

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF RILEY COUNTY UNTIL  
THE COMING OF THE RAILROADS AS REFLECTED IN  
THE NEWSPAPERS

by

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## INTRODUCTION

## History of Kansas Newspapers, 1850-1900

This study was undertaken with the purpose of investigating the economic and social development of Riley County to the coming of the railroads in 1866. The material was chiefly gathered from Riley County newspapers, The Western Kansas Express, the Manhattan Express, and the Manhattan Independent, also the Leavenworth Times and the Topeka Tribune, though only occasional reference to Riley County was found in the two papers last mentioned. Other sources used were A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas, William F. Connelley, History of Newspapers and his book, Kansas and Kansans, Daniel W. Wilders, Annals of Kansas and several volumes of the Kansas State Historical Collection, along with the first Secretary's book of the Manhattan Town Association.

The Western Kansas Express was the first newspaper ever printed in Riley County, or west of Topeka, in Kansas Territory. It was first published in Wyandotte (Kansas City, Kansas) in May, 1850, and the plant was later brought by steamer up the Kansas River to Manhattan.<sup>1</sup> The first

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1. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas, p. 1307.

issue of record is for August 20, 1859 at Manhattan.<sup>1</sup> The Italian refugee, Mr. Charles F. de Vivaldi became the editor and played a dominant part in the life of the community. His influence through his newspaper and his other activities carried great weight and had much to do with shaping the early history of Riley County. He was one of the best educated and most influential men in the Territory. He continued as editor of this paper until 1861, when President Lincoln appointed Mr. de Vivaldi consul to Santos, Brazil.

On September 17, 1859 the heading of the paper was changed to the Manhattan Express because it did not do full justice to those who felt most interest in Manhattan. It had been made the official paper of the city of Manhattan and Horace Greeley in recommending it to his readers called it the Manhattan Express.<sup>2</sup> The editorial in the first issue made known that it was strictly Republican<sup>3</sup> in policy and since it was the only paper, it became the official Republican organ in Riley County.<sup>4</sup> This policy continued as long as the paper existed. It was published every Saturday morning and carried the following card.

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1. William E. Connelley, History of Kansas Newspapers, State Printing Plant (Topeka, Kansas, 1916) p. 276.
  2. Manhattan Express, September 17, 1857.
  3. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.
  4. Manhattan Express, January 5, 1861.

Western Kansas Express

Charles de Vivaldi Editor-----Proprietor

One copy one year \$ 2.00

Payment in all cases in advance

The paper to be discontinued at the expiration of the time for which payment has been made

Single copies, done in wrappers, 10 cents each

Rate of advertising:

One square inch,	one insertion---	\$ 1.00
" " "	three months-----	\$ 4.90
" " "	six months-----	\$ 6.00
" " "	one year-----	\$ 8.00
1/4 column	six months-----	\$ 20.00
" "	one year-----	\$ 30.00
1/2 column	six months-----	\$ 35.00
" "	one year-----	\$ 55.00
1 column	six months-----	\$ 60.00
" "	one year-----	\$100.00 1

In the winter season of 1859 and 1860, wood and occasionally food stuffs were accepted as payment. Calls were made repeatedly asking for wood, even going so far as to say that if the paper was to be printed, wood must be brought in. The editor could not get the wood and issue the paper. During this period the paper was published very irregularly and frequently only a half sheet, due to a shortage of paper and the condition of the roads which made it impossible to go to Leavenworth to obtain more.<sup>2</sup> In one instance the paper was delayed due to roads being closed and no mail service for ten days.<sup>3</sup> This notice appeared in the issue of the Western Kansas Express

1. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.

2. Manhattan Express, August 14, 1860, Ibid., June 2, 1860

3. Western Kansas Express, January 26, 1861.



August 17, 1861. "To our subscribers; the last few weeks we have been obliged to issue half a sheet. The hard times, a consequence of the last year's growth has been felt by us. The greater portion of this years subscription, though the year is nearly passed, remains unpaid, and a large part of the first years subscriptions."

In 1860 a new job power press that would print "every description of posters, bill heads, circulars, cards, checks, books, pamphlets, and catalogues. Also printing in prints and colors," was added to the equipment of The Express.<sup>1</sup> In January, 1861, through the Leavenworth Times, the Western Kansas Express became connected with the telegraphic dispatch and according to declaration, was able to furnish news a few days in advance of many of the Eastern newspapers.<sup>2</sup>

From 1861 to 1863, the Manhattan Express continued under the editorship of Mr. James Humphrey. In 1863 it was purchased by Mr. J. H. Pillsbury and called the Manhattan Independent. This paper continued until 1868 when it was sold to L. R. Elliot.

On July 18, 1866, another paper, The Kansas Radical

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1. Manhattan Express, April 21, 1861.

2. Ibid., January 3, 1861.

was started by E. C. Manning. This paper was purchased by L. R. Elliot in 1868 along with the Manhattan Independent and the two were consolidated into the Manhattan Standard.

It is chiefly from these papers that the material for this thesis was secured. The organizations of these papers was very similar. Before the war, the front page of each paper was usually given over to advertisements, a short story with a very pointed moral, a "Just For Fun" column and perhaps a poem which was the work of some local novice. All legal suits of non residents were run for six weeks before being brought to trial and a notification of all trials was published.<sup>1</sup> There was a great deal of interest, especially in Vivaldi's paper, in governmental affairs. The issue of December 17, 1859 had a column headed "Congressional Scandals" in which various members of Congress were criticized and exposed in a manner similar to that of our own day. Party platforms were always given a prominent place. Foreign affairs also received considerable space and comment. Here it was most interesting to watch Italian dominance in European

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1. Manhattan Express, September 24, 1859.

affairs as seen by the local paper.

Notifications of taxes and delinquent tax lists were always published.<sup>1</sup> Every issue carried a column from the New York Tribune urging people to send in subscriptions to "Horace Greeley Company" Above all of these various interests advertising was supreme until the war. One half of the paper was usually given to war news and the other half to advertising, with occasionally a brief column of Personals.

The law of the newspapers was to be found in every issue. Local correspondence is found among various newspapers and letters from all over the country were received and published.<sup>2</sup> There appears to have been a great deal of rivalry between the editors of Junction City and Manhattan, and Mr. Vivaldi is criticised quite severely for a "pollywog" edition of his paper.<sup>3</sup> In one issue the Junction City editor vigorously attacked the Manhattan Express calling it a "Smut Machine" having at its mast-head an Italian refugee.

Until the war, agriculture was given due attention in the newspapers. Articles were copied from the Farmer

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1. Manhattan Express, February 1, 1860.

2. Ibid., October 8, 1860.

3. Topeka Tribune, September 1, 1860.



Farmer, St. Lawrence Journal, and Prayer Journal. A farmer's department was maintained.<sup>1</sup> During the early part of the war this was dropped, but was revived again in 1862.<sup>2</sup>

In the last years of the war 1864-1865 and immediately following, the attention of the people was turned to the closing campaign and to reconstruction. It seemed to be the absorbing topic constantly before the people and it was in this reconstruction period that the railroads began to appear.

#### CHAPTER II---THE SETTLEMENT OF MILKY COUNTY

The first annual report of the trustees to the stockholders of the Manhattan Town Association disclosed that the town site of Manhattan, as was surveyed by them in 1855, or at least "a portion of it was selected as a suitable place for a town by G. E. Park, Esq., as early as June 1854, and that in November of the same year Mr. Park erected a cabin, it being the first building raised on what is now regarded as the City site. The name chosen by Mr. Park was Poleoka (also spelled Polestra and Polestia)

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1. Manhattan Express, May 28, 1861.  
 2. Ibid., March 15, 1862.

compounded of two Greek words meaning central city. Mr. Park spent the following winter in Texas and did not return to this place until April 1855." <sup>1</sup> He was the first white settler known to have located in Riley County.

