup>98</sup>Girard Press, (February 12, 1880).

<sup>99</sup>Ibid., (November 21, 1895).

<sup>100</sup>The city council of Girard voted \$600 for the erection of the Girard Zinc Company, payable June 1, 1889, Records of City Clerk, Book A, 88.

<sup>101</sup>Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).

plant was under construction.<sup>101</sup> It was located about three miles southeast of Girard on the west side of Cow Creek near the tracks of the Frisco and Santa Fe railroads. The furnaces were built near the bank of the stream as it afforded a good place for the refuse ashes and residuum.<sup>107</sup>

The builders of the Girard Zinc Company were never able to operate their smelters. The fires were never lighted, as the contract with the Kansas and Texas Coal Company for supplying slack coal was found defective.<sup>102</sup>

In 1890 the plant was sold to a group of St. Louis business men,<sup>103</sup> who capitalized the Girard Zinc Company for \$50,000.<sup>104</sup>

In 1903 the "new works" were also moved to the Chanute

<sup>101</sup>The following buildings were erected: blacksmith shop, ten by twelve feet; pottery room, twenty by twenty-four feet; dry room for retorts, with furnace below, twenty by twenty-four feet; brick retort kiln, used to make clay, nine by eighteen feet; flat roast kiln, two-stories high, twenty by thirty feet; furnace building, forty-eight by fifty feet; crusher and mining room, twenty by thirty feet; and to the north of the plant a large boarding house was erected by the company. Taken from Girard Press, (January 24, 1889).

<sup>102</sup>Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).

<sup>103</sup>Officers of this company were: Henry Hess, President; F. W. Steuck, Secretary and Treasurer; and Herman Kaemmerling, Superintendent of Works.

<sup>104</sup>Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).

<sup>105</sup>Chanute was to furnish gas at actual cost of production.

<sup>106</sup>Girard Press, (December 11, 1902).

<sup>107</sup>Interview with Mrs. Herman Kaemmerling of Chanute, Kansas, (December 31, 1932.).



In 1891 the plant was doubled in capacity by the addition of another block of furnaces.<sup>105</sup>

In 1892 a second plant was built by the owners of the Girard Zinc Company, but was known as the "Kansas Zinc Mining and Smelting Company"<sup>106</sup> at a cost of \$75,000.<sup>107</sup> The plant<sup>108</sup> was completed, January 15, 1894.

The cost of fuel soon caused the old smelters to close down with a gradual reduction in the price received for the smelted ores. On December 6, 1902, the city council of Chanute, Kansas,<sup>109</sup> a town where natural gas was found, entered into a contract with Henry Hess to move the Girard Zinc Works to that city.<sup>110</sup>

In 1903 the "new works" were also moved to the Chanute gas fields where they might have an abundance of cheap fuel.<sup>111</sup>

<sup>105</sup>Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).

<sup>106</sup>This plant was commonly called the "new works" while the Girard Zinc plant was known as the "old works".

<sup>107</sup>Girard spent about \$10,000 in securing the location of these two plants, according to the Girard Press, December 11, 1902.

<sup>108</sup>This plant was what is known as a four-block smelter, with a capacity of four car loads of slack and over one-half car load of zinc ore every twenty-four hours.

<sup>109</sup>Chanute was to furnish gas at actual cost of production.

<sup>110</sup>Girard Press, (December 11, 1902).

<sup>111</sup>Interview with Mrs. Herman Kaemmerling of Chanute, Kansas, (December 31, 1932.).

Canada, two states in Strubble Factory and the Hawaiian

Isles. H. W. Strubble began the manufacture of cider and vinegar in 1890. In addition, he operated a fence factory. Oak woven picket and wire fences were made in heights, ranging from two to five feet. The plant was located three and a half blocks west of the northwest corner of the square.<sup>112</sup> It was discontinued years ago.

The S-W<sup>113</sup> Supply Company has its own job press in  
S-W Supply Company

order to assure prompt delivery of all rush orders from  
 M. G. Slawson began in February, 1923, to manufacture undertakers who desire their names to be printed on the small a grave marker of his own invention. He began his operations in a barn located at the rear of his home which is one-half block east of the southeast corner of the square.

His business had increased so rapidly by 1926, that he was employing nine men and two office girls. In the same year he erected a two-story brick factory building. His sales have steadily increased, until, they annually amount to \$35,000.<sup>114</sup> rated as a mail order house. In March, 1928,

He has added several other products to the "Perfection" line. They are: chick feeders, hand feeders, golf distance markers, and nursery markers.

"The sun never sets on our Sunflower products," said Mr. Slawson in an interview.<sup>115</sup> "Perfection" products are shipped into every state in the union, seven provinces in

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<sup>112</sup>Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).



Canada, two states in Mexico, Alaska, and the Hawaiian Islands. He has filled orders for nurserymen in Transvall, South Africa; Madrid, Spain; and the Guam Islands. He advertises his products in Undertakers Journals, published in New York City, San Francisco, and Atlanta, Georgia. He also carries advertisements in the American Nurseryman of Rochester, New York.

The S-W<sup>113</sup> Supply Company has its own job press in order to assure prompt delivery of all rush orders from undertakers who desire their names to be printed on the small card that is inserted into the metal marker.<sup>114</sup>

Walberts and Timberlake

Hardware and Furniture Company

This company was incorporated June 15, 1922, with a capital stock of \$200,000. It operated stores in Girard, Arma, West Mineral, and Columbus, Kansas.<sup>115</sup> For a short time it operated as a mail order house.<sup>116</sup> In March, 1928,

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<sup>113</sup>The S-W Supply Company obtained its name by taking the first letter of Slawson and the first letter of Mrs. Slawson's maiden name, Wilson.

<sup>114</sup>Interview with M. G. Slawson, (January 28, 1933).

<sup>115</sup>Girard Press, (July 20, 1922).

<sup>116</sup>E. Haldeman-Julius was a member of the mail order firm.

<sup>117</sup>Girard Press, (January 30, 1929).

<sup>118</sup>See footnote 2, Chapter IV.

<sup>119</sup>Girard Press, (March 22, 1921).

the Girard store was discontinued, its stock being moved to Columbus.<sup>117</sup>

### Wagon Factories

Wagon factories were operated by L. B. Lehr and E. C. Lynch. They manufactured wagons that would "wear longer than the cheap vehicles" imported from other states.<sup>118</sup> This industry was abandoned years ago.

Many industries that have been discussed have long since died out; others have died more recently, but they have all had a more or less important bearing upon the development of Girard. Its present industries are not numerous, but they are well established and will undoubtedly exist for many years.

### Coal

Coal was discovered near Girard in the early days. As early as March 23, 1871, the Girard Coal and Mining Company had sunk a shaft a few rods east of the present St. Louis and San Francisco depot.<sup>119</sup> On that date they reported a two-foot vein of superior coal at a depth of thirty feet "with much loose earth beneath."<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>117</sup>Interview with Mr. Robert Quarton of Scammon, Kansas, an employee in the firm, (April 21, 1933).

<sup>118</sup>Girard Press, (January 30, 1879).

<sup>119</sup>See footnote 2, Chapter IV.

<sup>120</sup>Girard Press, (March 23, 1871).



By 1872 the Girard Coal and Mining Company had established offices at Girard and was hauling coal from Limestone Station to Girard to be shipped. Coal was hauled from various parts of the county to Girard<sup>121</sup> where railroad facilities made it possible to ship coal to outside markets. It is quite evident that the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company gave little or no thought of the possible development of the coal industry in Crawford County, when they were surveying their line; otherwise they might have located it differently.

A. Knicely, in 1881, sunk a shaft near Cow Creek just east of Girard,<sup>122</sup> and found a vein of good coal, twenty-two inches in thickness at a depth of sixty-five feet. Digging twelve feet farther they found another vein, ten inches in thickness.<sup>123</sup>

Colonel E. N. Brown, believing that coal was to be found on his farm, located one-half mile east of Girard, sank a shaft.<sup>124</sup> On June 12, 1882, an excellent quality of

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<sup>121</sup>History and Biographical Record of Crawford County, Kansas, pp. 102, 103.

<sup>122</sup>Site of this shaft was located in the southern part of Raymond's Park.

<sup>123</sup>Girard Press, (January 12, 1882).

<sup>124</sup>The citizens of Girard paid half of the expense of sinking Colonel Brown's shaft. This shaft has been dug to a lower vein of coal in later years. Its tiple is still intact.

coal was found. The vein was twenty-two inches in thickness and was found at a depth of sixty feet. A representative of the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad visited the shaft and pronounced the coal to be a "superior quality."<sup>125</sup>

Girard citizens, who were ever on the look-out to promote Girard's interests, gave a contract to J. R. Ramsey to drill six wells in order to ascertain the existence of coal and gas around Girard. His report<sup>126</sup> was not very encouraging for further prospecting. But in the following years coal mines were sunk so close to Girard<sup>127</sup> that its ambition to become a great coal center was revived. On several occasions it freely contributed to funds for prospecting purposes.<sup>128</sup> However, with the decline of the deep mine industry,<sup>129</sup> Girard's ambition of being a coal center industry was not realized. Girard coal fields will remain undeveloped until the strip mines in the eastern

<sup>125</sup> Girard Press, (June 14, 1882).

<sup>126</sup> See Appendix E.

<sup>127</sup> Mines were sunk four and one-half miles east of Girard which proved to be a very productive field.

<sup>128</sup> City Records, Book E, 318.

<sup>129</sup> Deep mines are unable to compete with the large electric steam shovels in this district.



part of the county are worked out. A large amount of land has been leased by deep mine companies south of Girard near the village of Beulah (four and a half miles south). Here it is said by those who claim to know, that drill tests show coal of superior quality, but it is found at a greater depth than in the eastern part of Crawford County.

### Gas

A number of gas wells have been drilled in Girard. Several of these wells were drilled in 1923 and are to-day supplying natural gas in homes.

On May 2, 1932, the city of Girard entered into contract with L. O. Gascho to drill for gas at Raymond Park (owned by the city) located one mile east of city. A sufficient supply of gas was obtained, that the citizens of Girard voted to give a franchise to Mr. Gascho, thereby, permitting him to pipe natural gas into the city limits.<sup>130</sup> Mr. Gascho expects to drill several more wells and promises that he will be able to furnish gas to consumers at a much lower rate than they are now paying.

<sup>1</sup>James P. Joy, who had purchased the Neutral Lands, helped to build this road.

<sup>2</sup>Depot was located just south of the present site of the Frisco depot. It was later moved two blocks south where it occupied the west side of a joint station; the other side being occupied by the Frisco railroad. In an interview with E. J. Crawford, who became the depot agent for the Frisco line just 18, 1903, (April 2, 1933).

<sup>130</sup> Girard Press, (April 6, 1933).

## CHAPTER IV

meeting was to TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION to prepare an appropriate celebration when the first passenger train should reach Girard. The Highways on occurred on Thursday evening. Girard is located on two state highways; number fifty-seven which runs east and west two blocks north of the public square, and number seven which runs north and south through the city on Summit Avenue. Number seven is commonly called the Short Line which is the shortest highway between Tulsa, Oklahoma and Kansas City, Missouri. St. Louis and San J. Nearly all roads radiating from Girard are all-weather roads. This farm to home market system of roads makes it possible for farmers living near Girard to sell their products when market prices are the highest, regardless of weather conditions. railroad. They hired Colonel E. H. Brown of Carthage, Missouri, to Railroads road west to Cherokee, Kansas. The Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf railroad was the first road to be built in Girard.<sup>1</sup> On February 10, 1870, its depot was located<sup>2</sup> on east Forest Street. A to finance it, providing the road would run to Girard.<sup>3</sup> So

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<sup>1</sup>James F. Joy, who had purchased the Neutral Lands, helped to build this road.

<sup>2</sup>Depot was located just south of the present site of the Frisco depot. It was later moved two blocks south where it occupied the west side of a joint station; the other side being occupied by the Frisco railroad. In an interview with R. J. Crawford, who became the depot agent for the Frisco line, August 13, 1883, (April 2, 1933). would not give his consent.



meeting was held on the twelfth day of February to prepare an appropriate celebration when the first passenger train should reach Girard. The celebration occurred on Thursday evening, March 3, 1870. A committee of reception received two hundred visitors from Fort Scott. The Girard Press<sup>3</sup> remarks, "It was a time of rejoicing for our people."

The Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf railroad later changed its name to the Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Memphis. In 1902 it was taken over by the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company who still retain it.

Joplin, Missouri, in 1875 had no railroad connection. John B. Sargeant and E. R. Moffet were its leading men who were engaged in the mining and smelting business. They decided to build a railroad. They hired Colonel E. H. Brown of Carthage, Missouri, to survey a road west to Cherokee, Kansas, to connect with the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf. They, however, lacked sufficient capital for such a project. Mr. Franklin Playter, a Girard banker, offered to finance it, providing the road would run to Girard.<sup>4</sup> He

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<sup>3</sup>Girard Press, (March 10, 1870).

<sup>4</sup>The Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf pleaded with Mr. Playter to build the road to Cherokee where they still owned the town site and all the surrounding land. They promised him a half interest in the town site, but Mr. Playter had his heart set on Girard and would not give his consent.



thought it would be a good thing for Girard to be connected with a busy lead and zinc district. Also it would pierce the heart of the coal industry. These important connections would eventually make Girard an important metropolis for the distribution of these products.<sup>5</sup>

In order to secure aid from the German farmers living in Baker township, it was necessary to build a station there.<sup>6</sup> When the road was constructed as far south as Spring River near Waco, Missouri, from Girard it stopped. The Joplin Railroad Company<sup>7</sup> had exhausted their funds and credit. To build a bridge over Spring River and continue the road to Joplin necessitated a loan of \$200,000, which Mr. Playter secured from the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad.<sup>8</sup>

Their depot at Girard occupied the east half of a building two blocks south of the present Frisco depot.

<sup>5</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).

<sup>6</sup>The station was erected on the present site of the Frisco station in Pittsburg, Kansas. Mr. Playter built the first store building in Pittsburg. It was located where the Globe building now stands and was occupied by his brother-in-law, W. G. Seaburg.

<sup>7</sup>Company officials were: E. R. Moffet, president; Franklin Playter, vice-president; Colonel E. H. Brown, general manager.

<sup>8</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).