Riley County was the western-most county in Kansas, having the Kansas River as the southern boundry, as organized by the territorial legislature of 1855. Its northern boundry was Marshall County and its western, "the line between ranges five and six east; its eastern boundry, Calhoun County, lying east of the line dividing ranges ten and eleven east." <sup>2</sup> What was then settled and really looked upon as Kansas, was northeastern Kansas. From 1857 to 1873, various changes were made in the county lines of Riley. The part of it east of the Big Blue is now the major portion of Pottawatomie County. The western boundry of Riley was extended eight miles west from the lines dividing ranges five and six. Davis County had been enlarged by territory taken from Riley and Riley had in turn had additions from the counties of Davis and Wabaunsee. This was accomplished by a town meeting held at the court house in Manhattan. "Riley County received

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1. Secretary's Book, Manhattan Town Association, Copy of Secretary's Report.
  2. Andreas, Op. Cit., p. 1300.

its name directly from the military post of Fort Riley, and indirectly from General Benjamin Riley, an officer of the United States Army."<sup>1</sup>

On July 31, 1852, Col. T.T. Fauntleroy, of the First Dragoons, while in Washington, D. C. in a letter to Major-General T. S. Jessey, Quartermaster-General of the United States Army, urged the establishment of a military post at or near a point on the Kansas River, where the Republican River unites with it.<sup>2</sup> He also recommended that Forts Leavenworth, Scott, Atchinson, Kearney and Laramie be discontinued and all troops concentrated at the proposed point. In the autumn of 1852, Colonel Fauntleroy, Major E. A. Ogden, and an officer of the Engineer Corps, were appointed as a committee to select a site on the Smoky Hill River for a ten-company cavalry post. The point chosen was the present site of Fort Riley. Fort Riley was started in 1853, to protect the Indians against the aggression of the white settlers who were coming in. At this time Kansas was still a part of the unorganized territory.

On May 19, 1855, Captain Lovell, of the Sixth Infantry formed an encampment at the mouth of the Pawnee

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1. Andress, Op. Cit., p. 1800.

2. Ibid.

River and named it "Camp Center." July 26, 1853, it took the name of Fort Riley.<sup>1</sup> The building of the post was under the supervision of Major Ogden. Major Ogden remained in charge of the post until his death in 1855 when cholera swept Fort Riley. In 1854, there were four companies, sixteen officers and 228 men,<sup>2</sup> with an unknown number of laborers located at Fort Riley. These men were under martial law and were allowed no part in civil government, so they had little influence in determining the development of Riley County.

The northern part of the county was not settled in the early days of Riley County. It was settled up as far as Keats and later to Randolph. In the latter part of 1853, a Tennessean, Samuel D. Dyer, was running a government ferry at Juniata, about one mile below Rocky Ford. Shortly afterwards a government bridge was put in at this point, but it was destroyed by flood waters in the winter of 1855.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Dyer is one of the first white<sup>4</sup> settlers of Riley County and this interesting description is given of him. "He died in February, 1875. His politics were Pro-

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1. Andreas, Op. Cit., p. 1300.

2. Ibid., p. 82.

3. Ibid., p. 1301.

4. Authorities do not agree on this point. The Secretary's Book of the Manhattan Town Association states that Colonel Parks was the first white settler, however they may mean of Manhattan Town Site.

slavery. He was of good, common sense, excellent judgment and great kindness of heart. His home was one story high and two stories long." <sup>1</sup>

The first home missionary of Riley County was the Reverend Charles Emerson Blood, a native of Mason, New Hampshire, who located at Juniata, November 4, 1854. "Having with others in his own words, 'left their homes in the States, not simply to improve their worldly interests, but to fight the battle of freedom and save this beautiful country from the blighting curse of slavery.' " <sup>2</sup>

In 1855 Zeandale Township was named by J. H. Pillsbury. Zeandale was named to mean "corn-sale." In 1855 a church edifice was begun but never completed, and on alternate Sundays, during the year 1856, the Reverend Harvey Jones of Wabaunsee preached here. The first school was established and taught by Mrs. Pillsbury in her home. In 1858, Miss Mattie Keys established a private school and in 1859, Miss Keys became the teacher of the first district school, held on the farm of Mr. Abner Allen.<sup>3</sup> The first school house was built in 1862. It was made of hewn logs and called the "Conic Section"

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1. Andreas, Op. cit., p. 1301.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.



because of its hexagonal shape.

The next township to be established was Ashland, then a part of Davis County. It was transferred to Riley County by an act of the legislature in 1873. Ashland was first settled by Thomas Reynolds in 1855. On April 22, 1855 a colony made up in Covington, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio, arrived, consisting of thirty-five members. These settlers came by steamer from Cincinnati to Kansas City, and from there in immigrant wagons.<sup>1</sup> Among these people were many admirers of Henry Clay and the name of his late residence was given to this township. "The settlement was made on Mc Dowell Creek. F. G. Adams was president, the Reverend H. B. White, Vice President, and Henry J. Adams treasure. Ashland was the county seat of Davis County and several terms of the district court were held there. A post office was established in 1858.<sup>2</sup> Dr. E. L. Patee was the first court clerk and he became county treasurer of Riley County in 1860.

Ogden Township, was named for Major Ogden of the United States Army. In June of 1854, Thomas Reynolds erected the first dwelling and here was held the election

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1. Andreae, Op. Cit., p. 1301.

2. Ibid.

for the first territorial delegate, November 24, of 1854.<sup>1</sup>

In 1855 the first store in the township was opened at Pawnee by Robert Wilson. Shortly afterward a Mr. Johnson of Kansas City opened the first store in Ogden. The first saw and corn mill was brought in in 1856 by J. U. Parsons. Theodore Weischelbaum "its most prominent merchant" came to Ogden in 1860, and for years did a large freighting business across the plains. He had a chain of five stores in western forts. Thomas Nixon built a large ware house north of where the railroad track now is and did an extensive shipping business. There was also a blacksmith, a shoemaker, a carpenter, a wagon-maker, a saddler, a general mechanic, and an auctioneer. The first school was opened in 1859 and by 1865 there were two churches, a Congregational and a Roman Catholic Church. The property value of the latter was \$ 1,200.<sup>2</sup>

The Ogden town company was chartered by the legislature of 1857 and a town at once laid out in blocks and lots. A hotel, the Union Pacific House, was built immediately. In the April 11, 1857, issue of the Kansas

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1. Andreas, Op Cit., p. 1301.

2. Andreas, History of State of Kansas, p. 1301.

Weekly Herald there is a statment noting the location of the land office for the western district of Kansas at Ogden. It gave the location of Ogden as "four and a half miles from Fort Riley on roads leading to western posts. Its proximity to the government post and good situation upon principal roads, give it advantages which few towns possess. The location of the land office will form another great source of prosperity, and Ogden is, no doubt, destined to become a point of importance. Shares in the town are now sold at \$ 300.00" 1

Another interesting notice appears in the October 24, 1857, issue of the Kansas Weekly Herald. "Ogden the county seat of Riley County is a new town. Scarcely a year old, with 200 inhabitants, also headquarters of the western land district and the county seat of Justice. Two hotels are underway and improvements of substantial character going on. It is a fine place for the location of business men and mechanics. I consider the prospects of Ogden as decidely among the best in the upper portion of the Kaw valley.....Manhattan, one of the Boston and Cincinnati towns was gotten up for speculation. I think

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1. The Kansas Weekly Herald, April, 11, 1857.

years will develop the superior natural location of Ogden." 1

Bala Township was named after a town in North Wales. In the spring of 1862, Mr. A. D. Phelps settled on the fork of Timber Creek, near the present site of Bala, though the Welsh colony which finally settled Bala was not organized until 1870, in New York.

Jackson Township was settled in 1855 by Gardner Randolph and his family. In 1856 Edward and Solomon Secrest and Henry Shellenbaum, all natives of Switzerland, settled there. Randolph, first called Waterville, was laid out in 1855 by J. K. Whitson, however its real development did not begin until the early seventies.

Grant Township was settled in 1855 by S. D. Huston and Henry Eubank. It was named after President Grant.

Stockdale is noted for one thing, the fact that in a very early day they had a sawmill. The various townships which are mentioned here, with the exception of Manhattan, which will be treated separately, were settled after 1870, so they have not been discussed.

Western Kansas (then Riley County and surrounding country) was early known as "The Great American Desert."

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1. The Kansas Weekly Herald, April, 24, 1857.



Yet even Napoleon recognized this as being false.<sup>1</sup> The Express stated that it was started by Missouri. "The composition of its soil is so varied in its chemical elements that almost everything in the nature of grasses, grains, fruits, and vegetables can be produced from it. The dark, easily worked soil of the bottom lands is very productive."<sup>2</sup>

In 1857, Governor Geary went on a tour of inspection through Kansas, as then settled. Mention was made of Manhattan and Fort Riley. "At this point the party turned toward Fort Riley, the western limits of the route. Encamping at Centropolis, at the head waters of the Wakarusa and the Neosho River, they crossed the Kansas River on the 28 of October, at Riley City,<sup>3</sup> then containing eight houses, and arrived the same evening at Fort Riley, where they remained until the 31, the visit being enlivened by a ball and review of the troops."<sup>4</sup> On his return trip to Leecompton, Governor Geary encamped Sunday, November 2, on the south bank of the Kansas River opposite Manhattan. The citizens of that town had assembled to hear preaching by the Reverend Charles E. Blood, who, on

1. Manhattan Express, March 29, 1860.

2. Andreas, op. Cit., p. 1300.

3. Riley City as mentioned here, is extinct and it has been impossible to find where it was located.

4. Andreas, op. Cit., p. 155



learning that the governor was in the neighborhood, adjourned the meeting, and crossing the river with several other men in a small boat, visited his camp, and prevailed upon him to speak to the congregation on the exciting topics of the day.<sup>1</sup> Manhattan is described as "located in a valley of great fertility, and containing about one hundred and fifty inhabitants, generally moral, intelligent and industrious, who took no part in the recent disturbances."<sup>2</sup> It contained a steam saw and grist mill, three stores and a hotel.

During the territorial days of Kansas, steamboats came up the river to Manhattan and as far as Junction City. The Big Blue, which formed a large portion of the eastern boundary of Riley County had fewer sharp bends than the Kaw into which it flowed east of Manhattan. It furnished so much water power it was called the "Merrimac of Kansas." It was dammed at Rocky Ford some three miles above Manhattan so that there was a fall of ten feet, the dam being 342 feet in length. The dam was all built of heavy oak timber bolted into the solid rock foundations.<sup>3</sup> The Rocky Ford Mill was built in 1866. A four story

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1. Andreas, Op. Cit., p. 155.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid., p. 1301.

store building, forty feet by sixty feet, "There are quite a variety of kinds of timber of which the most abundant are cottonwood, several kinds of oak and elm, black walnut, soft maple, hackberry, hickory, locust, ash, linden, sycamore, mulberry, box elder, and coffee-bean. Of the cultivated groves soft maple predominated, though black walnut, locust and cotton wood are quite common."<sup>1</sup> There were large walnut groves around Keats which furnished a great deal of lumber for the houses in Manhattan. Since Walnut was the common material it was used by the people for the frames and substantial part of their homes and if they could not afford otherwise it was used throughout. However those who could afford it usually went to Leavenworth and got white pine for finishing the inside and for the woodwork.

In 1855 cholera swept Fort Riley and Major Ogden and Major Wood's wife and four children, their servant girl and her husband died. Due to this plague the troops, Dr. Simons, the army physician, and the ladies fled the post and created a great deal of excitement in Riley County. Deaths occurred at the rate of twelve to thirteen per day. By September, the health of the Post and of

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1. Andreas, Op. Cit., p. 1301.

Riley County was finally restored and the public work continued. A monument of native stone was erected to Major Ogden and placed on the highest point so that it might overlook the Fort and every one could see it.<sup>1</sup>

In February of 1860 there was talk of changing the county seat of Riley County to Manhattan and it was formally decided by ballot. There was a great deal of opposition because of the expense involved in erecting a new building and changing offices and the people, who had met in a large group at the Manhattan city hall, decided to petition the legislature so the bill would not be introduced.<sup>2</sup> However the county seat was changed because in the issue of the Manhattan Express for July 7, 1860 there appeared an editorial on Riley County taxes. It stated that the taxes were too high and that there was fraud involved on the part of two citizens who represented Riley County. At that time they attempted to move the county seat back to Ogden and reduce the taxes.

In the latter part of 1860 the total indebtedness of Riley County was seventy dollars. In the next few years there was to be a decided increase and change in the economic status, brought on by the drought, crop

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1. Kansas Territorial Register, September 10, 1855.
  2. Manhattan Express, February 1, 1860.

failures, speculation, and the War. Also a decided growth in population and wealth of the people.

### CHAPTER III---GENERAL SURVEY OF MANHATTAN UP TO 1867

"We the undersigned do wit; E. M. Thurston, S. D. Huston, H. A. Wilcox, I. T. Goodnow, C. H. Lovejoy, C. E. Blood, H. E. Wright, C. M. Wilson, T. J. Roosa, A. Morrison, H. P. Frisby, C. Godard Jr., H. K. Crane, F. Flagg, A. L. Prentice, J. Hoar, Cincen Perry, G. W. Lockwood, H. B. Gage, J. E. Bissell, Cyrus Bishop, A. Browning, D. Ambrose and H. B. Nealey, associate ourselves together for the purpose of occupying and improving for a town site, ten quarter sections of land (more or less) in Kansas Territory, situated at the junction of the Big Blue and Kansas Rivers and agreed to by the following constitution.

#### Article I.

This organization shall be known by the name of the Boston Association of Kansas Territory." 1

These settlers met at the junction of the Big Blue and Kansas, April 3, 1855 for consultation in reference to a town site. A committee was appointed to examine the

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1. Constitution of the Boston Town Association, Secretary's Book of Manhattan Town Association.

ground and to report the amount of land desirable for a town site. The same evening at seven o'clock, in Mr. Wrights tent a meeting was held to hear the report of the committee and determine the town site. At this time Manhattan was a village of tents, though even then a very lawful and orderly village as contrasted to most pioneer settlements.

The first annual report of the trustees to the stockholders of the Manhattan Town Association gave briefly the history of Manhattan up to the date of the report, January 7, 1856.

A portion of the town site, as mapped out by the Boston Town Association, was first settled in 1854, by G. S. Park. In November of the same year Mr. Park erected a cabin which was the first building raised on what is at the present time Manhattan. The name chosen by Mr. Park was Poleska, a Greek word meaning central city. Mr. Park spent the following winter in Texas and did not return to Poleska until April of 1855.<sup>1</sup> Andreas in his History of Kansas says that Seth I. Childs built the first house, but since his book was not published until 1885, I will use the other source.

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1. Secretary's Book of Manhattan Town Association.  
1855 to 1856.



In the mean time a company had been organized by Mr. Wilcox, Russell and others, to commence operations at the mouth of the Big Blue River. This however did not include the quarter section on which Mr. Park had built his cabin. This new place was named Canton.<sup>1</sup>

"The last of March 1855, Messers, Lovejoy, Goodnow, Wilson, and others came to this place and commenced on the ground previously settled by Mr. Park and the Canton Company.

On March 24, 1855, Isaac T. Goodnow, Luke P. Lincoln, C. H. Lovejoy, C. W. Wilson, Joseph Wintersaid, and M. R. Wright, a committee of a New England Company which left Boston on March 6, 1855, one week ahead of a company of some two hundred who left March 13, 1855 and eventually settled in Canton."<sup>2</sup> These men went to St. Louis on the railroad, then up the Missouri River, which took eight days. At Kansas City oxen, horses and wagons were secured. Five days after leaving Kansas City they reached Juniata, five mile above where Manhattan is now located.

Juniata was a "pro-slavery" town located close to the government bridge which had been built at a cost of

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1. Secretary's Book of Manhattan Town Association, 1855 to 1856.
  2. Isaac T. Goodnow, Personal Reminiscences and Kansas 1855, Kansas Historical Collection, Vol. VI, (1866-1868) p. 245.

ten thousand dollars. The principal settler was an old "six foot" Virginian,<sup>1</sup> by the name of Dyer, and a member of the M. E. Church South. "His cabin, as described by an exploring missionary, was one story high and three stories long. His wife excused him to the same missionary for not saying grace at the table by saying, 'My old man, since coming to the new country, has lost his manners.' " These people kept a sort of free hotel and store. It was a preaching place for all denominations and it was customary after sermon to invite everybody to dinner. "They were a noble, generous-hearted old couple, but their free table and dishonest clerk soon got away with most of their property." <sup>2</sup>

The destruction of the bridge, the following winter, and the changing government road, with the rivalry of Manhattan which followed, effectually wiped out the town. In Kansas a "pro-slavery" town could not live by the side of a free state town.

Here Goodnow and his friends, met the Reverend Charles E. Blood, a missionary of the Congregational Church. After looking over the surrounding country the

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1. Goodnow, Op. Cit., p. 245.