The west part was used for a depot by the Gulf road.<sup>9</sup>

The St. Louis and San Francisco railroad purchased the Joplin road May 26, 1879. The Frisco later absorbed the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf railroad.<sup>10</sup>

In 1882<sup>11</sup> C. H. Malin and Company built a railroad from Girard to Walnut.<sup>12</sup> The road was then taken over by the Kansas City Southern, who extended it to Chanute. Their depot<sup>13</sup> in Girard was located across the tracks east of the present Santa Fe depot. They also built a round-house and yards located north of the present intersection of the Frisco and Santa Fe roads. It was later partly destroyed by fire. The remainder was moved to Frontenac<sup>14</sup>

<sup>9</sup>Interview with R. J. Crawford of Girard, (April 2, 1933). Mr. Crawford became the agent for the successors of this road in Girard, August 13, 1883. Mr. Crawford stated that C. R. Graves, the present president of the Union Pacific Railroad relieved him in 1885 for a short time.

<sup>10</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).

<sup>11</sup>Girard Press, (June 15, 1882). This paper states that the first rails were laid in Girard, January 12, 1882.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., (January 7, 1926).

<sup>13</sup>This depot was destroyed by fire on June 17, 1910, and a new depot was erected by the Santa Fe railroad on the west side of their tracks. This building is the present Santa Fe depot. Interview with R. J. Crawford, (April 2, 1933).

<sup>14</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 13, 1926).  
The Santa Fe road was extended to Frontenac in 1886.

Interview with W. L. Ringe of Girard, Kansas, (December 30, 1932).

by the Santa Fe Company who purchased the Kansas City Southern road from Girard in Chanute in 1886. It was later extended from Frontenac to Pittsburg and Chicopee where it owned a number of coal mines.<sup>15</sup>

Several Girard men became interested in a proposed electric road that was to be built from Iola, Kansas, through Girard to Pittsburg, Kansas. And when this project fell through, fifteen Girard men organized a "shoe string" company, that is, a company without any financial backing, to build an electric railway. This organization was to create sufficient interest in the project so that the moneyed men would get behind the project. That was just what happened. On March 14, 1907, the Girard Coal Belt Electric Railway Company was re-organized with the following officers: James McFarland, president; W. A. Wayland, vice-president; L. H. Phillips, secretary; J. T. Leonard, treasurer; W. L. Ringo, general manager.<sup>16</sup>

Colonel Percy Daniels of Girard was selected to survey the site. The road ran east of town to Ringo where it branched. One road ran south to Radley and Dunkirk where it stopped; the other ran east through Franklin and Arma to

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<sup>15</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).

<sup>16</sup>Interview with W. L. Ringo of Girard, Kansas, (December 30, 1932).



Grovetburg.<sup>17</sup> A total of fourteen miles of railroad was built and financed<sup>18</sup> by Girard people. It was built into the very heart of the mining communities in order to bring trade

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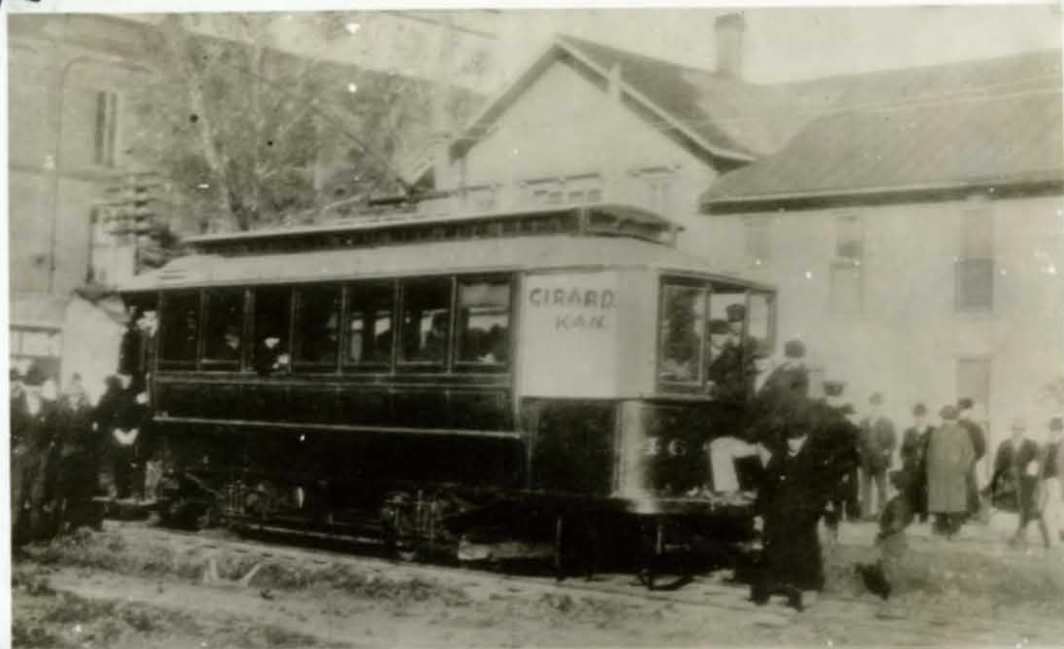
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GIRARD COAL BELT ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO. GIRARD, KANSAS

<sup>17</sup> Girard Press, (October 15, 1908).

<sup>18</sup> Car of the Girard Coal Belt Electric Railway  
<sup>19</sup> 47,365 shares of stock were sold to Girard people. Each share cost one dollar. The road was also bonded for several thousand dollars. These bonds were sold principally to Girard people. Girard Press, (January 28, 1909).

<sup>19</sup> Record of City Clerk, Book 6, 176-179. On page 208 of Book 6 the city of Girard was to receive \$250 per month for its services.

<sup>20</sup> The first car was operated by Henry Watt; the second by Ed Banks.

Croweburg.<sup>17</sup> A total of fourteen miles of railroad was built and financed<sup>18</sup> by Girard people. It was built into the very heart of the mining communities in order to bring trade to Girard. Girard was by far the smallest town in the United States in 1908 and 1909 to own and operate its own electric railroad.

The Girard Coal Belt Company secured the permission from the city council and mayor of Girard to erect and equip a power plant on the south side of the municipal electric plant on Cherokee Street. The city agreed to furnish steam from their boilers to operate the railroad electric plant. It was also to be operated by employees of the municipal plant.<sup>19</sup>

The rolling stock consisted of two passenger cars<sup>20</sup> and a flat car. All three were put into operation on

<sup>17</sup> Girard Press, (October 15, 1908).

<sup>18</sup> 47,365 shares of stock were sold to Girard people. Each share cost one dollar. The road was also bonded for several thousand dollars. These bonds were sold principally to Girard people. Girard Press, (January 28, 1909).

<sup>19</sup> Record of City Clerk, Book C, 176-179. On page 202 of Book C the city of Girard was to receive \$250 per month for its services.

<sup>20</sup> The first car was operated by Henry Watt; the second by Ed Banks.

<sup>26</sup> Records of City Clerk, Book E, 167.

<sup>27</sup> Interview with J. A. Janitors, (April 27, 1938).



July 4, 1908,<sup>21</sup> carrying people from Girard to Raymond Park, where a large celebration was held.<sup>22</sup>

By January, 1909, several Girard men had bought up a considerable amount of stock. Then, they formed a pool and bought the remaining stock for sixty cents on the dollar.<sup>23</sup> On January 20, 1909, the pool interests sold the road to the J. J. Heim interests<sup>24</sup> for eighty cents on the dollar.<sup>25</sup>

The Joplin and Pittsburg Railway Company operated the road until it was no longer profitable. By 1926, business for the road was so poor that the passenger service was limited. In 1927 the tracks on the north and east side of the public square were removed.<sup>26</sup> Passenger service was discontinued in 1928, but freight service was not discontinued until 1929. In the fall of 1929, the tracks were removed from Girard to Franklin and Pittsburg.<sup>27</sup>

~~was infringing on their patent rights. They attempted to~~

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<sup>21</sup>Same day that the Girard airship was to fly.

<sup>22</sup>Girard Press, (July 9, 1908).

<sup>23</sup>Interview with W. L. Ringo, (December 30, 1932).

<sup>24</sup>J. J. Heim built several electric lines in Crawford and Cherokee counties. The Pittsburg and Kansas City Railway Company as his concern was called was re-organized March 1, 1910, and was thereafter called the Joplin and Pittsburg Railway Company.

<sup>25</sup>The Girard phone was located in J. J. Heim's Drug Girard Press, (January 28, 1909).

<sup>26</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book E, 167.

<sup>27</sup>Interview with J. A. Fenimore, (April 27, 1933).

Telegraphs and Telephones group of Girard

The first telegraph line was completed to Girard, Bell  
March 22, 1870.<sup>28</sup> Finally, the Bell Telephone Company gave

George W. Crawford established a telephone system in  
the office of his lumber yard, located on north Summit  
Avenue, October 1, 1895.<sup>29</sup> The line was put in by A. W.  
Hollingsworth and had sixty subscribers. On June 17, 1889,  
an ordinance was granted by Girard to George W. Crawford  
to operate a long distance telephone exchange from Girard  
to Pittsburg.<sup>30</sup> It began its operation with one telephone  
in each city.<sup>31</sup> position he still retains.

Mr. Crawford developed his plant into a county wide  
system. It was connected directly with all cities within  
the county. He had considerable trouble with the Bell  
Telephone Company to maintain his system as they claimed he  
was infringing on their patent rights. They attempted to  
build long distance lines into Girard, but they were

March 2, 1903.<sup>35</sup> They built and occupied the building now

<sup>28</sup> A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121; Girard Press,  
(November 20, 1919).

<sup>29</sup> Girard Press, (December 30, 1897).

<sup>30</sup> Records of City Clerk, (June 17, 1887), p. 360.

<sup>31</sup> The Girard phone was located in C. H. Phillip's  
Drug Store (now O'Reilly Drug Store), Girard Press, (May  
25, 1922).

<sup>35</sup> Records of City Clerk, Book 2, 350.



destroyed as fast as they were erected by a group of Girard citizens who disliked the monopolistic attitude of the Bell Telephone Company. Finally, the Bell Telephone Company gave Mr. Crawford the right to operate all long distance telephones for them. This settled the trouble.<sup>32</sup> They installed

After the death of Mr. Crawford in 1915 it was operated by his son-in-law, L. E. Coles. On March 3, 1923, D. O. Shile and C. J. York of Coffeyville, Kansas, purchased the Crawford Telephone and Telegraphy Company located in Girard, Arma, and Cherokee. Mr. York became the manager of the company which position he still retains.<sup>33</sup>

The telephone plant is located in its own building on north Summit avenue. From an engineering standpoint it is one of the best equipped plants in the state for the size of its supporting communities.<sup>34</sup>

The Girard Farmers Mutual Telephone Company was given the privilege to operate a telephone company in Girard, March 2, 1903.<sup>35</sup> They built and occupied the building now used by the city for their city office on south Summit

Interview with A. A. Walker, City Clerk, (March 25, 1933).

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<sup>32</sup>Interview with W. K. Potter, who was a druggist in the Phillip's Drug Store, (April 2, 1933).

<sup>33</sup>Girard Press, (March 8, 1923). Records of City Clerk, Book B, 350.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., (May 25, 1922).

<sup>35</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book B, 350. Interview with A. A. Walker, City Clerk, (April 19, 1933).

Avenue. Gradually it ceased to operate because of financial difficulties.<sup>36</sup>

The Girard Mutual Telephone Company was organized<sup>37</sup> February 11, 1921. On April 4, 1922, the voters of Girard granted L. E. Roof a franchise in Girard.<sup>38</sup> They installed a switch-board in C. H. Burnett's building located on the southwest corner of the square. In February, 1931, the system was sold to G. W. Coffin and J. W. Admire of Council Grove, Kansas, who operated it until April, 1932, when it was discontinued as it was no longer profitable to operate.<sup>39</sup>

ness for selling intoxicating liquor must secure a petition signed by a majority of the male inhabitants over twenty-one years of age living in the same block where the liquor was to be sold. It further provided that each person selling intoxicating liquors must give a bond of one thousand dollars. Said bond was to be forfeited by the giver in case a disorderly house was kept, or, if the keeper sold intoxicating liquors to minors. All saloons,

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<sup>36</sup> Interview with E. R. Walker, city clerk, (March 25, 1933).

<sup>37</sup> Charles Freed was elected president. L. E. Roof was elected its next president.

<sup>38</sup> Girard Press, (April 6, 1922). Records of City Clerk, Book D, (April 10, 1922).

<sup>39</sup> Interview with Mrs. R. G. Miller, who was operating the plant for the owners when it was discontinued, (April 15, 1933).



## CHAPTER V

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Liquor

It will probably be difficult for many citizens of Girard to believe that in 1870, two years after the town site was founded, Girard had eight saloons. It soon proved to be an unhealthful place for their growth or continuance.<sup>1</sup> The city council, August 31, 1871, passed an ordinance regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors. It required that any person desiring to establish a business for selling intoxicating liquor must secure a petition signed by a majority of the male inhabitants over twenty-one years of age living in the same block where the liquor was to be sold. It further provided that each person selling intoxicating liquors must give a bond of one thousand dollars. Said bond was to be forfeited by the giver in case a disorderly house was kept, or, if the keeper sold intoxicating liquors to minors. All saloons, taverns selling liquors, and dram shops were required to close on Sundays, Fourth of July, and election days. Any shop-keeper selling intoxicating liquor "to any married

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<sup>1</sup> Girard Press, (February 3, 1870).

visited Girard April 22, 1903, and visited four saloons, then she visited Mayor W. H. 83 and had a "spirited conversation." Girard Press, (April 22, 1903).

person against the known wishes of the married partner of such married person shall upon conviction for the first offense pay<sup>2</sup> a fine of ten dollars. If convicted for a second offense the accused was fined twenty dollars and forfeited his license.<sup>3</sup>

On March 7, 1892, the city council was presented with a petition requesting an ordinance be passed prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors. The petition was put on file.<sup>4</sup> A motion was passed by the council and mayor, April 9, 1894, closing all bootlegging joints.<sup>5</sup> On July 2, 1906, an ordinance was passed by the city council prohibiting the sale of all intoxicating liquors.<sup>6</sup> In 1907 an unsuccessful attempt was made by certain council members to repeal the prohibitory ordinance of 1906, but their efforts were foiled<sup>7</sup> by Mayor W. H. Ryan.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Journal of City Council, pp. 52-56.