2. Ibid.

committee decided to locate here. They soon learned of Park's settlement and after careful deliberation, March 26, 1855, Goodnow pitched his tent on the Park town site about thirty rods from his blacksmith shop.<sup>1</sup> There was some difficulty over the claim, as a man named Martin claimed it. Goodnow in his paper, Personal Reminiscences and Kansas Emigration 1855, said this was the only dispute of the kind he knew of to be settled without a fight. "To save the town site from jumpers, several shake houses were built and placed on each quarter section with some one to occupy and hold it as a claim till it could be preempted with a 'float.' " Not half of the original company ever reached Manhattan. Some stopped by the way, some became discouraged by hardships, and of those who reached there about one half left at the end of the first season.<sup>3</sup>

On reaching Canton the two companies effected a consolidation and named the town Boston.<sup>4</sup> The improvements at that time consisted of a log cabin, built by Colonel Park for a blacksmith shop, and a dug-out at the foot of Blue Mont. On March 30, 1855, Mr. S. D. Huston

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1. Goodnow, Op. Cit., p. 248.

2. Ibid., p. 249-250. (a float is an Indian land warrant for 640 acres of land and was transferable by purchase.)

3. Ibid., p. 250.

4. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas, p. 1300.

was elected representative from this district to the first territorial legislature." 1

On April 4, 1855, a consolidation of all these town interests was effected. Twenty-four persons were present at the meeting and these organized as the Boston Association and officially named the town Boston. One of the houses erected was used by Goodnow as a store, the first store to be located here.

On April 27, 1855, a colony left Cincinnati for central Kansas, by way of the Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri and Kansas Rivers. The name of Manhattan had been fixed upon as that of the prospective town. This name was chosen because they thought there would be room for a town that might bear some comparison to New York City.<sup>2</sup> At St. Louis this company numbered about eighty people. Deeming the steamer Hartford, which had the Cincinnati and Kansas Land Company on board,<sup>3</sup> an abolition boat, the authorities at St. Louis, delayed her for some days. A pilot was hired at the extravagant price of \$ 7.50<sup>4</sup> and the voyage from St. Louis was begun. Cholera broke out

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1. Andreas, Op. Cit., p. 1300.

2. Ibid., p. 1300.

3. Secretary's Book of Manhattan Town Association.

4. Andreas, p. 1306.



and several members died. Arriving at Kansas City, there was a tarry of a week because of low water on the Kansas River, and, when, at Lecompton, the steamer got a ground, another heavy rain so raised the river that there was no further delay until the steamer passed the mouth of the Big Blue on June 1, 1855. About a mile and a half above the mouth of the Blue the steamer grounded and was obliged to land its passengers and freight. At this time the company numbered seventy-five persons. They had brought with them ten frame houses already to put up.<sup>1</sup>

John Piper, Andrew J. Mead, and R. Palmer hired wagons and drove to what is now Junction City and there laid out the town of Manhattan. During their absence there was an interview with the Boston Association, which resulted in the Boston Association voting to give half the town site to the Cincinnati Company if they would settle there and help build up the town.<sup>2</sup> The contract was agreed upon and after this last marriage the name of the town was changed to Manhattan, in order that the Cincinnati Company might fulfil the agreement in the constitution they had made with their backers, one of

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1. James A. Humphrey, The Country West of Topeka Prior to 1865, Kansas State Historical Collection, Vol. IV (1886-1888), p. 291.
  2. Andreas, Op. Cit., p. 1300.



these agreements being that the town they settle be named Manhattan.

The land on which Manhattan was built had at one time been an Indian float and it was necessary for the settlers to buy up this land before building or locating.

Andreas in his History of Kansas gives this description of Manhattan. "Manhattan township embraces about forty square miles. On this territory is the beautiful city of Manhattan, watered by the Big Blue and the Kansas Rivers, and Wild Cat Creek. Its bottom lands are very extensive. South of the Kansas River, Mount Prospect rises almost to a perpendicular height of more than 200 feet above the river and Blue Mont nearly as high." <sup>1</sup> At this time it was necessary to ascend Blue Mont from the north, the south side was considered as impassable. "Although the town drew to its bosom a varied population, its leading characteristics were of the New England type. While its material progress was carefully attended to and watched with solicitude and interest, it early became the scene of much mental activity. In 1856 a literary society was incorporated and organized, a circulating library collected, and weekly meetings for discussion

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1. Andreas, Op. Cit., p. 1300.

and other literary exercises were conducted under its auspices." 1

Besides this an association was formed and incorporated for the establishment of a college. A site of one hundred acres was secured west of town and title procured. Professor Isaac T. Goodnow spent several years in the east getting funds for buildings, library, apparatus and furnishings. Sale of Manhattan town lots was set aside for this and in 1859, "the walls of the Blumont College buildings began to rise. The corner stone was laid with elaborate ceremony May 10, 1859, with speeches from General Foxrooy and others. It was opened to students about a year later. In 1863 it was turned over, with a library of 2,000 volumes, its apparatus and land, as a gift to the state for a State Agricultural College. September 2, 1863, the Agricultural College opened, with the Reverend Joseph Denison, president." 2

During the early years, population did not increase rapidly in this part of Kansas. The means of transportation were meager and expensive, but it expanded and pushed slowly west<sup>ward</sup>. "Ogden caught the debris of

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1. Goodnow, Op. Cit., Vol. IV, pp. 291 and 292.

2. Ibid., p. 292.

Pawnee when that ill-fated town was swept from its mooring by an official cyclone from Washington." It became the county seat of Riley County and retained it until 1853 when it was removed to Manhattan. The commercial idea was the chief incentive to the founding of Manhattan. Here "the original scheme comprehended a finished community; schools, churches, college, libraries and literary societies all existed in embryo, ready to be launched forth at the earliest opportunity. Here the social, intellectual and moral needs of the people were anticipated."<sup>1</sup>

Manhattan, being near the fort and in the midst of a large farming country, the productiveness of the soil for years repaid in a large measure all labor bestowed upon it. Formerly all supplies for the fort had been brought one hundred and fifty miles, or from Missouri, so there was a ready market for all local produce. The fact that Manhattan was surrounded by two large rivers and many streams made it compare favorably with any territory and assured plenty of good farming land, plenty of timber and a means of transportation to connect it with Kansas City and St. Louis.

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1. Goodnow, Op. Cit., Vol.IV, p. 294.

In April of 1860, the editor of the Topeka Tribune visited Manhattan and on his return published an article describing Manhattan as a city beautifully situated "at the junction of the Kaw and Blue Rivers, on a beautiful plain; just level enough to make it one of the most beautiful town sites in Kansas."<sup>1</sup> At that time two churches were already completed and another one was being constructed. The Bluemont College had been established and in spite of the drought, they predicted that Manhattan would obtain a place of considerable importance.

On February 14, 1860, the legislature of Kansas passed the Act of Incorporation for the city of Manhattan and on Monday, January 2, 1860, it was taken before the trustees<sup>2</sup> of the Manhattan Town Association to be acted upon. A request was made to stockholders, asking that all be present or appoint some one with the power of attorney to act for them. At this time the people appeared to be intensely interested in their local government. Shares were purchased in the Town Association and stockholders played a very important part. From time to time notices appear in the papers, notifying stockholders

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1. Topeka Tribune, April 14, 1860.

2. Manhattan Express, December 24, 1859.

of meetings and calling public meetings at the city hall or court house.

In June 16, 1860, The Manhattan Town Association granted the final deed to all holders of certificates of shares and bonds to perfect the title to city property.<sup>1</sup> On June 30, 1860, the first census was taken in Kansas Territory.<sup>2</sup> In the year 1860, a number of improvements were made in the city. Mr. Woodman, built a beautiful two story residence twenty feet by twenty-eight feet. Mr. Currie completed a similar residence near the college. Mr. John Wails erected a new store building on Poyntz. Mr. Harper built a new residence and the new Methodist Episcopal Church, described as the most beautiful beyond St. Louis, was completed. The spire of the church towered seventy-five feet above ground. In the winter of 1859 the grading and macadamising of Poyntz was begun. A rock crushing machine was procured and the work was completed in the spring of 1860. This was the first street of its kind west of Topeka.<sup>3</sup>

In May 14 1861, W. H. Smythe, of Manhattan, introduced a bill in the Kansas legislature, to cut off from

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1. Manhattan Express, June 16, 1860.

2. Ibid., June 30, 1860.

3. Manhattan Express, December 24, 1859.



the city of Manhattan all portions lying outside of the Wyandotte floate and restrict the city limits to twelve hundred and forty acres. The citizens of Manhattan opposed this, saying it revoked a portion of their rights, entirely without their consent.<sup>1</sup>

"Our Town," an article published in the Manhattan Express December 24, 1859, describes Manhattan as the most westerly city east of the Rocky Mountains. "The majority of all the inhabitants are people who have become civilized and believing, 'that in union is strength,' have built houses tolerably close together and live in them when at home. The Sabbath having been from time immemorial, regarded as a day of rest, it is a duty which they consider they owe to society to respect it and in conforming with the example have erected several elegant church edifices of solid stone where they all assemble once a week. We have a school house of no one-horse dimensions. Societies, benevolent, literary and sportive.

Our prospects are flattering and, we hope in no distant day to become permanent things. Stone and timber abound in abundance. Access to the river is free and easy. The climate is sufficiently changeable to satisfy

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1. Manhattan Express, December 24, 1859.

everyone.

The town is located upon what was two Wyandotte floats. One hundred ten miles from the Missouri River and sixteen miles from Fort Riley. 'Sunset sublimely glorious and moonshine gloriously sublime.'

As to comforts and amusements we defy competition. We have all kinds of vegetables and fruits common in civilized communities of the north, such as corn, beans, potatoes, turnips, of the fleshy, beef, pork, venison, turkey, buffalo-meat, rabbits, squirrel, chickens, of the fish, salmon, cat, pike, shad and gars."<sup>1</sup>

This last sketch gives a fairly good description of Manhattan. During the war it continued much as it had in the past. Manhattan raised its quota of troops, had a home guard, and its heroes. One of these was Nehemiah Green who after the war returned to Kansas and became one of its governors. There was a gradual increase in wealth and population and the intellectual interest of the people. Manhattan became an educational center of Kansas and one of which the people were very proud. As early as 1859 there was talk of a railroad and in 1860 the government began the road from Leavenworth to Denver

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1. Manhattan Express, December 24, 1859.

or the Pikes Peak road.

#### CHAPTER IV---ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

##### Agriculture

The chief concern of pioneers is the economic development of their country and the people of Riley County were no exception. The first crop was planted here in 1854 by Dyer, at Juniata. He raised enough food stuffs for his own needs, but did not attempt to produce more than a small amount. The first real cultivation was begun in the spring of 1855 and the colony advanced successfully and rapidly until the summer of 1859 and 1860 when a drought set in which ruined all the crops and left the people practically without means of existence. It was during this period that the eastern states sent their money and food to Kansas. Kansas Aid and Relief Societies were formed through out the east, especially the north east, and Pomeroy was able to use the needs of Kansas as a means of increasing his own wealth and fame.

Manhattan had every advantage necessary to the success of an agricultural community "Being near the fort, and in the midst of a rich farming country, the productivity of the soil for years must repay in a large

measure all labor bestowed upon it.

A friend, who located not many miles from Manhattan in the spring, and cultivated a few acres, in the fall found himself the possessor of \$ 7,000 more than when he came. He sold at the fort whatever he raised, at large prices.<sup>1</sup> All supplies from the fort at that time were brought from Missouri, which was nearly one hundred and fifty miles from the fort. It was no wonder the fort provided a ready market for Manhattan and vicinity.

The first corn crop was planted June 18, 1855 and sold at home for Fort Riley market at \$ 1.25 per bushell. Eggs sold at 62½ cents per dozen. Pumpkins were ripe by the fourth of July and were described by the settlers as the largest ever seen. The blue stem, prairie grass was so high, they could tie it over their heads while sitting on their horses.<sup>2</sup>

At first supplies came from the river one hundred twenty miles away. It took two weeks with horses or oxen to make this journey.

The first winter some of the settlers dried corn in the oven and ground it in coffee mills. This corn meal,

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1. Sara T. L. Robinson, Kansas, Its Interior and Exterior Life, Boston; Crosby, Nicholas and Co., 1855, p. 186.
  2. Goodnow, Op. Cit., Vol. IV, p. 250.



it was said, "made the best kind of bread." <sup>1</sup> The arrival of the emigrant aid mill from Lawrence, drawn by twenty yoke of oxen, was a great event. It simplified milling and though more expensive gave the farmers time they needed for other things.

Wild turkey, prairie chicken, quail, rabbits, coons, possum, wild deer, wild cats and wolves, furnished a great variety of game. Meat could be salted down and preserved for the winter and most of the game mentioned was plentiful. To obtain buffalo meat it was usually necessary to travel about a hundred miles out on the plains. Hunting parties were organized for the trips and usually a month passed before they returned. Business was very good as long as they kept clear of the war-like Cheyennes.<sup>2</sup>

Fruit growing was greatly encouraged "This is a fruit country, nearly all farmers may raise their own fruit. Strawberries, raspberries, currants, and gooseberries grow or will grow almost anywhere. They can be canned or preserved the whole year. Apples, pears, peaches and cherries can be raised on most farms. There is no good reason why fruit should not be as plentiful

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1. Goodnow, Op. Cit., Vol. IV, p. 250.

2. Ibid.



as corn or wheat.

This is a bilious country, that is people who live here are especially liable to bilious diseases. There is perhaps, no other preventative of bilious diseases than the constant use of fruits as a part of the diet. It corrects the acids and juices of the stomach and assists digestion. It keeps the bowels properly active, prevents sluggishness and torpidity which promote bilious derangements. Fruit, to do its best office in the diet should be cooked and eaten as a part of the regular meal. Thus used, how delicious it is.....Therefore let us grow it on all our farms, and adorn and make pleasant all our tables." 1

The first peaches of Riley County were raised by C. E. Blood on his farm near the College site in the summer of 1860.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Blood had the best and one of the few orchards in Riley County though people were becoming more interested. Due to a number of failures in the few preceding years people thought they could not raise fruit here and would have to depend on Missouri. This was probably due to the handling and shipping of the trees

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1. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1860.

2. Ibid., September, 20, 1860.

and bushes. Reverend Blood proved that fruit could be raised here. He had about forty peach trees, twenty-six of which were bearing in 1861, also a number of apple and cherry trees. The interest in fruit raising gradually increased until almost every home had its own fruit supply and own orchard. Choice three year old apple trees were advertised at \$ 13.00 per 100 or \$ 12.00 per 100 by the 1,000. <sup>1</sup>

This interest culminated in establishing the Union Agricultural Society, which was able by 1868 to hold its own fruit show. Sixteen varieties of apples were displayed and discussed and five varieties of peaches. <sup>2</sup>

Wheat was gradually being recognized as the best and most suitable crop for Kansas. In 1859 there was a great wheat crop everywhere. Cotton, hay, corn, and sugar gave greater yield than ever before. The wheat crop was estimated at two hundred million bushells, against 150,500,000 bushel in 1858, 180,000,000 bushel in 1859, and 100,000,000 bushel in 1850. In 1859 wheat was selling:

In Cincinnati	for	\$ 1.10	a bushel	for	prime	red
" "	"	\$ 1.16	"	"	"	white

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1. Manhattan Express, June 2, 1860.
  2. Manhattan Standard, September 19, 1868.

In New York for \$ 1.30- \$1.36 a bushel for prime  
red.  
In New York for \$ 1.55- \$1.56 " " " "  
white.  
In Philadelphia for \$ 1.23- \$1.30 a bushel for prime  
red.  
In Philadelphia for \$ 1.35 a bushell for prime white.<sup>1</sup>

The first of September was regarded as the proper time to prepare wheat land and sow the wheat. It was to be put in with harrow, cultivator or double shared plow. One bushel and a peck per acre was considered the proper amount. The people were advised to sow largely, but not more than they could care for well. In 1859 "Gus Linn" picked up 3,800 bushel of corn at Manhattan and took it by steamer to Kansas City.<sup>2</sup>

August was described as the "idle month," an ideal time to plow wheat or oat stubbles, in order to cultivate corn and potatoes next season. By doing this they might enrich the land and prevent weeds, also expose the plowed land to the suns rays, destroy insects and save labor the next spring. It was a good time to erect sheds for prairie hay and straw and make any repairs that were needed.<sup>3</sup>

The prospects for a wheat crop in 1860 were very

1. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.

2. George W. Martin, The Territorial and Military Combine at Fort Riley, Vol. VII of Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society.

3. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.

good. In June there was plenty of rain, the crops looked exceedingly good and the farmers were in high spirits. In July, though there was some rain there was fear of drought. This article appeared in the Manhattan Express for July 14, 1860. "Friday another sprinkle, though still fear of drought. Corn, the great western staple may not get enough rain and this crop is important. Much depends on it. A failure will greatly affect the young herds of stock in process of development in Kansas." 1

As late as July 28, there was a slight rain, though only enough to settle the dust. There was hope, that some late fields of corn, if furnished with plenty of rain that week, might yield a half a crop. The earliest corn was too far gone to make anything but fodder. The tassels had been killed by extreme heat and drought.