<sup>3</sup>Idem.

<sup>4</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 278.

<sup>5</sup>Idem., p. 512.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., Book C, 114.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 174.

<sup>8</sup>Carrie Nation, "the notorious saloon wrecker," visited Girard April 22, 1903, and visited four saloons, then she visited Mayor W. H. Ryan and had a "spirited controversy." Girard Press, (April 23, 1903).

<sup>14</sup>A. F. Andrews, op. cit., p. 1121.



Since the year of 1906, Girard rapidly became dry. It is to-day a city with few violaters of the eighteenth amendment. It is communities like Girard that has made Kansas famous for her stand on prohibition.

### Public Schools

The public school system of Girard was organized<sup>9</sup> September 10, 1869. Judge McIntosh, Franklin Playter, and Colonel J. Alexander constituted the Board of Directors.<sup>10</sup> In the Girard Press of November 11, 1869, the Board of Directors called a public meeting for Saturday evening, November 14, 1869, at seven o'clock to "adopt measure toward establishing a public school, upon a permanent basis."<sup>11</sup> As a result of this meeting an election was held November 26, 1869, which authorized the Board of Directors to issue one thousand dollars in bonds to erect a public school building.<sup>12</sup> A contract was let in November, 1869,<sup>13</sup> to Gardner and Bowman for \$640 to construct the first schoolhouse in Girard.<sup>14</sup> It was a small

<sup>9</sup>District Number 37.

<sup>10</sup>Girard Press, (May 25, 1922).

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., (November 11, 1869).

<sup>12</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>13</sup>Girard Press, (November 25, 1869).

<sup>14</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

box house, twelve by sixteen feet, and was located on north Summit Avenue, one block south of the present high-school building.<sup>15</sup> It was completed early in 1870.<sup>16</sup> Miss Lash was the first teacher in this building.<sup>17</sup> She was followed in 1870 by Miss Hattie Ives, in 1871 and 1872 by G. S. Hawkins, and in 1873 by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce. A larger building was erected in the meantime on the lot now occupied by Harry Magie's residence on north Summit Avenue.<sup>18</sup>

In 1872 the people of Girard voted \$15,000 in bonds<sup>19</sup> to build and equip a two-story brick building. The building was to cost \$12,000.<sup>20</sup> It was erected on the lot now occupied by the Girard High School building on north Summit Avenue and was known as the "North School."

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<sup>15</sup>Girard Press, (May 25, 1922).

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., (January 20, 1870).

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., (November 20, 1919). A. T. Andreas' history states that a Miss Maggie T. Hill was the first teacher in the new building. She taught during the summer of 1870 and received forty dollars per month for her services.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., (May 25, 1922).

<sup>19</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>20</sup>Girard Press, (September 12, 1872). A complete description of this building may be found in this issue of the Press.

<sup>21</sup>Records of City Clerk, 2002-3, 141.



It was completed in the spring of 1873. In that year the school was graded. A. F. Allen was its first principal. He held this position from 1874 to 1877 when he was succeeded by Professor H. Quick.<sup>21</sup>

The South School building<sup>22</sup> was erected in 1880 on the present site of the Emerson School building. The building cost \$5,780 and was paid for by three annual tax levies. In 1887, the Central building was erected on the lots now occupied by the Girard Hospital at a cost of \$7,000. A south wing was later built at a cost of \$4,500. Another school building was erected in 1894,<sup>23</sup> east of the railroad tracks on a lot north of the S. S. Wheelock residence. It cost \$7,000.<sup>24</sup> It was later destroyed by fire and was never rebuilt.<sup>25</sup>

On September 8, 1914, the Board of Education requested the Mayor of Girard to call a special election for the purpose of voting bonds to erect three new school buildings.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>Girard Press, (May 25, 1922).

<sup>22</sup>Several additions were later made to this building.

<sup>23</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 409.

<sup>24</sup>Idem.

<sup>25</sup>Girard Press, (May 25, 1922).

<sup>26</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book D, 144.

On October 20, 1914,<sup>27</sup> the voters of school district number thirty-seven authorized the Board of Education to sell \$55,000 worth of bonds.<sup>28</sup>

The Board of Education proceeded to erect the following buildings: a high-school building on the old North School ground; the Emerson, a grade building, on the old South School ground; the Whittier, a grade school, east of the railroad tracks.<sup>29</sup> In 1923 two<sup>30</sup> over-flow buildings were constructed on the high-school campus at a cost of \$9,347.<sup>31</sup>

The Central School building which was used for a high school was destroyed by fire February 15, 1916.<sup>32</sup>

As the new high-school building was not completed; classes were held in various public buildings until the new building was ready for occupancy.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>27</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book D, 144.

<sup>28</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>29</sup>This building was vacated in 1932 as an economy move.

<sup>30</sup>One of the buildings is used for Manual Training; the other is used by the grade school and is called the Lowell school.

<sup>31</sup>Girard Press, (July 5, 1923).

<sup>32</sup>Ibid., (May 25, 1922).

<sup>33</sup>The new building was ready for occupancy by the latter part of April, 1916. A dedicatory program was arranged by the Federation of Women's club. This program may be found in The Crawford County Enterprise, (April 27, 1916).



The first high school was started in 1881 with a three-year course.<sup>34</sup> The first superintendent of Girard schools was John Randolph. He held this position from 1880 to 1886.<sup>35</sup>

Girard maintains a superior school system. This fact is substantiated by the records of its high-school students in the Annual Scholarship Contests which are sponsored by the Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg, Kansas. The Girard High School is a "Class A" high school and it is also a member of the North Central Association for High Schools.<sup>36</sup>

Business Colleges  
A branch of the Pittsburg Business College of Pittsburg, Kansas, was established in Girard in October of 1897. Instruction was given in all commercial and shorthand subjects. The life of this institution was short as

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<sup>34</sup>Its first graduates were: Theresa Gould, Minnie Hawley, Emily Bruce, and Charles G. Warner.

<sup>35</sup>Girard schools have had the following superintendents: G. W. Martin, 1886 to 1890; J. W. Welmer, 1890 to 1897; H. C. Ford, 1897 to 1900; D. L. Ford, 1900 to 1902; H. W. Shideler, 1902 to 1917; E. J. Knight, 1917 to 1921; T. E. Osborn, 1921 to 1926; W. M. Wallack, 1926 to 1930; H. E. Jenkins, 1930--.

<sup>36</sup>Interview with Supt. H. E. Jenkins, (April 30, 1933).

<sup>37</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid.

it was discontinued in November, 1897.<sup>37</sup>

In 1925 the Courtney Business College was established. It occupied the rooms above the Girard Press office which is located on the southwest corner of the square. It provided a full curriculum of commercial subjects. In September, 1926, Mr. Courtney moved his business college to Pittsburg, Kansas.<sup>38</sup>

### Lodges, Clubs and Business Organizations

Girard Lodge, No. 55, I. O. O. F., was instituted on May 6, 1870, by District Deputy Grand Master W. A. Shannon, assisted by several Odd Fellows from Fort Scott. There were five charter members. S. A. Atwood was chosen Noble Grand; E. A. Wood, Vice Noble Grand; E. A. Wasser, Recording Secretary; and N. Sinnett, Treasurer.<sup>39</sup>

Girard Lodge, No. 93, A. F. and A. M. was organized under dispensation May 17, 1870, by Deputy Grand Master J. D. Rush of Rising Sun Lodge. Its first officers were: A. B. Turner, Worshipful Master; H. W. Brown, Senior Warden; Thomas Painton, Junior Warden; Percy Daniels, Treasurer; and S. A. Atwood, Secretary.<sup>40</sup> This lodge was

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<sup>37</sup> Girard Press, (November 25, 1897).

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., (September 2, 1926).

<sup>39</sup> A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>40</sup> Idem.



instituted and its officers were installed May 30, 1870.<sup>41</sup>

Hiram Chapter, No. 50, Royal Arch Mason, was organized<sup>42</sup> under a dispensation May 17, 1875, by Reverend D. W. Cope, Deputy Grand High Priest, of Fort Scott, Kansas.<sup>43</sup>

The Ladies Reading Club was organized<sup>44</sup> April 21, 1883, by Mrs. Anna M. Leonard. This club is now the oldest club in Girard. It celebrated its fiftieth anniversary April 21, 1933. This club has made a study of many subjects in its lifetime.<sup>45</sup>

A City Federation of Clubs was promulgated, May 8, 1896, when an invitation was extended by the Ladies Reading Club to the Mutual Improvement Club to meet with them on each fifth Friday. It was formally organized on January 21, 1899.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>41</sup>Girard Press, (May 26, 1870).

<sup>42</sup>Its first elected officers were: J. H. Waterman, High Priest; A. B. Turner, King; C. H. Merriam, Scribe; A. A. Hulett, Captain of the Host; W. M. Smith, Principal Sojourner; H. Brown, Royal Arch Captain.

<sup>43</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>44</sup>The first officers were: Mrs. Phoebe W. Leonard, president; Mrs. Anna M. Leonard, secretary.

<sup>45</sup>Girard Press, (April 20, 1933).

<sup>46</sup>Idem.

Girard Press, (December 29, 1931).

Other leading clubs of Girard are: Junior Ladies Reading Club, Sunflower Club, and Fidelis Club.<sup>47</sup>

These clubs have had a great influence upon the development of Girard. They have been responsible in a large measure in securing for Girard, excellent schools, good sidewalks and streets, and a free public library.

The Girard Board of Trade was organized in 1882. It was instrumental in locating the smelters in Girard, along with several other enterprises.<sup>48</sup>

The Girard Commercial Club was organized in June, 1894. Its first president was William Gardner. This business organization attempted to further Girard's interests and was able to locate several industries and enterprises in Girard.<sup>49</sup> On February 21, 1921, the Girard Commercial Club voted to change its name to the Girard Chamber of Commerce.<sup>50</sup>

The Girard Chamber of Commerce was organized<sup>51</sup> April 1, 1921.<sup>52</sup> It has been an active institution in

<sup>47</sup> Girard Press, (April 20, 1933).

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., (November 21, 1895).

<sup>49</sup> Idem.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., (February 24, 1921).

<sup>51</sup> J. D. Barker was its first president.

<sup>52</sup> Girard Press, (December 29, 1921).



making Girard a bigger and better community in which to live. Its present home<sup>53</sup> is in the Raymond Residence<sup>54</sup> which was bequeathed to the City of Girard by the late J. E. Raymond<sup>55</sup> in 1931.

### County Fairs

The Crawford County Fair Association was preceded by the Crawford County Agricultural Society. The Crawford County Agricultural Society was organized, February 5, 1870.<sup>56</sup> It was promoted by Dr. W. H. Warner, editor of the Girard Press.<sup>57</sup> It was chartered for fifty years and had a capital stock of \$5,000.<sup>58</sup> The Society purchased forty acres of land just east of Girard where it held its fairs until 1882.<sup>59</sup>

On May 27, 1882, the Crawford County Agricultural Society was re-organized with thirteen directors who

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<sup>53</sup>At a regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, May 5, 1931, it was voted to take over the Raymond Residence. Girard Press, (May 7, 1931).

<sup>54</sup>It is located at the intersection of Osage and Buffalo streets.

<sup>55</sup>Mr. Raymond also left \$5000 to the city as a trust fund. Records of City Clerk, Book E, 331.

<sup>56</sup>Girard Press, (February 5, 1870).

<sup>57</sup>Ibid., (November 25, 1869).

<sup>58</sup>One thousand shares at five dollars per share.

<sup>59</sup>Kansas History, I, 473.

<sup>55</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1931).

managed the society.<sup>60</sup> It had a capital stock of \$10,000.<sup>61</sup> This organization purchased forty acres of land which was located west of the present fair ground.<sup>62</sup>

The purposes of these societies were to encourage the development of agriculture, horticulture, stock raising, and mechanical arts.<sup>63</sup> Unfavorable conditions developed which gradually caused the fair to decline until it was finally abolished.

In the spring of 1919, the Girard Commercial Club succeeded in organizing the present Crawford County Fair Association.<sup>64</sup> The first fair was held in September of that year. The Association leased the present fair grounds west of the city on State Highway Fifty-seven.<sup>65</sup>

It is doubtful whether the County Fair will be continued after the 1933 fair for financing is difficult under present economic conditions. Also many people have lost interest in county fairs and every year sees the discontinuation of some county fair.

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<sup>60</sup> Girard Press, (June 1, 1882).

<sup>61</sup> Two hundred shares at fifty dollars each.

<sup>62</sup> Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., (February 5, 1870).

<sup>64</sup> Officers of the first Fair Board were: L. H. Thurston, president; E. R. Dorsey, vice-president; D. H. Holt, secretary; Willis Buck, treasurer. Its organization also included a board of seven directors.

<sup>65</sup> Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).



### Theatres

Girard was early equipped with an opera house.

Thomas Painton in 1879 constructed the Girard "Opera House" located on the east side of the square. It was located over two stores and was arranged for "public meetings, theatrical performances, etc."<sup>66</sup>

J. W. Hayter was the pioneer of Girard's movie theatres. He operated an airdome at the rear<sup>67</sup> of Tim Hallacy's Pool and Billiard room on the northeast corner of the square. Mr. Hayter also ran the "Luric" theatre on the east side of the square. He sold the "Luric" to Ed Valentine in 1921<sup>68</sup> who changed the name<sup>69</sup> of the theatre in 1924 to the "Rivoli".

Girard has another theatre on the north side of the square. Its operation has been very intermittent since it was started. At present it is being operated. Girard also had another airdome which was located just east of the southeast corner of the square but its life was of short duration as it was torn down shortly after it was

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<sup>66</sup>Girard Press, (August 7, 1879).

<sup>67</sup>The old airdome building was torn down a few years ago and a brick building was erected in its place.

<sup>68</sup>Girard Press, (March 19, 1921).

<sup>69</sup>Ibid., (October 9, 1924).

built.<sup>70</sup> by the editors,<sup>74</sup> because they firmly believed

### Newspapers and Press

The Girard Press had its origin in Fort Scott, Kansas, being published for four years as the Fort Scott Press.

It was established by Hayward and Brothers in 1865. They sold their paper June 17, 1868, to Warner and Winter who published the paper until the end of the year, when the printing equipment was sold under mortgage incurred by

its former owners. A new firm was organized January 29, 1869, under the firm name of Warner, Winter and Wasser.

New equipment was then purchased by the firm and the paper was continued until it was moved to Girard, November 1, 1869. In the meantime, Mr. Winter had sold his interests to his partners.<sup>71</sup>

The first issue of the Girard Press was printed November 11, 1869.<sup>72</sup> It was not mailed out until the

following week as the mailing list had been lost in moving from Fort Scott to Girard.<sup>73</sup> The Press was moved to

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<sup>70</sup> This airdome was torn down in 1917; interview with Frank B. Davidson, the owner, Pittsburg, Kansas, (May 4, 1933).

<sup>71</sup> Girard Press, (November 21, 1895).

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., (November 11, 1869).

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., (November 20, 1919).



Girard by the editors,<sup>74</sup> because they firmly believed that Joy's title to the Neutral Lands was valid and that the settlers should "prove up."<sup>75</sup> The Press vigorously condemned the Land League and its methods of coercion and as a result its office was destroyed by fire July 14, 1871, at three o'clock in the morning.<sup>76</sup> A small extra was issued on the same day of the fire which stated that the fire beyond all doubts was the work of incendiaries as the side of the building had been saturated with coal oil. Also several men had been seen riding away, shouting and shooting as they left. No attempt was made at the time to follow the incendiaries.<sup>77</sup> Mr. Wasser left for Cincinnati a few days later and bought new equipment for the firm and the Press was continued August 10, 1871.<sup>78</sup> Dr. Warner and Mr. Wasser disagreed over the presidential candidates in the election of 1872 which resulted

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<sup>74</sup> Mrs. W. K. Potter of Girard, the youngest daughter of Dr. Warner, states that her father was later employed by the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad to encourage the settlers to "prove up." He received a compensation as high as \$250 per month for his services.

<sup>75</sup> Girard Press, (November 11, 1869).

<sup>76</sup> A small Gordon press and three cases of types were saved.

<sup>77</sup> Girard Press, (Extra), (July 14, 1871).

<sup>78</sup> Ibid., (August 10, 1871).

<sup>80</sup> Girard Press, (November 20, 1871).

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., (October 20, 1881).

in Dr. Warner's selling his interests to A. P. Riddle, June 16, 1873. In 1885 A. P. Riddle sold his interests to D. C. Flint. A. B. Wasser, son of E. A. Wasser, bought Mr. Flint's interest in 1896. After the death of E. A. Wasser in 1912, his widow, Alice B. Wasser, became a partner. On October 1, 1915, she sold her interest to H. W. Shidler who bought the remaining interest in the Girard Press May 1, 1917,<sup>79</sup> and is its present owner.<sup>80</sup> His son, Ralph Shidler, is its present editor.

The Girard Press has had several locations. It was first located on the corner of Buffalo Street and Summit Avenue. After its office was destroyed by fire, July 14, 1871, it was moved into a frame building on the north side of the square. On October 20, 1881, the Press office was moved to the second floor of a new brick building, the Press Block, adjacent to its former location.<sup>81</sup> It was later moved to the middle of the west side of the square where it remained until it was moved to its present location on the southwest corner of the public square.

The Press has been a journal of progress. Recorded in its files the history of Girard may be found. It has

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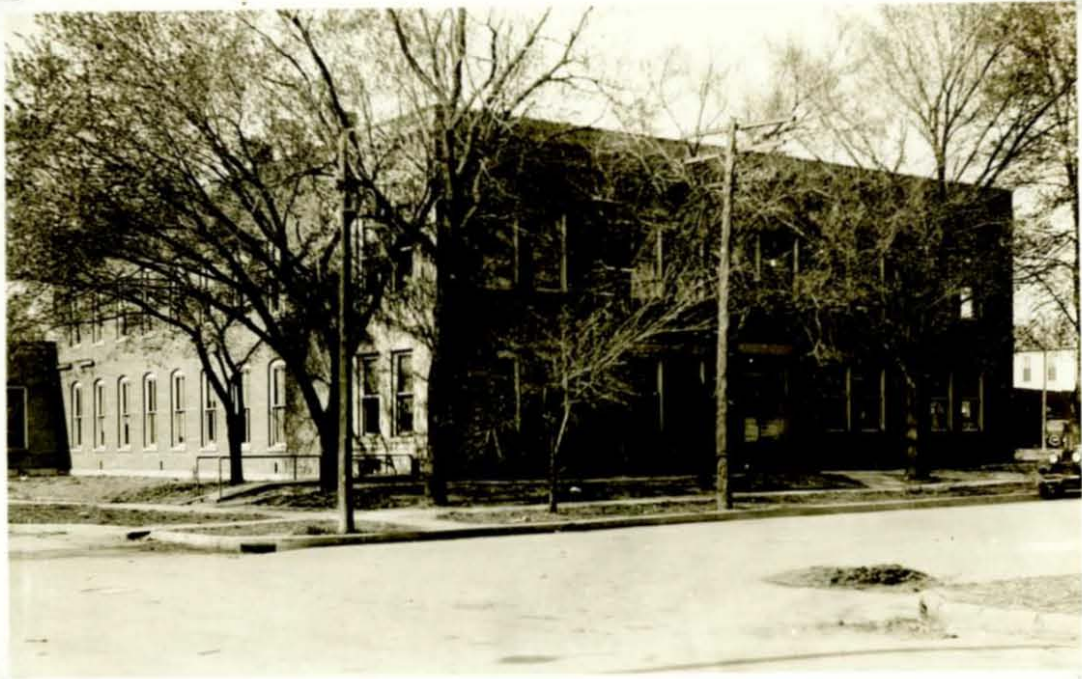
<sup>79</sup>On July 1, 1917, Mr. Shidler purchased the Crawford County Enterprise from Harry Bouck and consolidated it with the Girard Press.

<sup>80</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>81</sup>Ibid., (October 20, 1881).



been an organ for the Republican Party for sixty-one years. For a brief time in 1883 it was a semi-weekly being published on Wednesdays and Saturdays.<sup>82</sup> It was also a daily paper during the years 1884-1885.<sup>83</sup>



<sup>82</sup> Girard Press. (Files of 1883).

Appeal to Reason Building

<sup>83</sup> Ibid., (Files of 1884).

<sup>84</sup> George Milburn, "The Appeal to Reason", American Mercury, (July, 1931), p. 359.

<sup>85</sup> Kansas City Star, (December 6, 1896).

<sup>86</sup> A. W. Bicker, Leaves of Life, a biography of Wayland, p. 31. The writer secured a copy of this book from Walter Wayland of Girard, a son of J. A. Wayland.

<sup>87</sup> For life of J. A. Wayland see Appendix F.

been an organ for the Republican Party for sixty-one years. For a brief time in 1888 it was a semi-weekly being published on Wednesdays and Saturdays.<sup>82</sup> It was also a daily paper during the year of 1894.<sup>83</sup> Since that time it has been a weekly and is published every Thursday.

### The Appeal to Reason

"The Greatest Political Newspaper in the World"<sup>84</sup> was established at Kansas City, Missouri, August 31, 1895. It operated there until October, 1896, when it was discontinued by its owner and editor, J. A. Wayland,<sup>85</sup> until he could locate his paper in a suitable rural community where his overhead would be small. Also he would be freer from interference in a smaller community.<sup>86</sup>

Wayland<sup>87</sup> knew from experience with similar publications of his that the location of the paper made very little

<sup>82</sup>Girard Press, (Files of 1888).

<sup>83</sup>Ibid., (Files of 1894).

<sup>84</sup>George Milburn, "The Appeal to Reason", American Mercury, (July, 1931), p. 359.

<sup>85</sup>Kansas City Star, (December 6, 1896).

<sup>86</sup>A. W. Ricker, Leaves of Life, a biography of Wayland, p. 31. The writer secured a copy of this book from Walter Wayland of Girard, a son of J. A. Wayland.

<sup>87</sup>For life of J. A. Wayland see Appendix F.

<sup>88</sup>A. W. Ricker, op. cit., p. 32.

<sup>89</sup>Appeal to Reason, (April 2, 1913).



difference in the number of subscribers as they came from all parts of the country.<sup>88</sup> Thus, the selection of Girard for Appeal's home was largely accidental. T. T. Perry, a prominent real estate man of Girard, induced Wayland to visit Girard.<sup>89</sup> The town struck his fancy and so he moved his plant from Kansas City, Missouri, to Girard. He rented a building<sup>90</sup> from T. T. Perry on the southeast side of the square and issued the first Appeal to Reason to be published in Girard February 6, 1897.<sup>91</sup>

The Appeal to Reason was a Socialist paper and was published "for the expressed purpose of arousing the working class to a realization of their wrongs and to induce them to support their own political party and by the means of the ballot take control of the government and operate it in the interest of all the people."<sup>92</sup> It was devoted to socialistic and populist doctrines and advocated government

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<sup>88</sup>Oklahoma led in the number of subscribers for the Appeal to Reason. Pennsylvania was second and California was third.

<sup>89</sup>Interview with W. J. Edridge, (March 26, 1933).

<sup>90</sup>This building is now occupied by the I. H. Shannon Hardware Store. The Appeal's second home was in a frame building that stood on the site now occupied by the Girard National Bank building. Its third home was located in the Burnett building on the southwest corner of the square. For its fourth home it built the building now occupied by the Haldeman-Julius Publishing Company.

<sup>91</sup>A. W. Ricker, op. cit., p. 31.

<sup>92</sup>Appeal to Reason, (April 5, 1913).



ownership of all monopolistic industries.<sup>93</sup> Most people at first read the Appeal out of curiosity, but as the paper expounded principles that appealed to the working class of people its readers grew rapidly. The Appeal even in its heyday never gave much space to the theory of socialism as taught by Karl Marx, the father of socialism. Instead it attacked the existing economic structure of the United States.<sup>94</sup>

The Appeal's growth was an intermittent one. After moving to Girard its subscription rapidly increased but this was checked by the Spanish-American War, but after it was over the number again rapidly increased as the economic conditions grew worse.<sup>95</sup> Crop failures made socialists by the thousands; likewise strikes and labor disputes. Court cases against the editors always caused the circulation to run into millions.<sup>96</sup> Anyone could afford to pay fifty cents a year for the Appeal to Reason in order to secure the facts that they wanted, is the explanation given by D. Warren, a former editor of the Appeal to Reason, for

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<sup>93</sup> Girard Press, (February 4, 1897). Girard, (January 11, 1897).

<sup>94</sup> George Milburn, op. cit., p. 360.

<sup>95</sup> Panic of 1907.

<sup>96</sup> The Mayard-Hayward edition reached 4,010,000 copies, Appeal to Reason, (March 29, 1913).



the remarkable growth of the Appeal.<sup>97</sup>

An ingenious method of securing subscribers was developed by Editor Warren. He published annually a little book, The Appeal's Arsenal of Facts, which could be secured by a comrade, providing he would send twelve forty-week subscriptions at twenty-five cents each. This built up an espionage system of eighty thousand workers. This army of workers took it upon themselves to secure enough subscribers of the Appeal to Reason in order to secure this book of facts.<sup>98</sup>

The Appeal was edited by "one-hoss" Wayland<sup>99</sup> until 1904, when Fred D. Warren<sup>100</sup> became editor. It was under the management of Warren that the paper grew to be of colossal size. He did this by filling the paper with "juicy exposes" of the capitalistic system and his ingenious method of securing subscribers that has already been mentioned. Plenty of red ink was used for large headlines. He imported a columnist whose column, the Hot Cinders, proved to be very popular with the comrades.

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<sup>97</sup>Interview with Fred D. Warren of Girard, (January 21, 1933).

<sup>98</sup>Idem.

<sup>99</sup>This "plebian appellation" was given to Wayland when he ran the "one-hoss print shop" in Pueblo, Colorado.

<sup>100</sup>Warren became associate editor of the Appeal in 1900.

During the first year of his editorship the list of subscribers jumped to 150,000 copies per issue. The paper rapidly became a powerful force and soon "capitalism began to feel the sting of its savage goading and the Beast turned with a snarl."<sup>101</sup> The editors were soon indicted by a Federal grand jury for sending "scurrilous defamatory and threatening matter in the mail"<sup>102</sup> and from then on the Appeal was forced to battle in the United States courts for its existence.

Among the associate editors, the most important was Eugene V. Debs,<sup>103</sup> the leader of the American Socialist Party. The lesser lights were: A. W. Ricker, Mr. Phifer, Ernest Untermann, Josephine Conger, E. N. Richardson, George A. Shoaf.

Fred D. Warren resigned as editor of the Appeal to Reason, July 27, 1914, after fourteen years of service. This came as a climax after years of litigation in the United States courts. Mr. Warren having won out in the courts against his enemies was badly in need of rest as

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<sup>101</sup>George Milburn, op. cit., p. 364.

<sup>102</sup>Idem.

<sup>103</sup>Eugene V. Debs, first campaign speech for President of the United States, was given in Girard, Kansas, May 11, 1908. Girard Press, (October 1, 1908).



his health had become seriously impaired.<sup>104</sup>

At times Girard swarmed with secret agents. On several occasions the offices of the Appeal were ransacked during the night. Postal authorities were incessantly trying to bar the Appeal from the mail, but its editors were able to win every case that sought to exclude the paper from Uncle Sam's mail.<sup>105</sup>

The suicide of J. A. Wayland, November 10, 1912,<sup>106</sup>

The Appeal was barred from the mail July 7, 1917.

<sup>104</sup> Interview with Fred D. Warren, (January 21, 1933). Mr. Warren stated that he has been unduly criticized by socialists for resigning on the brink of the World War, that is, the socialists think he saw the handwriting on the wall and got out while the getting was good. Mr. Warren stated that he had no earthly means to foretell that Austria would declare war on Serbia the following day and thus create a situation that involved the nations of the world. "If I had stayed, I would have been forced to change my policies or would have been thrown into jail along with Debs and others who objected to the entrance of the United States in the war."

<sup>105</sup> Idem. Postoffice Inspector L. C. Chance after ten years of effort to exclude the Appeal from the mails came to the office of Mr. Warren and said, "Warren, I believe that the government is wrong in the prosecution of this paper." He then told of the attempts of the United States government to destroy the Appeal. Mr. Chance, although working for the government did not approve the methods of Attorney General Wickersham and his assistant, Harry J. Bone of Kansas, agreed that if Mr. Warren would subpoena him before a court of Kansas where he would be sworn under the Kansas law to tell the truth he would expose the crookedness of the men persecuting the Appeal and its editor. This story may be found in the records of the Probate Court of Crawford County. Of course it was printed in the Appeal and gave cause for a large edition numbering three million copies. Printed in Appeal to Reason, (April 5, 1913).