George W. Martin in his paper The Territorial and Military Combine at Fort Riley says that "the drought of 1860 began September 1, 1859, from which date there was no rain until September or October 1860,....There were no resources whatever, and doubtless aid was needed, but its abuse, political and otherwise, reflected on Kansas

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1. Manhattan Express, July 14.



for a decade. A committee of the legislature stated that there were 30,000 people dependent for subsistence upon outside sources. On the 13 of July the mercury went up to 112 and 114 in the shade, and a hot scorching wind kept it at these figures for weeks. The dates of the beginning and ending of the drought vary in locations but it may be said in general that they were from twelve to fourteen months." <sup>1</sup>

The relief committee of Kansas organized in 1860, had up to January 1, 1861, distributed throughout the territory, 1,062,562 pounds of provisions and seed, and between January 1, and March 18, 1861, 7,036,399 pounds. Also \$ 83,869.54 in money. This did not include clothing, medicine, and garden seed. Members of the committee were sent as agents to various eastern cities to collect the supplies and funds. J. S. Pomeroy was in charge of the Kansas Relief fund. <sup>2</sup>

On December 1, 1860 <sup>3</sup> Riley County had turned down all aid offered. They said that it was not needed here and should be used in districts more seriously affected. On December 22, 1860, <sup>4</sup> word had been received by the

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1. George W. Martin, Op. Cit., pp. 25 and 26.
  2. Ibid., p. 26.
  3. Western Kansas Express, December 1, 1860.
  4. Ibid., December 22, 1860.



Riley County relief committee that they were to receive a large supply of provisions for distribution among the suffering of the county. In the meantime the Kansas Relief Bill had passed both Houses of the National Congress. <sup>1</sup>

An agent of the New England Kansas Relief Committee was in Manhattan, January 22. <sup>2</sup> Delegates of Riley County and many counties around met in Manhattan City Hall, January 12, to ascertain the real condition of the poor and suffering in western Kansas and reports were made from various localities. A Massachusetts Kansas Relief Committee was organized to distribute food, clothing and money. The sum of \$ 12,400 was received from this committee. <sup>3</sup>

One of the dispatches of Thaddeus Hyatt in describing conditions in Kansas greatly exaggerates them. It reads, "starvation in Kansas, frightful prospects. But one step between 15,000 people and death. An appeal to the Press of the country, to the churches, to Congress to state legislatures, to philanthropists, to the human everywhere." This caused a great deal of trouble and in

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1. Western Kansas Express, December 1, 1860.

2. Ibid., January 20, 1861.

3. Ibid., February 23, 1860.

the editorial of the Western Kansas Express, March 23, 1861, Hyatt and Pomeroy are severely attacked for the picture given. The editor said, that some relief was needed but that Hyatt made conditions more serious than they were and too highly colored. Up to the last year Kansas crops had been abundant, and proved the fertility and productiveness of Kansas and the drought was not confined to Kansas alone. The farmers here were men of comparatively small capital and as most of the surplus had been invested in farm-improvements their last years, crop failure found them unprepared for the emergency.

In March, 1861, Dr. A. Hunting received clothing from friends in Providence Rhode Island. This was valued at \$ 300.00 by Lewis Kurtz, a local merchant, and contained shoes, hosiery, boots, caps, and other articles of clothing. Most of this was distributed in Manhattan, but a part of the supplies were sent to relieve other counties.<sup>1</sup> In April of 1861, Mr. A. Y. Mead of Manhattan received one of the last relief consignments. This consignment consisted of potatoes for free distribution among farmers of Riley County for planting.

Mr. Hyatt and Mr. Pomeroy were justly accused of

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1. Western Kansas Express, March 16, 1861.

profiting from the Kansas drought and increasing their wealth. After this headway and progress in Kansas was very slow and in 1874 a second great drought hit Kansas.<sup>1</sup>

In September of 1860, they began to sow their next years crop. The weather was favorable. The success of the crop depended partly on the manner in which it was put in the ground. Farmers were advised to have the ground already plowed. Then to use a drill to plant it, because it required less seed, bury it two and one half inches deep and use a heavy roller to cover it so it would hold the moisture.

In April of 1861, heavy rains gave the farmer renewed hope of a crop. Vegetation was beginning to come to life and the fall wheat looked most promising. Farmers were planting a large crop and hoped to be able to recover from last years drought. The weather continued favorable during April, but owing to the last years failure and the inexperience of the people with the climate there was a general feeling of distrust. The wheat crop for the year was successful. And though the August weather was hot and oppressive an abundant hay crop was harvested.

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1. George W. Martin, Op. Cit., p. 26.

In May, 1862, the crop future was very bright. The wheat had never looked better and there was already enough rain to mature the crop. Farmers were busily engaged in planting their late crops.<sup>1</sup> There was some talk of locusts, but they were not to be found in any number. They had made their appearance in some parts of the country and there was a feeling that they would appear every twenty years. In the Manhattan Express for June 21, 1862 appeared this article, "crop prospects still good. Wheat is doing exceedingly well. Only danger apprehended is from the locusts."

By 1862, wheat was becoming more and more the chief crop. Greater attention was given it. Most newspapers and magazines were carrying instructions in regard to raising it and the adaptibility of western Kansas to raising it. Spring wheat was contrasted to winter wheat and all phases of it were discussed and studied.

Hay was another very important crop and the crops of 1861, 1862, and 1863, had been increasing in size and of excellent quality. Farmers were advised to make the most of it. As late as 1863, potatoes were looked upon as an uncertain crop in Kansas. The soil was con-

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1. Manhattan Express, May 17, 1862.



sidered good, but the climate was regarded as unsuitable. Mr. A. B. Whitford began an experiment in this field. He had the ground plowed, a drill dropped the seed in furrows, it was covered with a plow then leveled off and the whole surface covered with straw four inches deep. By this method he was able to raise nearly 200 bushel an acre.

The war did not greatly affect the economic development of Riley County or of Kansas. No actual fighting occurred here and they were able to supply their quota of troops. Prices were higher, but even their advancement was very gradual and continued much as it had in the years already discussed. Marketing was still a problem, since with the increased production Fort Riley could not take care of all the produce. In 1868, nine wagon loads of wheat left Manhattan for Denver in hope of securing a better market. In September of the same year a Missourian passed through Manhattan with a wagon load of apples.<sup>1</sup> He was asking three dollars a bushel.

It was in this year that sweet potatoes were first cultivated, by the Reverend R. D. Parker.<sup>1</sup> Many now

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1. Manhattan Standard, September 19, 1868.

foods were introduced and grown successfully. Kansas was coming into her own agriculturally through a slow and steady growth, not sensational, but nevertheless very successful.

#### business

The people who settled Manhattan displayed an early interest in its commercial development. In the report of the Secretary of the Manhattan Town Association for August 21, 1855 it was voted that one, Mr. Tallison be invited to establish a press and weekly paper at this place, and if he complied, he was to be considered an original member of the Manhattan Town Association without paying back assessments. There seems to have been a premium on original membership. They also voted to grant the same privilege to Mr. Green if within eighteen months from the date he would build a house valued at \$ 300.00.

In November of the same year reference is made to a mill. "A meeting of the trustees called to consult with Mr. Pomeroy and to inspect the mill. Voted to pay Mr. Thurston fifty cents a day by the Manhattan Town Associ-

Welcome Wells, Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, Manhattan is now fully prepared to make to order boots, shoes etc. Repairing done on short notice.

L. F. Woodman, Stone Mason and Plasterer, Manhattan, K. T. Business respectfully solicited and done in most workman-like manner, charges reasonable.

M. L. Esbeck, Attorney at Law. General Land and collecting agent. Manhattan.

Albert Griffin, Attorney at Law, General Land and Collecting Agent, Manhattan.

Samuel Williston, blacksmithing, Manhattan, Kansas.

W. H. Smyth, Civil Engineer and Surveyor and Deputy County Surveyor for Riley County.

And in the issue for November 5, 1880 these new businesses were noticed:

J. D. Patterson, Clerk of United States District Court, Manhattan K. T. Land warrants bought and sold for cash and on time. Naturalization, filing and pre-emption papers made out. Contested claim cases and all other business before the Land Office at Ogden promptly attended to.

Millinery---sold by Mrs. M. Miller, Kearney, Street, near the Blue Ferry, Straw Bonnets, Bonnet Ribbons, Flowers, Ruches, Black lace, Veils, Velvet ribbons etc.

George Burgoynes'---Ambrotype Picture Gallery. I would inform the inhabitants of Riley and adjoining counties that I am prepared to take correct likenesses of any size, at moderate charges. Gallery on Poynts, between second and third.

Hats, caps, shoes, boots, drugs, medicine, liquors, dry goods, blankets, leather goods, furniture, chairs, hoop skirts, stoves. Lewis L. Kurty, Merchant.

There appeared a number of foreign ads in every issue advertising houses and firms in Leavenworth, Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri, Lawrence, St. Louis, Missouri and New York.

In 1859 land speculation still played an important part in daily affairs, the best claims had been taken up long ago, but people were still buying land. In the Express for November 5, 1859 appeared this notice.

"Caution! All persons are cautioned against purchasing any of following described land warrants:

- No. 69,448, issued to Dan Douglas for 160 acres.
- No. 82,014, issued to W. Parmeter for 160 acres.
- No. 81,723, issued to Grey B. Underwood for 160 acres.
- No. 43,325, issued to John West for 160 acres.
- No. 56,778, issued to J. B. Kineman for 160 acres.
- No. 82,261, issued to Mary Bartlett for 160 acres.
- No. 35,885, issued to Nils Hardy for 120 acres.
- No. 34,647, issued to Lincoln Fealing for 120 acres.

They have been lost or stolen from the mail, applications have been made for new issues." This notice was published in the Express for several weeks and from time to time these appear in later papers. Land could be purchased at the Express office, since they acted as general agents. On June 2, 1860 a tax of one half per cent was levied on all real and personal property within the city limits, payable to July 13, 1860.



In August, of 1859, one of the first travelers, Mr. Samuel Leonard, from Pikes Peak, called in Manhattan. Mr. Leonard was president of the Rocky Mount City and Colonization Office. He made the trip from there to Manhattan in eighteen days. While in Manhattan, he created a great deal of interest in the gold fields. He described the gold as being found in streams that have their sources near the mountains. At this time he had \$ 4,000 in the treasure.

In 1860 the first dentist, Dr. Herriman, came to Manhattan to practice. His office was in Topeka, but he established temporary residence here for several weeks at a time, in order to serve the people of this territory.

Business competition among merchants was very keen as shown by the numerous advertisements which appeared in the papers. Especially is this noticeable in the years 1861 to 1862 due to the drought which had greatly affected the economic status of the people. Because of the hitherto prosperous years merchants had a large stock on hand and it was necessary for them to dispose of it. People had all their surplus cash invested and were unprepared for the hard times which came in 1859 and 1860. Previous to the drought people were busily engaged in gaining a

foothold in the new country. Merchants had realized this and not increased their stock to the present proportions, but as the people became more progressive, the merchants had begun to expand and hope for more prosperous years which would normally follow, so the hard times affected all classes of people.

Lewis Kurtz, one of the leading merchants of Manhattan, who had a general store advertised "choice family groceries, consisting of coffee, sugar, teas, molasses, cheese, dried apples, peaches, raisins, flour, salt, bourbon whiskey, brandy and port wine for medicine and culinary purposes. Also ready made clothing and camping utensils." <sup>1</sup> This advertisement appeared at the beginning of the hard times. In 1862, one of his ads reads, "I have on hand an entire stock of ready made clothing of latest style, which I will sell either for wheat, corn or pork." <sup>2</sup> These two advertisements picture very vividly the conditions in Riley County in 1862, as contrasted to 1860 and 1859, even though they have had one year's successful crops in 1861.

Frequently propaganda such as the following appeared in the papers. "All the latest fashions, styles and

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1. Manhattan Express, April 21, 1860.

2. Ibid., January 4, 1862.

qualities are represented in the stores of Manhattan. Manhattan is doing a brisk business, our merchants stock their stores on a basis of good times." 1

In 1862, business was again on the incline. At this time the first ad for a local hardware store and stove store appears in the papers.<sup>2</sup> Previously most of these articles had to be purchased at the general stores or from out of town concerns. In 1863, the first restaurant or fruit store and eating saloon appears.<sup>3</sup> Formerly meals were obtained in private homes or at the hotel.

Most of the people at this time did their own work and the employment situation was of minor importance. In October of 1860 the first help wanted notice appears. This calls for a girl to do general house work. Good wages were guaranteed.<sup>4</sup> In 1860 the office of the Express advertised for "a first class printer not addicted to liquor. Wages \$ 12.00 a week without board or \$ 8.00 with board and lodgings.<sup>5</sup> In 1861, B. F. Griffin advertised for a farm hand, house girl, boy, between 14 and 16 years, situation for a year." In the following years advertisements such as these do not appear, probably because of the

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1. Manhattan Express, June 14, 1862.

2. Ibid., June 21, 1862.

3. Manhattan Independent, October 9, 1863.

4. Manhattan Express, October 29, 1860.

5. Ibid., December 1, 1860.

hard times and the war.

As early as 1864 one farmer offered to supply the people with beef and mutton. He butchered three times a week, beef on Mondays and Thursdays, mutton on Saturdays. Families would be supplied at their residence. 1

The first market report given is for the week of January 21, 1860, at that time wheat was selling for \$ 1.00 per bushel, corn \$ 1.20 per bushel in the ear and \$ 1.25 per bushel shelled. Oats were 40 cents a bushel, potatoes 50 cents per bushel and eggs 20 cents a dozen. Butter was 25 cents a pound, tallow 10 cents a pound, pork per one hundred pounds \$ 5.00 & \$ 5.50, beef per one hundred pounds \$ 4.50 & \$ 5.00. Dry hides per pound 8 cents, green hides per pound 4 cents, and a cord of wood, \$ 3.00.

In February the weather was very cold and rainy and business was less active, centering chiefly on filling orders at Fort Kearney and the western portion of the county. There, butter, eggs, corn, and meal found a ready market. At this time the river was closed and navigation was impossible, but with the renewal of navigation they looked for better times. The Pikes Peak route to Denver was opened and immigrants were beginning to use it. The

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1. Manhattan Express, November 3, 1860.



Manhattan Express recommended that they start from the river towns take the boat to Manhattan, where they could get a great part of their outfit at reasonable prices and then proceed with their teams to Colorado.<sup>1</sup> Whether this was actually followed to any great degree is very improbable, perhaps a few now and then outfitted at Manhattan, but it never became the commercial center desired nor was it ever able to compare with Kansas City and Wyandotte.

The market for March 10, 1860 was the same as for January except that wheat was up to \$ 1.50 per bushel and eggs had dropped to 8 cents per dozen.<sup>2</sup>

Most of the local merchants make St. Louis their marketing headquarters, though a few go on into Chicago, and occasionally to New York. On May 8, 1860, Mr. Kurts went to St. Louis to market. Judging from the advertisements which appear in the various papers and from the notices of merchants going to market, St. Louis was the distributing center for the Middle West. Goods from the east were carried by way of the Great Lakes, the Ohio River and the Mississippi River to St. Louis. Kansas City began to gain in importance, but by that time, due to

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1. Manhattan Express, February 25, 1860.

2. Ibid., March 10, 1860.

Improved methods of transportation people were beginning to go further east and the importance of St. Louis was declining.

On May 5, 1860, the following prices were quoted, wheat per bushel \$ 1.50, corn (in the ear) per bushel 20 cents, corn (shelled) per bushel 25 cents, oats 50 cents per bushel, potatoes 50 cents per bushel, eggs per dozen 8 cents, green hides 4 cents and wood per cord \$ 3.50. <sup>1</sup>

On July 21, 1860 the following prices were quoted by Lewis Kurts, the merchant.

Wheat per bushel----	---none in market
Corn per bushel, in ear-----	\$00.25
Corn per bushel, shelled-----	\$00.30
Oats per bushel-----	---none in market
Potatoes per bushel-----	---none in market
Eggs per dozen-----	\$00.10
Butter per pound-----	\$00.10
Tallow per pound-----	\$00.07
Dry hides per pound-----	.00.08
Green hides per pound-----	\$00.04
Wood per cord-----	\$ 3.50
Cheese, Kansas, per pound-----	\$00.12
Flour per 98 pound-----	\$ 8.50
Sugar, prime S. B.-----	\$00.12½
Corn meal, per pound-----	\$00.75
Coffee, Rio,-----	\$00.20
Tea, best imported-----	\$ 1.00
Nails per pound-----	\$00.03
Manilla rope-----	\$00.20
Bacon per pound-----	\$00.12½
Lard, per pound-----	\$00.12½
Hams, per pound-----	\$00.12½
Salt per pound-----	\$00.03½
Chickens (spring) per dozen-----	\$ 2.00

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1. Manhattan Express, May 5, 1860.