<sup>106</sup> Kansas City Star, (November 11, 1912).



marks the decline of the Appeal to Reason. His death was charged by socialists to the hounds of capitalism, who were ever dragging him into court. Warren started a great revival movement in the socialist ranks and succeeded in making Wayland a "martyr." But after this stimulus wore off the paper gradually lost subscribers and with the resignation of Warren, July 27, 1914, its days were numbered.

The Appeal was barred from the mail July 7, 1917, because of its anti-war policies. Its new war-time editor, Louis Kopelin, changed the name of the publication December 22, 1917, to the New Appeal. The policies and principles of this paper were radically different from those of its predecessor.<sup>107</sup> The New Appeal struggled along until November 6, 1922, when the last issue of the "Red" organ was printed.<sup>108</sup>

For twenty-seven years the Appeal to Reason was the leading Socialist publication of the nation.<sup>109</sup> It was the symbol of agitation and radicalism of the Socialist party. It began when the Socialist Party was unknown and lived

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<sup>107</sup> Kansas City Star, (December 22, 1917).

<sup>108</sup> Ibid., (November 6, 1922).

<sup>109</sup> Idem.



through the zenith of its party voting strength. The Appeal undoubtedly secured several needed reforms. It was the first newspaper to advocate an eight-hour day. It opposed imperialism, compulsory military training, and employment of child labor.<sup>110</sup>

Mr. Warren says the greatest contribution made by the Appeal was the discovery of Upton Sinclair. He explains this as follows:

I conceived the outline for The Jungle while reading a production of Sinclair on the Civil War. A description of a negro in slavery gave me an idea that the status of the working man could likewise be portrayed.

Mr. Warren made a trip to Chicago to see Mr. Sinclair and they sat up all of one night drafting the outline for The Jungle. The results were far beyond the expectations of Mr. Warren. The Jungle was serialized and was printed by the Appeal in 1905. It caused a great sensation in America and the Appeal gave it a big boost by distributing it over the country in enormous editions. As a result of its publication our Pure Food laws were passed in the United States.<sup>111</sup>

#### The Haldeman-Julius Publishing Company

This institution is the successor of the Appeal to

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<sup>110</sup>George Milburn, op. cit., p. 370.

<sup>111</sup>Interview with Fred D. Warren, (January 21, 1933).

<sup>112</sup>Interview with E. Haldeman-Julius, (February 4, 1933).



Reason. Mr. E. Haldeman-Julius<sup>112</sup> purchased an interest in the Appeal in 1917 and in 1919 he established the Appeal's Book Department. Later he secured the controlling interest and discontinued the Appeal to Reason November 6, 1922. On November 23, 1922, he began the Haldeman-Julius Weekly in its place. In February, 1922, the plant's name, Appeal to Reason, was changed to the Haldeman-Julius Publishing Company.<sup>113</sup>

The Haldeman-Julius Weekly sought to make an appeal to people of culture. It was later discontinued and thereafter, a number of publications have been printed by the Haldeman-Julius Publishing Company. Most of them existed only for a short time. They are:

Know-Thy-Self was a publication dealing with diseases, their causes and cures. It was written by Dr. William J. Fielding.

Life and Letters was a magazine dealing with the life and writings of old and contemporary writers. It had a number of contributors.

The Quarterly as its name suggests was a magazine printed quarterly. It was similar to the Life and Letters.

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<sup>112</sup>Mr. Emanuel Julius married Miss Marcet Haldeman of Girard, hence the name Haldeman-Julius. Mr. Julius was born and educated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was an editorial writer for several leading newspapers in the East before coming to Girard.

<sup>113</sup>Interview with E. Haldeman-Julius, (February 4, 1933).



Debunker was a monthly publication dealing with atheism. Its main contributor was Joseph McCabe of London.

The Militant Atheist is the present atheistic publication. It is edited by E. Haldeman-Julius and Joseph McCabe.

A Guide to To-day's Knowledge is a monthly guide reviewing each "branch of science and learning--down to 1933." It is also edited by Haldeman-Julius and Joseph McCabe.

The American Freeman is the present socialistic newspaper published. It is published monthly and is "devoted to Social Justice and Industrial Sanity." The last page of this paper is called the Warren's Page being edited by Fred D. Warren, the former editor of the Appeal to Reason who was responsible for the Appeal's large circulation.

Only a portion of the plant's printing facilities is devoted to newspaper publications; the greater part being used to print the world's best literature in a small book form costing only five cents.<sup>114</sup> The list of books printed now number more than seventeen hundred titles. The famous "Little Blue Books," as they are called, because of the color of their cover, have been sent to every part of the

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<sup>114</sup>A few books are sold for ten and twenty-five cents, but the far greater number are sold for five cents each.

<sup>118</sup>Pittsburg Herald, (May 12, 1926).

world.<sup>115</sup> More than 200,000,000 copies have been sold during the past fourteen years. In January, 1928, more than 600,000 books were sold. In the same year over 25,000,000 copies were published and sold.<sup>116</sup>

Besides being an editor and publisher, Mr. E. Haldeman-Julius is a well-known author. He has written The First Hundred Million, a story of ten years of publishing the "Little Blue Books." In collaboration with his wife he has written two novels: Violence and Dust.<sup>117</sup>

The Crawford County Times was the first newspaper to be published in Girard, April 16, 1869. It was issued by Scott and Cole. Only one number was issued as the object of its publication was accomplished which was to settle the boundary line dispute between Crawford and Neosho counties.<sup>118</sup>

The Peoples Vindicator was started July 28, 1870, by P. R. Crisp and Charles R. Lindsey. It was discontinued in October of that year as its only object was to aid the

<sup>115</sup> Interview with E. Haldeman-Julius, (February 4, 1933). I was told that Alaska in proportion to its population buys more books than any other country in the world. The Alaskans are great readers due to their long winters. New York City leads in the number of books purchased by cities. California leads in the number purchased by the states.

<sup>116</sup> Idem.

<sup>117</sup> Idem.

<sup>118</sup> Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).



Democrats in the election of 1870.<sup>119</sup>

The Girard Pharos had its origin March 12, 1873. It was published by W. K. Goode. It was not a success and moved to Cherokee where it was sold by the mortgagee in 1874 to J. F. McDowell who moved it to Columbus, Kansas.<sup>120</sup>

The Crawford County News was started August 6, 1875, by T. P. Fulton and C. C. Covill. It passed through several hands and was finally discontinued November 28, 1878.<sup>121</sup>

Girard News Herald made its appearance July 26, 1878. It was a Democratic paper and was started by J. W. Womack. He sold out and after passing through several hands, the paper was discontinued.<sup>122</sup>

The Girard News was started December 13, 1878, by J. K. Black and Frank Laughlin. It was discontinued after "a fitful existence" of nine months.<sup>123</sup>

The Independent News, a weekly paper, was started by A. W. Lucas from the material used by the Girard News Herald. He sold it to the Derry Brothers. They sold it to

<sup>119</sup> History and Biographical Record of Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, pp. 131, 132.

<sup>120</sup> Idem.

<sup>121</sup> Idem.

<sup>122</sup> Idem.

<sup>123</sup> Idem.

King and Newkirk who started the Evening News, a daily paper, in connection with the weekly paper. The papers were finally discontinued.<sup>124</sup>

The Girard World was a daily and weekly newspaper. It was started by Abe Steinberger in 1895. Its existence was about one year being forced to quit when its equipment was sold by the mortgagee to A. G. Lucas of the Independent News.<sup>125</sup>

Crawford County Democrat was moved to Girard from Arcadia by Ben J. Gunn in 1908. He later moved it to Pittsburg, Kansas.<sup>126</sup>

The Crawford County Enterprise was organized in 1916 by Thomas Evans and Harry W. Bouck. It was consolidated with the Girard Press in 1917.<sup>127</sup>

The Girard Messenger, a free newspaper was started by John Cook in 1916. It was later sold to Harry W. Bouck.<sup>128</sup>

Crawford County Democrat was established by J. D. Barnes in 1918. It was consolidated in 1924 with the

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<sup>124</sup> Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).

<sup>125</sup> Idem.

<sup>126</sup> Idem.

<sup>127</sup> Idem.

<sup>128</sup> Idem. (It carried a free subscription list.)



Girard Messenger. Harry W. Bouck, the owner of the consolidated paper, sold it to the Girard Press soon afterwards.<sup>129</sup>

### Postoffice

The first postoffice was established in Girard in 1868, Dr. C. H. Strong being appointed the first postmaster.<sup>130</sup>

The first daily mail to arrive in Girard was on August 25, 1870.<sup>131</sup>

In 1899 the annual receipts of the postoffice were \$6,540.68,<sup>132</sup> which gave the office a third-class rating. In 1905 its annual receipts were \$18,960.36 which made it a second-class office. The annual receipts for 1912 amounted to \$47,546.27 which gave the postoffice a first-class rating. At that time Girard had the distinction of being the smallest city in the United States having a first-class postoffice. The rapid and enormous growth of the Appeal to Reason<sup>133</sup> which on different occasions required special

<sup>129</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 19, 1926).

<sup>130</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>131</sup>Ibid., (August 25, 1870).

<sup>132</sup>When the annual receipts of a postoffice are from \$8000 to \$40,000 it is classified as a second-class office; over \$40,000 a first-class office.

<sup>133</sup>See page 104.

trains to carry its colossal issues<sup>134</sup> was the primary cause of Girard having a first-class postoffice. After the decline of the Appeal's circulation, the Girard postoffice returned to a second-class office in 1914. In 1922, the receipts were \$54,113.65 and again the office became a first-class. In 1929<sup>135</sup> the receipts of the postoffice amounted to \$113,168.36.<sup>136</sup> This increase over 1922 receipts was due to the enormous book business of the Haldeman-Julius Publishing Company.<sup>137</sup> Since that time, the book industry along with other industries has fallen off so that the Girard office will return to a second-class postoffice July 1, 1933.<sup>138</sup>

Rural delivery was established August 15, 1900, with one route. This was increased to four routes March 15, 1901. At present there are six rural routes. The city delivery was established August 15, 1904, with two carriers. An additional carrier was added October 1, 1909. The clerk force numbers seven people, five of whom have served for

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<sup>134</sup>Pittsburg Headlight, (May 20, 1919).

<sup>135</sup>The fiscal year for the postoffice begins July 1 and ends June 30.

<sup>136</sup>At least \$100,000 of this amount was received from the Haldeman-Julius Publishing Company.

<sup>137</sup>See page 109.

<sup>138</sup>Interview with Assistant Postmaster W. E. Baker, (April 29, 1933).



more than thirty years.<sup>139</sup>

In 1929, 151,334 money orders aggregating \$445,448.65 were sold. This large sum was due to the Haldeman-Julius book business. W. E. Baker, assistant postmaster, stated that the money order business of the Girard postoffice was greater than that of Wichita, Kansas, for the same year.<sup>140</sup>

The Girard Postoffice was located for a number of years in the building just east of the Girard National Bank. In 1907 the United States Postoffice Department began the construction of the present modern building which was ready for occupancy September 23, 1918.<sup>141</sup>

The stockholders met July 20, 1917, and voted to extend the time of the corporation to 1934. They also increased the capital stock to \$600,000.<sup>2</sup>

C. G. Hawley served as secretary for the association until September 11, 1899,<sup>4</sup> when his position was filled by William Grantham, who held the office until his death in October, 1929. Since his death, Grant Winger has been the secretary for the Girard Building and Loan Association.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Records of Girard Building and Loan Association.

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<sup>139</sup>Interview with Assistant Postmaster W. E. Baker, (April 29, 1933).

<sup>140</sup>Idem.

<sup>141</sup>Interview with Miss Ida Wasser, an employee, (May 7, 1933).

## CHAPTER VI

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

#### Building and Loan Association

The Girard Building and Loan Association was organized April 2, 1884. It was chartered under the state law of Kansas, April 4, 1884, for a term of ten years. Its capital stock was \$200,000 and was divided into 1000 shares of \$200 each.<sup>1</sup>

On July 30, 1896, it was voted by the stockholders to increase the capital stock to \$300,000 and to extend the time of the corporation for twenty years.<sup>2</sup>

The stockholders met July 30, 1917, and voted to extend the time of the corporation to 1934. They also increased the capital stock to \$600,000.<sup>3</sup>

C. G. Hawley served as secretary for the association until September 11, 1899,<sup>4</sup> when his position was filled by William Grantham, who held the office until his death in October, 1929. Since his death, Grant Winger has been the secretary for the Girard Building and Loan Association.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Records of Girard Building and Loan Association.

<sup>2</sup>Idem.

<sup>3</sup>Idem.

<sup>4</sup>Idem.

<sup>5</sup>Interview with Grant Winger, (April 16, 1933).



### Cemetery

The Girard Cemetery was located in the southwestern part of the city by Judge McIntosh in the spring of 1869. Mrs. Dr. L. F. Crawford was the first person to be buried there.<sup>6</sup> On December 8, 1924, the city commissioners enlarged the old cemetery by purchasing ten acres of land across the road east of it.<sup>7</sup>

A small tax is made for the care of the old section of the cemetery. The new section is maintained by the perpetual care plan, the price charged for lots provides for this care.<sup>8</sup>

### Churches

The Methodist Church was the first church to be organized in Girard.<sup>9</sup> It had twelve charter members. In 1869 the Reverend Robert Stalker preached the first sermon in Girard at the home of A. A. Fletcher, on the north side of the public square.<sup>10</sup>

Up to 1873, services were held in the court house, Amrine Hotel, school house, and Presbyterian Church,<sup>11</sup> but

<sup>6</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1120.

<sup>7</sup>Interview E. R. Walker, (April 8, 1933).

<sup>8</sup>Idem.

<sup>9</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>10</sup>Historical Souvenir, published by the Epworth League, (1915), p. 13

<sup>11</sup>Idem.

in that year the Reverend William McWhirt<sup>12</sup> bought the school house built in 1870 for \$300.<sup>13</sup> The church having only a lease on the lot was forced to vacate when the lot was sold in 1877.<sup>14</sup>

In the meantime, December, 1875, the Reverend Mr. Noah Asher had been authorized by the church board to solicit funds with which to purchase a building site. In 1876, the present lots were purchased on the corner of Buffalo street and Summit avenue for \$450.<sup>15</sup> In 1877, a new building was begun which was dedicated by Dr. C. C. McCabe of Chicago, Illinois, June 30, 1878.<sup>16</sup>

In 1899 the church building was enlarged by an addition joining the north side of the church at a cost of \$1,658.50.<sup>17</sup>

During the following years, the church membership had grown so large that the pastor, the Reverend E. J. Gardner, was instructed in 1914 to solicit pledges for the erection of a new building and as a result, work was begun on it

<sup>12</sup> A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>13</sup> Historical Souvenir, p. 15. 1928).

<sup>14</sup> Idem., (November 30, 1919).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., p. 17. located on the northeast corner of

<sup>16</sup> Girard Press, (July 4, 1878).

<sup>17</sup> Historical Souvenir, p. 18. 1928.



November 11, 1914.<sup>18</sup> It was dedicated June 27, 1915, by Bishop W. A. Quayle, D. D.<sup>19</sup> The church is of the Tudor Gothic style of architecture<sup>20</sup> and was constructed at a cost of \$26,000.<sup>21</sup>

"The Presbyterians were not far behind the Methodists"<sup>22</sup> in organizing a church. It was organized in the district court room in October, 1869, with seven members. During the following months, various places were used for public worship. In the spring of 1870, the congregation decided to build a church building. Through James F. Joy of Detroit, Michigan, a deed was secured free for the present lot.<sup>23</sup> A church building was erected on it at a cost of \$3000 and was dedicated June 18, 1871, by the Reverend James B. McClure, of Chicago, Illinois. The first regular minister was the Reverend S. F. McClure.<sup>24</sup>

In the spring of 1888, the present brick building was

<sup>18</sup>Historical Souvenir, p. 19.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., p. 4. Ant News, (December 20, 1900).

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., p. 25. (November 30, 1919).

<sup>21</sup>Girard Press, (February 2, 1922).

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., (November 20, 1919).

<sup>23</sup>Church lot is located on the northeast corner of Summit Avenue and Walnut Street.

<sup>24</sup>History and Biographical Record of Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors, pp. 191, 192.

erected at a cost of \$10,000.<sup>25</sup> It was remodelled in 1919.<sup>26</sup>

The St. John's Episcopal Church was organized March 19, 1870. Dr. W. H. Warner was elected the first Senior Warden of the church.<sup>27</sup> The first Episcopal Sunday School was opened in the school house, Sunday, March 26, 1870.<sup>28</sup> The first sermon was preached on April 14, 1870, by the Reverend A. Beattle in the public school house. Services were also held in the Presbyterian Church for a few months until a building was erected on the southeast corner of Buffalo Street and Summit Avenue.<sup>29</sup>

In 1882 the frame building was torn down and a picturesque building of stone with stained glass windows was erected at a cost of about \$5000.<sup>30</sup> This building is still in use.

The Baptist Church was organized with eight members December 16, 1871. The first preaching was conducted February 10, 1872, by Brother J. M. Lappin. A church building was begun

<sup>25</sup>The Independent News, (December 20, 1900).

<sup>26</sup>Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>27</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>28</sup>Girard Press, (March 24, 1870).

<sup>29</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121.

<sup>30</sup>The Independent News, (December 20, 1900).

<sup>31</sup>Organized by J. A. Murray of St. Louis, Missouri.



in 1873 and was not completed until 1876.<sup>31</sup> It was located on South Ozark Street.<sup>32</sup>

The next building was finished in 1900 at a cost of \$2500 and was located on the present site of the Baptist Church on the corner of Forest Avenue and Osage Street.<sup>33</sup> It was named the Kincaid Memorial Church in honor of Eugene Kincaid, who after serving several years as a missionary in India, returned to Girard to spend the remainder of his life. The building was built during the pastorate of Willis N. Webb.<sup>34</sup>

The old church building was torn down in 1925 and a new building built of kelas stone<sup>35</sup> was erected in its place at a cost of \$21,000.<sup>36</sup> It was dedicated October 5, 1924, by Dr. S. M. Brown of Kansas City, Missouri. The Reverend Mr. E. N. Webb was pastor of the church at the time.<sup>37</sup>

The Christian Church was organized<sup>38</sup> in 1871 with

<sup>31</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1121. foot.

<sup>32</sup>Girard Press, (May 22, 1924).

<sup>33</sup>The Independent News, (December 20, 1900).

<sup>34</sup>Girard Press, (May 22, 1924).

<sup>35</sup>Idem.

<sup>36</sup>Ibid., (October 9, 1924)

<sup>37</sup>Ibid., (October 2, 1924)

<sup>38</sup>Organized by J. A. Murray of Columbus, Kansas.

twelve charter members. They met for three years in the public school house. The members in 1873 erected a small building<sup>39</sup> just north of the present high-school building which was dedicated by W. R. Cowley. The building was moved in 1878 to the present site of the Electric Mills where it remains today as a mill building.<sup>40</sup>

In 1882 a new and larger building<sup>41</sup> was erected on the corner of Ozark and Walnut Streets at an approximate cost of \$2800.<sup>42</sup> It was dedicated February 12, 1882, by the Reverend N. A. McConnell of Iowa.<sup>43</sup> The building was remodelled and enlarged in 1908, under the pastorate of H. G. Bond.<sup>44</sup> It was rededicated by General G. T. Sweeney, a former minister of the United States to Turkey.<sup>45</sup> Under the pastorate of the Reverend W. E. Babb, the membership of the church grew rapidly. In 1916, a large frame bungalow was erected west of the church building. Later a lot and congregation erected their present church building in 1906

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<sup>39</sup> Building was thirty-two by forty feet.

<sup>40</sup> Girard Press, (June 9, 1927). A complete history of the Christian Church will be found in this issue.

<sup>41</sup> This building was thirty-four by sixty feet.

<sup>42</sup> Girard Press, (February 16, 1882).

<sup>43</sup> Idem.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., (June 9, 1927).

<sup>45</sup> Interview with W. E. Babb, minister of the Christian Church since August, 1914, (January 14, 1933).



dwelling was purchased just north of the church for an overflow building.<sup>46</sup>

In the meantime, February 10, 1918, the church had started a building fund which resulted in the erection of a modern church and Sunday School building<sup>47</sup> at the corner of Walnut Street and Summit Avenue. It was dedicated June 7, 1927, by John D. Zimmerman.<sup>48</sup>

The first Catholic Church was built in 1878. "Father Bomanzeneni is the first mentioned pastor."<sup>49</sup> This church was located on the corner of Walnut and Cherokee streets. It was torn down in 1925 and a new brick building was erected in its place.<sup>50</sup>

The Christian Science Church was chartered in June, 1902, by seven members. The first service was held at the home of Mrs. Jennie Adsit of north Ozark Street. Meetings thereafter were held on the west side of the square until the congregation erected their present church building in 1906 at the corner of Ozark and St. John streets. It was

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<sup>46</sup>W. E. Babb, op. cit.

<sup>47</sup>Erected at a cost of \$75,000.

<sup>48</sup>W. E. Babb, op. cit.

<sup>49</sup>These facts were secured from the Catholic Cathedral of Wichita, Kansas, through Sister Alphonsus, Superintendent of the Wichita hospital, (April 22, 1933).

<sup>50</sup>Girard Press, (January 14, 1926).

dedicated in 1907.<sup>51</sup>

There are two colored churches in Girard. The Second Colored Missionary Baptist Church according to the deed record<sup>52</sup> was probably organized in 1886. No other records are available on this church. In 1912, they erected in place of an old frame building located on west Prairie Avenue, a modern stucco building. It was dedicated in the fall of 1922.<sup>53</sup> The African Methodist Episcopal Church, located on Osage Street, was probably organized in 1897.<sup>54</sup>

#### Fire Department

In July, 1881, the city council purchased a fire engine.<sup>55</sup> It was operated by hand power and was termed by J. T. Leonard of Girard as "a man killer".<sup>56</sup> On April 29, 1918, the city commissioners purchased their first automobile fire truck, a Reo, for \$2275.<sup>57</sup> During the following year, a fire siren was installed at the city light and water plant.<sup>58</sup> An American

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<sup>51</sup>Interview with Mrs. A. T. Havely, an active church member, (April 30, 1933).

<sup>52</sup>Warranty Deed, Book 3, 14.

<sup>53</sup>Girard Press, (September 28, 1922).

<sup>54</sup>Warranty Deed, Book 30, 343.

<sup>55</sup>A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1122.

<sup>56</sup>Interview with J. T. Leonard, (April 8, 1933).

<sup>57</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book D, 361.

<sup>58</sup>Ibid., p. 390.



La France, a combination hose and chemical fire truck, was purchased by the city commissioners, April 12, 1926, for \$10,250.<sup>59</sup> On November 14, 1927, an Evinrude Pump with hose and fittings was purchased for the fire department.<sup>60</sup>

The fighting force of the Girard Fire Department numbers ten men, who volunteer their services. They are chartered by the State of Kansas and for their services they receive a small compensation, which is used to carry a blanket insurance on them.<sup>61</sup>

#### Hospital

The Girard Hospital was originally promoted by several Girard doctors in 1913. Failing to make it pay expenses, they turned it over to the Girard Commercial Club to operate. The Commercial Club appointed a hospital board<sup>62</sup> which was to operate the hospital and put it on a paying basis. This board was to collect \$1200 per month for a period of six months from the business men in order to successfully establish the hospital. The success of the board was so great that it collected only one \$1200 assessment. The hospital was located in Captain Barker's residence which stood on the

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<sup>59</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book E, 142.

<sup>60</sup>Ibid., Book E, 190.

<sup>61</sup>Interview with E. R. Walker, (April 8, 1933).

<sup>62</sup>The board was composed of W. L. Ringo and Mica Vincent.



site now occupied by the United States Postoffice building.<sup>63</sup>

In 1917, the United States Postoffice Department purchased the site of the Girard hospital. This led 875 electors to sign a petition, requesting that the city commissioners assess a tax of ten mills on Girard property for the purpose of building a city hospital.<sup>64</sup> The city commissioners granted the wishes of its citizens and on April 23, 1917, they appointed a Board of Hospital Trustees,<sup>65</sup> who were to serve until the next regular city election.<sup>66</sup> The site of the old Central school building on west Forest Avenue was purchased for \$3000, on which, a modern hospital building was erected at a cost of \$17,000.<sup>67</sup>

#### City Jail

The first city jail was located at the rear of the present city hall.<sup>67</sup> This jail was abandoned in 1885, when Girard built a jail and donated it to the county.<sup>69</sup> Since that time, the city of Girard has kept its prisoners in the

<sup>63</sup>Interview with W. L. Ringo, (April 16, 1933).

<sup>64</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book D, (April 16, 1917), pp. 332-334.

<sup>65</sup>Composed of J. W. Allison, Ed. C. Strickler, and H. C. Leonard.

<sup>66</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book D, 334.

<sup>67</sup>Idem.

<sup>68</sup>Interview with E. R. Walker, (April 8, 1933).

<sup>69</sup>Records of City Clerk, (1885), pp. 155, 156.



county jails.<sup>70</sup>

### Girard Public Library

The Public Library of Girard had its beginning on Thanksgiving, 1897, when Miss Jane Addams of the Hull House, visited Girard as the guest of her sister, Mrs. S. Alice Haldeman<sup>71</sup> and delivered an address in the Presbyterian Church upon "Social Settlements". In her address she expressed surprise that the city clubs were without a Public Library. This "left a very uncomfortable feeling in the hearts of some of the members of the Ladies Reading Club."<sup>72</sup>

The Ladies Reading Club issued an invitation to the Mutual Improvement and the Sunflower Club to meet at the home of Mrs. S. Alice Haldeman on January 21, 1899, for the purpose of organizing a "City Federation." At this meeting it was resolved that the first work of the Federation of Clubs would be to start and maintain a public library.<sup>73</sup> Permission was secured from the county commissioners, February 1, 1899, to use the County Surveyor's room for a public reading room. Each club took turn about in keeping

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<sup>70</sup> The city at present pays twenty-five cents a day per prisoner.

<sup>71</sup> Mrs. Marcet Haldeman-Julius is a daughter of Mrs. Haldeman.

<sup>72</sup> Taken from the Minutes of the Secretary of the Ladies Reading Club which is filed in the Public Library, p. 1.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

the library opened one day a week. A small fee of ten cents per month or one dollar per year was charged each user of the library.<sup>74</sup>

The Girard Public Library Association was organized January 28, 1901. It proposed to furnish library facilities free of charge. Rooms were engaged on the south side of the square, which were opened, April 15, 1901, by Mrs. Eva Mitchell,<sup>75</sup> librarian.<sup>76</sup>

In 1905 Andrew Carnegie tendered the city of Girard \$8000<sup>77</sup> with which to erect a library building, provided that the city would maintain it at a cost of not less than \$800 a year. The city was to provide a suitable site for the building.<sup>78</sup> The city council agreed to the proposition of Mr. Carnegie November 27, 1905.<sup>79</sup> A building site was donated to the city by Mr. Marion Coulter of Girard.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>74</sup>Minutes of the Secretary of the Ladies Reading Club, p. 3.

<sup>75</sup>Mrs. Mitchell resigned December 17, 1901. The vacancy was filled by Miss Blanche Warren, the present librarian.

<sup>76</sup>Secretary's Minutes of the Girard Public Library Association, pp. 1-7.

<sup>77</sup>Lewis H. Phillips of Girard was largely responsible for securing this gift.

<sup>78</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book C, 70-76.

<sup>79</sup>Idem.

<sup>80</sup>Ibid., p. 76.

Girard Press, (January 27, 1870).



The new building was formally opened June 4, 1907, by Mrs. S. Alice Haldeman in charge.<sup>81</sup> The Girard Library under the efficient management of Miss Blanche Warren has been well equipped with excellent reading material. She is ably assisted by Miss Gertrude Carpenter. A contract was made with the United States Wind Engine and Pump Company of Batavia,

#### Water System

In January, 1870,<sup>82</sup> work was commenced on a public well and by March 3, 1870, the Girard Press states, "We have a public well 220 feet deep with 190 feet of water in it." At that depth, the driller was instructed to stop. In 1881 it was so dry that the public well went dry. This caused a petition to be presented by several leading citizens to the city council requesting a special election be held to vote on issuing \$3000 in bonds in order to drill a new well and construct a water-work system. The election was held September 5, 1881. The results of the election being favorable, the city council contracted with C. B. Swan to drill a well in the center of the public square. A five-inch hole was drilled to a depth of 857 feet and 4 inches. At that depth a supply of water was found that arose within 160 feet of the surface of the ground. A pump was installed and a

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<sup>81</sup>Secretary's Minutes of the Girard Public Library Association, p. 119.

<sup>82</sup>Girard Press, (January 27, 1870).

fifteen horse-power engine was attached and kept at work for pumping water for two days in an attempt to empty the drilled well, but was unable to do so. This abundant supply of water let the voters of Girard to sanction the sale of \$5000 worth of bonds June 30, 1882. The proceeds were to be used in building a city water system.<sup>83</sup> A contract was made with the United States Wind Engine and Pump Company of Batavia, Illinois, for an eighteen by twenty-four feet water tank for \$450, a twenty-five foot diameter improved Halladay Wind Mill for \$395 and a pump for \$285. Four double discharge Chapman fire hydrants for mains for \$140.<sup>84</sup> A two-story<sup>85</sup> tower was built to support the water tank. Four cisterns with a total capacity of 60,000 gallons of water were constructed, one on each side of the square. A six-inch water main was constructed around the square next to the business house to which hydrants were attached.<sup>86</sup>

The windmill proved impracticable and it was soon abandoned in favor of steam power. On February 26, 1893,<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1122.

<sup>84</sup> Girard Press, (August 10, 1882).

<sup>85</sup> First story was used for an engine room; the second for a meeting-place for firemen, A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1122.

<sup>86</sup> A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1122.

<sup>87</sup> Records of City Clerk, Book A, 329-331.



the engine house burned and a general meeting was called for citizens at the Court House March 1, 1893, at which time it was decided to build a new water-works system in the near future,<sup>88</sup> as the existing system had been unsatisfactory for several years.<sup>89</sup> On May 2, 1893, the citizens voted to issue \$15,000 in bonds in order to build a new water-work system.<sup>90</sup> It was decided by the city council September 11, 1893, that the new well and pump station would be located off the square<sup>91</sup> and on September 18, 1893, the city purchased its present site from Loren Brown for \$475.<sup>92</sup> P. L. Crossman of Joplin, Missouri, was given a contract to drill a well; the first 500 feet to be a ten-inch hole and the balance an eight-inch hole.<sup>93</sup> The well was drilled to a depth of 900 feet.<sup>94</sup> As it was decided to use a tower system, a contract was let to George T. Cadwell for 200,000 bricks.<sup>95</sup> Fred Sperry Electric, Motor, and Car Brake Company which was given

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<sup>88</sup>A new engine house was immediately built and the damaged engine was repaired.

<sup>89</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 5, 65, 158, 331.

<sup>90</sup>Ibid., p. 349.

<sup>91</sup>Ibid., p. 367. replaced in 1909 by J. H. Smith of

the J. H. Smith Boiler Works, who erected a steel tank on the tower.  
<sup>92</sup>Ibid., p. 368. 200, Ibid., Book C, 225.

<sup>93</sup>Idem. Book B, 465.

<sup>94</sup>Ibid., p. 403. 307.

<sup>95</sup>Ibid., p. 369. 225.

Massman received the contract for the construction of the tower for \$2065.<sup>96</sup> It was decided to build the tower on solid rock. Limestone rock was used below the surface of the ground while sandstone rock was used for the foundation above the surface.<sup>97</sup> On top of the tower a Louisiana Red Cypress tank<sup>98</sup> was constructed. On June 6, 1904, the city council contracted with J. W. Dockendorff to sink a shaft eleven and one-half feet in diameter so that the pumps could be set below the surface.<sup>99</sup> In November, 1909, the old well was extended to a depth of 1148 feet<sup>100</sup> and in 1929 Mendenhall-Winkler of Chanute, Kansas, was awarded a contract to drill a new well.<sup>101</sup>

### Electric Plants

The first electric light plant built in Girard was the Sperry Electric, Motor, and Car Brake Company which was given the right to erect a plant in Girard by the city council,

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<sup>96</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 376-377.

<sup>97</sup>Ibid., p. 374.

<sup>98</sup>This tank was replaced in 1909 by Charles McNally of the Pittsburg Boiler Works, who erected a steel tank on the tower at a cost of \$2200, Ibid., Book C, 256.

<sup>99</sup>Ibid., Book B, 455.

<sup>100</sup>Ibid., Book C, 307.

<sup>101</sup>Ibid., Book E, 225.



March 30, 1887.<sup>102</sup> The name of this plant was later changed to the Girard Electric Company<sup>103</sup> and it must have been located in the old foundry building as the Girard Press, February 11, 1888, states that "Messers Tyler and Johnson have removed their electric light dynamo from the foundry building to their own building and grounds near the Crawford County Mills." The Girard Electric Company closed down in December, 1888, as their business was unprofitable.<sup>104</sup> The city gave a bonus of ninety-six dollars to continue the service.<sup>105</sup>

On March 21, 1890, the city council granted permission to O. T. Boaz<sup>106</sup> to erect an electric light plant. He erected his plant<sup>107</sup> at the east end of Prairie Avenue. In 1892 the plant was taken over by J. A. Marshall, the mortgagee.<sup>108</sup> The service of this concern was so poor that an attempt was made in December, 1892, to annul the company's franchise.<sup>109</sup> It was not accomplished, but on February 17, 1903, the voters of

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<sup>102</sup>Records of City Clerk, (March 30, 1887), pp. 325, 326.

<sup>103</sup>Ibid., (October 3, 1887), p. 9.

<sup>104</sup>The city had only four arc lights of 2000 candle power.

<sup>105</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 91.

<sup>106</sup>Ibid., pp. 169, 170.

<sup>107</sup>The building is now used by a junk dealer.

<sup>108</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book A, 301, 302.

<sup>109</sup>Ibid., p. 455.

Girard voted to issue \$20,000 in bonds for the purpose of constructing and maintaining an electric light plant.<sup>110</sup>

On January 4, 1904, J. A. Marshall sold his electric plant to the city of Girard for \$3500.<sup>111</sup> The plant of J. A.

Marshall was then moved to the water plant site where the two were jointly located. During the same year, extensive improvements were made by the city.<sup>112</sup> E. E. Herriman was elected the first superintendent of the Girard Light and Water Plant.<sup>113</sup>

In 1919 a bond issue of \$43,200 was floated. It was to be paid from the earnings of the plant. The funds were used to install oil burning engines, new generators, and other needed equipment.<sup>114</sup>

The Girard Electric Light Plant has been a successful enterprise. It has paid most of its original cost and has supplied electricity free to the city library, city hall, hospital, and street lights.<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> Records of City Clerk, Book B, 347.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid., p. 415.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid., pp. 417, 425, 430, 432.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid., p. 475.

<sup>114</sup> Girard Press, (November 20, 1919).

<sup>115</sup> Ibid., (January 12, 1933).

<sup>116</sup> Records of City Clerk, Book B, 347.



City Office

The location of the first city office has not been ascertained by the writer. The first record of its location is found in the records of the county commissioners, January 8, 1891, when the city of Girard was given permission to use a room in the county court house for twenty years without rent.<sup>116</sup> The city office was moved to its present location, prior to the razing of the old court house in 1919.<sup>117</sup>

Parks

Higgie's Park was formerly a term applied to a tract of land lying north of Catalpa Street which runs west of north Summit Avenue. In 1887 John Higgie, Sr., began to build a park on the west side of his land. There he constructed a large lake with numerous islands, a shooting park, "and everything made for pleasure seekers."<sup>118</sup> On May 11, 1912, Clay H. Burnett bought the improved park land<sup>119</sup> and renovated it. It was thereafter called Burnett's Park. Since it is privately owned it is seldom used for park purposes.

In 1908 the Girard Coal Belt Electric Railway Company

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<sup>116</sup>Records of the County Commissioners, Book F, 447.

<sup>117</sup>Interview with E. R. Walker, city clerk, (April 8, 1933). The present building was formerly owned by the Girard Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company.

<sup>118</sup>Girard Press, (February 7, 1889).

<sup>119</sup>Warranty Deed, Book 79, 367.



leased a tract of wooded land east of the city from J. E. Raymond.<sup>120</sup> It was opened on Sunday, May 17, 1908, with a baseball game under the direction of Frank McNaught.<sup>121</sup> A large celebration was held at the park July 4, 1908. An unusually large crowd attended the celebration as it was the date set for the first flight of the Girard Airship.<sup>122</sup> After the Coal Belt railroad was sold to the J. J. Heim interests in 1909, it was allowed to decline until it was finally abandoned. The late J. E. Raymond of Girard bequeathed the former park, embracing 160 acres of land to the city of Girard, providing that the city commissioners would submit the proposition to the voters for their acceptance or rejection.<sup>123</sup> It was therefore submitted April 7, 1931, at a general election to the voters who heartily accepted the generous gift.<sup>124</sup> The Girard Golf Club<sup>125</sup> constructed a golf course on the

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<sup>120</sup> Interview with W. L. Ringo, (December 30, 1932).

<sup>121</sup> Girard Press, (October 1, 1908).

<sup>122</sup> Ibid., (July 4, 1908).

<sup>123</sup> Records of City Clerk (February 23, 1931) Book E, 284.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid., (April 10, 1931), Book E, 288.

<sup>125</sup> The Girard Club was organized May 13, 1924, with the following officers: George F. Beezley, president; Dr. Bert McKoy, vice-president; Ben Warren, secretary and treasurer. The club built a golf course, two and one-half miles east of the city on Highway No. 57 which was abandoned in favor of a municipal owned course; Girard Press, (May 15, 1924).



west part of the land which they donated to the city.

Boothe Park was given to the Christian Church of Girard March 23, 1920, by William Boothe of Fowler, Indiana, in memory of his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. James Boothe, who had purchased the land in the early days. The park contains forty acres of land covered with timber. It is located two and one-half miles west of Girard on Lightening Creek. The Christian Church has made only a few improvements in this memorial park as the donor requested that the land be kept as it was when owned by his parents.<sup>126</sup>

The Winston Park located in the southwest part of the city was given to the city of Girard by Mrs. Mary Ellen Winston Raymond.<sup>127</sup> This park contains a wading pool presented to the children of Girard by Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Reed<sup>128</sup> of Carthage, Missouri. On April 13, 1931, the city commissioners accepted the gifts of the donors<sup>129</sup> and on May 4, 1931, they ordered two bronze tablets be placed, one at the

<sup>126</sup>Interview with W. E. Babb, minister of the Girard Christian Church, (April 22, 1933).

<sup>127</sup>Now Mrs. Jonathan Davis of Bronson, Kansas.

<sup>128</sup>Mr. and Mrs. Reed have built a number of wading pools in this part of the country, wherever the city government would maintain them.

<sup>129</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book E, 289.

entrance and the other on the building at Winston Park.<sup>130</sup>

### Streets

In 1885 the city council ordered that the public square be curbed and guttered with rocks.<sup>131</sup> In 1892 the square was riprapped.<sup>132</sup> This roadbed was used until 1911, when Girard began to pave its main thoroughfares with Sarcolithic asphalt pavement two inches in thickness on a four-inch concrete foundation.<sup>133</sup> During the years of 1915 and 1921, many streets were paved until Girard could boast of having more miles of paved streets in proportion to its size than any other town in southeastern Kansas.<sup>134</sup>

### Sewage System

On February 26, 1912, the city commissioners took the initial steps to construct a public disposal plant.<sup>135</sup> They condemned the land lying west of the old section of the Girard cemetery for that purpose.<sup>136</sup>

By 1924, Girard had outgrown its disposal plant which had been built in 1912. Numerous complaints had been made to the

<sup>130</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book E, 291.

<sup>131</sup>Records of City Clerk, (October 5, 1885), p. 183

<sup>132</sup>County Commissioners Journal, Book G, 185.

<sup>133</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book C, 421, 476.

<sup>134</sup>Ibid., Book D, et. seq.

<sup>135</sup>Ibid., Book D, 44.

<sup>136</sup>Idem.



State Health Department by farmers owning land through which the creek flowed, that the water was impure and was harmful to their stock. On March 25, 1924, the city commissioners at the request of the State Health Department, took active steps to enlarge and rebuild the sewage disposal plant.<sup>137</sup> During the following month, the city commissioners contracted with Black and Veatch of Kansas City, Missouri, to enlarge and rebuild the city's disposal plant.<sup>138</sup>

growth has been intermittent, but at no time has its population deviated far from the three thousand mark.

Girard is to-day a model rural city in the great west. It is a thriving community that has well withstood the present economic conditions. The financial conditions of the city are better to-day than at any other time in the past twenty years. The city has a cash balance in its treasury of nearly \$88,000.

Since 1871 Girard has been noted for its milling industry which is to-day its largest industrial asset. Perhaps, next in importance is the Waldman-Julius Publishing Company which has sold over 200,000,000 copies of the "Little Blue Books." As Girard is an agricultural city, the milk and cream industry has been an important factor in its growth and development.

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<sup>137</sup>Records of City Clerk, Book E, 76.

<sup>138</sup>Ibid., pp. 80-82.

## CHAPTER VII

### CONCLUSION

Girard is one of the oldest towns in southeastern Kansas having been founded more than sixty-five years ago. Its growth was at first slow due to the "Cherokee Neutral Lands Controversy." After the land questions was settled it grew rapidly and in 1871 it became a third-class city. In 1881 it became a city of the second class. Since that time its growth has been intermittent, but at no time has its population deviated far from the three thousand mark.

Girard is to-day a model rural city in the great west. It is a thriving community that has well withstood the present economic conditions. The financial conditions of the city are better to-day than at any other time in the past twenty years. The city has a cash balance in its treasury of nearly \$25,000.

Since 1871 Girard has been noted for its milling industry which is to-day its largest industrial asset. Perhaps, next in importance is the Haldeman-Julius Publishing Company which has sold over 200,000,000 copies of the "Little Blue Books." As Girard is an agricultural city, the milk and cream industry has been an important factor in its growth and development.

Although a small town in southeastern Kansas, the name of



Girard is well known over the United States having been heralded throughout the country by the largest political newspaper in the world, the Appeal to Reason. It was contract further advertised when Girard became the home of the famous "Little Blue Books."

Girard is a town of churches, nearly every important Christian denomination is to be found here. It possesses an excellent school system which extends its educational facilities to more than one hundred and ninety non-resident students. Numerous clubs, lodges, and civic organizations are sponsored by its citizens. Good theatres meet the desire of movie fans. Modern stores supply the needs of the shopping public. Surrounded by a prosperous farming community, Girard's future is assured.

of the said supplemental articles also stipulating that it is further agreed and distinctly understood that under the conveyance of the Cherokee Neutral Lands to the said American Emigrant Company with all territorial interests therein, as set forth in said contract, the said company and their assignees, shall take only the residue of said lands after securing to the actual settlers the lands to which they are entitled under the provisions of the seventeenth article and amendments thereto of the said Cherokee treaty of August 11, 1866, and that the

APPENDIX A

CONTRACT OF SALE OF "NEUTRAL LANDS" TO JAMES F. JOY

On October 9, 189<sup>7</sup>, James F. Joy entered into a contract with the Secretary of Interior to perform the following obligations:

1. That within ten days from the ratification of this supplemental article, the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars shall be paid to the Secretary of the Interior as trustee for the Cherokee Nation of Indians.
2. That the other deferred payments specified in said contract shall be paid when they respectively fall due, with interest only from the date of the ratification hereof, the said supplemental article also stipulating that it is further agreed and distinctly understood that under the conveyance of the Cherokee Neutral Lands to the said American Emigrant Company with all beneficial interest therein, as set forth in said contract, the said company and their assignees, shall take only the residue of said lands after securing to the actual settlers the lands to which they are entitled under the provisions of the seventeenth article and amendments thereto of the said Cherokee treaty of August 11, 1866, and that the



proceeds of the sales of said lands so occupied at the date of said treaty by actual settlers, shall incur to the sole benefit of and be retained by the Secretary of Interior as trustee for the said Cherokee Nation of Indians.<sup>1</sup>

In the matter of the Incorporation of the Town of Girard.

And now this tenth day of November, A. D. 1869, was presented to the Court the Petition of C. G. Hawley, S. A. Weir and other inhabitants of the Town of Girard setting forth the names and bounds of said Town and praying that they may be incorporated and a police established for their local government and the care of their public grounds, and the Court being satisfied that a majority of the taxable inhabitants of such Town have signed such petition and that the prayer of such Petitioners is reasonable, it is ordered and declared by the Court that the said Town of Girard in County of Crawford State of Kansas be and the same is hereby incorporated and the following is designated as the names and bounds thereof to wit: The whole of the North half of section number twenty-four (24), Township number twenty-nine (29), Range number twenty-three (23) in said County of Crawford.

And it appearing to the Court that the following named persons, inhabitants of said Town, possess the necessary

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<sup>1</sup>Deed Record, Book C, 49, 50.

APPENDIX B

W. B. Stanton, CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF GIRARD J. B. Smith, and  
D. W. Burnett,

The State of Kansas

In the Probate Court

Crawford County

and for said Crawford County

In the matter of the Incorporation of the Town of Girard.

And now this tenth day of November, A. D. 1869, was presented to the Court the Petition of C. G. Hawley, S. A. Weir and other inhabitants of the Town of Girard setting forth the metes and bounds of said Town and praying that they may be incorporated and a police established for their local government and the care of their public grounds, and the Court being satisfied that a majority of the taxable inhabitants of such Town have signed such petition and that the prayer of such Petitioners is reasonable, it is ordered and declared by the Court here that the said Town of Girard in County of Crawford State of Kansas be and the same is hereby incorporated and the following is designated as the metes and bounds thereof to wit: The whole of the North half of section number twenty-four (24), Township number twenty-nine (29), Range number twenty-three (23) in said County of Crawford.

And it appearing to the Court that the following named persons, inhabitants of said Town, possess the necessary qualifications according to law, they are hereby appointed the first Board of Trustees of said Town of Girard: viz.



W. E. Blandon, L. F. Crawford, James Hull, N. Sinnett, and  
D. W. Burnett.

George Ryan, J. E. Raymond, Thomas D. S. McIntosh, Harry  
J. Reifer, E. Robinson, I. D. Barker, Joseph Probate Judge.

Monte, E. H. Davis, J. J. Ring, J. D. Barker, W. H. Barker,

G. E. Barnett, W. A. Ryan, M. G. Vincent, A. Barker, J. E.

Copied from Records of

Probate Judge, Nov. 14, 1871.

Journal A, Page 32.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true  
copy of the original order of Incorporation on file in the  
office of the Probate Judge of the County of Crawford State  
of Kansas.

Seal

A. M. Cook

City Clerk.

## APPENDIX C

### MAYORS OF GIRARD SINCE 1871

George Ryan, J. E. Raymond, Thomas Ping, James McMurry,  
J. Reffer, M. Robinson, I. D. Barker, Joseph Ennis, John  
Tontz, E. H. Brown, P. J. Ping, J. D. Barker, Wm. Gardner,  
C. H. Burnett, W. H. Ryan, M. G. Vincent, A. Burns, H. P.  
Houghton, H. E. Sauer, J. E. Walsh, J. J. Storey, B. S.  
Gaitskill, C. A. Clark, George Detgen, C. A. Clark.<sup>36</sup>

of the tour of the United States now in progress to encourage  
popular interest in Aeronautics, it is impossible for the  
Spirit of St. Louis to land in your city.

This message from the air, however, is sent to you to  
express our sincere appreciation of your interest in the tour  
and in the promotion and expansion of commercial aeronautics  
in the United States.

We feel that we will be amply repaid for all our effort  
if each and every citizen in the United States cherishes an  
interest in flying and gives his earnest support to the air  
mail service and the establishment of air ports and similar  
facilities. The concerted efforts of the citizens of the  
United States in this direction will result in America's  
taking its rightful place within a very short time as the

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<sup>36</sup>Records of City Clerk, (1871-1933).



APPENDIX D

LETTER TO GIRARD FROM COLONEL CHARLES A. LINDBERGH

Aboard the Spirit of St. Louis

On Tour.

To the City of Girard:

Greetings:

Because of the limited time and the extensive itinerary of the tour of the United States now in progress to encourage popular interest in Aeronautics, it is impossible for the Spirit of St. Louis to land in your city.

This message from the air, however, is sent to you to express our sincere appreciation of your interest in the tour and in the promotion and expansion of commercial aeronautics in the United States.

We feel that we will be amply repaid for all our effort if each and every citizen in the United States cherishes an interest in flying and gives his earnest support to the air mail service and the establishment of air ports and similar facilities. The concerted efforts of the citizens of the United States in this direction will result in America's taking its rightful place within a very short time as the

world leader in commercial flying.

Charles A. Lindbergh

(Signed)

Well No. 1.

Located in Higgin's Park.

Harry F. Guggenheim, President of the Daniel Guggenheim fund for the promotion of aeronautics. William P. McCracken, Jr., assistant secretary of Aeronautics, Department of Commerce.

Mississippi line at 508 feet.

Well No. 2.

Located on Grater's farm.

Depth, 585 feet.

Twenty inches of coal at 212 feet.

Twenty inches of coal at 231 feet.

Twelve inches of coal at 519 feet.

No gas was found.

Mississippi line at 547 feet.

Well No. 3.

Located on Dixon's farm.

Depth, 533 feet.

Light vein of coal at 98 feet.

Light vein of coal at 230 feet.

Mississippi line at 521 feet.



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APPENDIX E

Well No. 4.  
REPORT OF J. R. RAMSEY TO THE CITY COUNCIL  
Located on ...  
Depth, 507 feet.

Well No. 1.

Located in Higgle's Park.

Depth, 515 1/2 feet.

Well Two feet of coal at 472 feet.

Small flow of gas at 487 feet.

Mississippi lime at 508 feet.

Well No. 2.

Located on Gruber's farm.

Depth, 583 feet.

Twenty inches of coal at 212 feet.

Well Twenty inches of coal at 231 feet.

Twelve inches of coal at 519 feet.

No gas was found.

Mississippi lime at 547 feet.

Well No. 3.

Located on Nixon's farm.

Depth, 533 feet.

Light vein of coal at 98 feet.

Light vein of coal at 230 feet.

Mississippi lime at 521 feet.

## Well No. 4. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JULIUS AUGUSTUS WAYLAND

Located on Adamson's farm.

Depth, 507 feet. Wayland was born April 26, 1854, at

Verona, Mo. No coal or gas was found. He was the youngest child of a family

of seven. His father died from an epidemic of cholera when Julius was only three years of age,

## Well No. 5.

leaving him to experience a childhood of poverty. He attended

Located on Keeearn's farm.

school less than two years. On April 10, 1870, he became a

Depth, 507 feet.

printer's "devil" and finally an editor and owner of a small

Two feet of coal at 261 feet.

country newspaper. In 1877 he married Miss Etta Boyan and

Light gas at 270 feet and 310 feet.

moved to Harrisonville, Missouri, where he bought an interest

Light oil at 115 feet to 130 feet.

in a local Democratic paper, the Register. The partnership soon

Mississippi lime at 550 feet.

terminated as Wayland was a Republican. He then started the

Well No. 6. which developed into a leading Republican paper.<sup>2</sup>

Located on Chas. Peak's farm. Later he was appointed

postmaster at Harrisonville. After his term expired he sold

the paper. No gas or oil found in this well. He then bought a former

public house. Mississippi lime at 506 feet.<sup>1</sup> That his "old home wasn't

the same,"<sup>3</sup> he sold out and moved to Pueblo, Colorado, in

1882. Wayland now entered the job printing business and his

<sup>1</sup>Kansas City Star, (November 11, 1912).

<sup>2</sup>A. W. Ricker, op. cit., pp. 1-21.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 21.

<sup>1</sup>City Clerk's Record, Book B, 444.



## APPENDIX F

### A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JULIUS AUGUSTUS WAYLAND

Julius Augustus Wayland was born April 26, 1854, at Versailles, Indiana. He was the youngest child of a family of seven children; four of whom and the father died from an epidemic of cholera when Julius was only three<sup>1</sup> years of age, leaving him to experience a childhood of poverty. He attended school less than two years. On April 10, 1870, he became a printer's "devil" and finally an editor and owner of a small country newspaper. In 1877 he married Miss Etta Bevan and moved to Harrisonville, Missouri, where he bought an interest in a local Democrat paper, the Register. The partnership soon terminated as Wayland was a Republican. He then started the Cass News which developed into a leading Republican paper.<sup>2</sup>

During President Hayes' administration he was appointed postmaster of Harrisonville. After his term expired he sold the Cass News and returned to Indiana where he bought a former publication of his in 1881. Finding that his "old home wasn't the same,"<sup>3</sup> he sold out and moved to Pueblo, Colorado, in 1882. Wayland now entered the job printing business and his

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<sup>1</sup>Kansas City Star, (November 11, 1912).

<sup>2</sup>A. W. Ricker, op. cit., pp. 1-21.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 21.

"one-hoss print shop"<sup>4</sup> as he called it soon made him rich. He further increased his wealth by several good real estate investments.<sup>5</sup>

In 1890 Wayland was given a socialistic pamphlet by William Bradford, an English shoemaker, under whose tutoring he became a devout socialist. In explaining this change, Wayland says, "I saw a new light and found what I never knew existed."<sup>6</sup> By this time Wayland was considered wealthy and he was peculiar in that he always demanded gold and never trusted a bank<sup>7</sup> with his money, saying that the American banking system was "rotten".<sup>8</sup>

Wayland now began the study of finance and as a result, he became convinced that the country was about ready for a financial panic. He proceeded to sell all his property. "I sold at less than the market and soon got the reputation that I had lost my reason."<sup>9</sup> However, within a few months, the panic of 1893 was in full swing.

In 1893 Wayland began to publish socialistic leaflets

<sup>4</sup>A. W. Ricker, *op. cit.*, p. 34.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 22-23.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 23-24.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 26.

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*, this was also verified by J. T. Leonard, a Girard banker, see

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 27.



which attempted to show the cause of the panic. This idea led him to establish a socialist newspaper in February, 1893, at Greensburg, Indiana, where he would be close to the large industrial centers. "But almost from the first my greatest circulation for the Coming Nation went to California."<sup>10</sup>

This experience taught him that the location of his paper had little to do with his circulation. This was the day of the Populist movement and subscriptions for the Coming Nation rapidly came in until it had 65,000 subscribers.<sup>11</sup>

Wayland and his family were ostracized by the citizens of Greensburg. This became so unpleasant that he decided to establish a Socialistic colony in 1894 near Tennessee City, Tennessee,<sup>12</sup> which was later called the "Ruskin Colony".<sup>13</sup> He also moved his Coming Nation to "Ruskin". Wayland withdrew from the colony July 22, 1895, because he had "discovered that unless people are held together by some religious or other bigotry those communities fail. They fail because recalcitrants can invoke laws of the land and overrule the laws of the colony."<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>A. W. Ricker, op. cit., pp. 28, 29.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., p. 30.

<sup>12</sup>Kansas City Star, (March 22, 1901).

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., (November 11, 1912).

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., (December 6, 1896). This is a direct quotation of Mr. Wayland as given in an interview to a Star reporter.

On August 31, 1895, he began the publication of the Appeal to Reason in Kansas City, Missouri, which he discontinued in October, 1896, until he could find a suitable rural community where his overhead expense would be low. Girard, Kansas, was selected for the Appeal's new home, and on February 6, 1897, the first issue was published there.<sup>15</sup>

Mr. Wayland was married April 10, 1901, to Miss Pearl Hunt of Girard, his first wife having died October 5, 1898. His second wife was killed June 9, 1911, in an automobile accident.<sup>16</sup>

On November 11, 1912, Mr. Wayland, after attending a Girard theatre, committed suicide by shooting himself which was attributed to despondency and anxiety over governmental law suits that were pending against him. Before his death, Wayland had written in his copy of Bellamy's Looking Backward,<sup>17</sup> "The Struggle Under the Competitive System is not worth the Effort, Let it Pass."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> A. W. Ricker, op. cit., p. 33.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., p. 33.

<sup>17</sup> A book picturing the future co-operative society, Ibid., p. 30.

<sup>18</sup> Interview with Walter Wayland of Girard, a son of J. A. Wayland, (January 28, 1933).



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