2. Ibid., July 21, 1860.

On July 28, 1860 the market remained the same with the exception that chickens had dropped to \$ 1.50 a dozen.<sup>1</sup> The only thing there appeared to be an ample supply of and no demand for was corn. Corn had dropped from \$ 1.20 and \$ 1.25 per bushel in January to 25 and 30 cents in the latter part of July. In the same year George Avery and H. H. Whiting in company with some teams from Manhattan started for Denver with corn. This was the first attempt to find a western market and it proved to be successful. For years afterwards there was a great deal of freighting across the plains from this territory to Denver.<sup>2</sup>

In January of 1861, flour was selling at \$ 4.00 per sack, shorts at \$ 1.00 per 100 pounds, and bran at 10 cents per bushel, or 50 cents per 100 pounds at Lewis Kurtz's store.<sup>3</sup> On March 29, 1862<sup>4</sup> L. Kurtz was offering to pay the following prices in gold for the following articles if brought in soon: Dry hides, 9 cents per pound, coonskins 20 cents, wolf skins, prairie, 25 to 30 cents, mountain wolf 60 @ 70 cents, otter at \$ 1.25 and beaver, per pound washed wool 25 @ 30 cents and unwashed 20 @ 22 cents. It has been impossible to find a biogra-

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1. Manhattan Express, July 28, 1860.

2. Ibid., December 21, 1861.

3. Andrews, History of Kansas, p. 1502.

4. Manhattan Express, March 29, 1862.

phy of Kurtz, but he is either the leading merchant or he is making competition very keen for the other merchants.

In September of 1863, the first price list for U. Higinbotam and Company appears. They are selling Best Rio Coffee at 35 cents per pound, E. D. Sugar at 16 2/3 cents per pound, molasses at \$ 1.00 per gallon, coil oil at \$ 1.00 per gallon, and salt at \$ 7.00 per barrel. Boots are \$ 4.00 a pair. <sup>1</sup> George Higinbotam offers prints, muslins, and 50 cent delaines, plain and figured. In his ad for November 9, 1863 U. Higinbotam stated that he was willing to exchange goods for dry hides eggs, potatoes, tallow, rags, cotton, oats, and wheat. He also had on hand at that time twenty dozen hoop skirts, at all prices, 50 cents and up. <sup>2</sup> At this time hoop skirts were selling at Lewis Kurtz's store for 75 cents.

This was a good time for stock raisers and sheep raising was looked upon as one of the most profitable. <sup>3</sup> There was plenty of pasture and Kansas was a good grain country. In 1864, Mr. Dyke of Ogden<sup>4</sup> bought twenty yoke of four year old, unbroken steers at the rate of \$ 70.00 per yoke. People were gradually beginning to realize that

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1. Manhattan Independent, September 14, 1863.
  2. Ibid., November 9, 1863.
  3. Ibid., November 15, 1863.
  4. Ibid., February 8, 1864.



there was money in this business.

During and immediately following the years 1859, and 1860, money became very scarce. In November of 1861, the following notice appeared in the paper. "All persons indebted to the firm of John Pipher and Company, will please bring in their cash, wheat and corn immediately, and settle up accounts, as we cannot allow them to run indefinitely." 1

In 1862, Lewis Kurtz published a notice saying he would take Riley County script for ready made clothing.<sup>2</sup> He was also selling a number of articles at cost. In 1861, he had already signified his willingness to take Missouri money at par for goods and to redeem all his one dollar bills in gold or good eastern funds.<sup>3</sup> Even fresh butter and eggs were accepted by him in exchange for goods.<sup>4</sup> There was a great number of forced sales and law suits.<sup>5</sup>

As early as 1859, business on the levees was declining, partially due to the cold weather and because people rather mistrusted the river during the winter season. In the winter of 1859, there were "three boats

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1. Manhattan Express, November 23, 1861.

2. Ibid., July 22, 1862.

3. Ibid., November 23, 1861.

4. Ibid., May 11, 1861.

5. Western Kansas Express, August 17, 1862.

lying at the landing, one flat boat and two skiffs, all sunk." 1

In a letter from one of the local merchants to the Express he discusses the river traffic in the past two years, 1858 and 1859, when there had been practically no river traffic. There had been some talk of building boats but none had been constructed during that period.

The first talk of a mill was recorded in the Secretary's book in 1855. The next mention is in 1861 when a notice appeared in the Western Kansas Express, which said that a flour mill was on its way to Manhattan and construction would begin in a about two weeks. Due to the scarcity of money, Mr. Barnes proposed to grind for a toll, in order to enable the farmers to have their wheat ground. This mill was delayed and was not shipped until February of 1862,<sup>2</sup> and the manufacture of flour did not begin until May of 1862. This mill was one of the best in Kansas at this time.<sup>3</sup> It was needed and was very successful. The Express describes it as "having an immense business. There is no end to the sacks of grain waiting the milling process. A superior quality of flour is manufactured

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1. Western Kansas Express, December 24, 1859.

2. Manhattan Express, February 15, 1862.

3. Ibid., May 17, 1862.

here." 1 In February of 1864 the rates for grinding wheat were raised to 15 cents a bushel because of the price of wood and labor. Also the expanding business.<sup>2</sup> In June of 1864 the price was again raised, this time to 20 cents a bushel.<sup>3</sup>

During these years the northern part of the county around Randolph was developing and in 1862, John S. Randolph offered to any person who would establish a steam saw mill at that point, 1,000 logs to commence with, all the wood that was needed to run the mill, free use of a blacksmith shop and a house to live in. There was no mill within twenty mile of Randolph. <sup>4</sup>

In this same year a soap factory was established in Manhattan, the first of its kind. All new industries were heartily encouraged.

Fort Riley furnished a ready market for Riley County, a place to buy and sell. On May 26, 1860, there were sold at auction between thirty and forty horses and one yoke of oxen.<sup>5</sup> This was an excellent opportunity for the farmers.

From time to time contracts such as the following were printed and submitted to the people. "I will receive

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1. Manhattan Express, August 5, 1862.
  2. Manhattan Independent, February 8, 1864.
  3. Ibid., June 13, 1864.
  4. Manhattan Express, January 4, 1862.
  5. Ibid., May 19, 1860.

proposals to furnish the post of Fort Riley with beef for one year commencing July 1, 1860. Beef to be supplied in accordance with terms of contract which may be had on application. Bids close at ten o'clock, June 23. H. Hanson Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry. <sup>1</sup>

On July 12, 1862, Fort Riley wanted five hundred tons of hay and asked the farmers to supply it.<sup>2</sup> In 1863, bids were received for 8,000 pounds of bacon sides, fifty head of beef cattle, 40,000 pounds of flour and 20,000 pounds of potatoes.<sup>3</sup> At times additional labor was needed and the farmers were given an opportunity to earn some ready money. In 1864, 200 teams were wanted to haul hay from Fort Leavenworth, and 50 mowing machines were also wanted. They would pay from \$ 4.00 to \$ 6.00 per day and parties were to haul 10 tons or more.<sup>4</sup> These opportunities meant a great deal to the people. Money was scarce and hard to get and working for the government or serving as supply agents assured them of their money.

In the years to follow there was not a great change. Growth and development were gradual. True, even here there had to be some readjustment after the war, but it did not

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1. Manhattan Express, May 26, 1860.

2. Ibid., July 2, 1862.

3. Manhattan Independent, August 17, 1863.

4. Ibid., August 15, 1864.



seriously disturb the economic life. Things went on much the same as before until the railroad became a factor. This brought up an entirely new problem, and one which took years to work out harmoniously.

### Transportation

In the early years of Riley County history, as in the history of every pioneer country, transportation was entirely undeveloped. Travel was by foot or on horse back and as far as improvements were made they were mostly local. Poynts Avenue, the main street of Manhattan, was macadamized in 1850. This was the first attempt of its kind in Riley County.

River traffic did not hold up long due to the fact that the river could not be depended on. It was constantly rising and lowering and many of the early steamers were grounded. Most of the early settlers came to Riley County by steamer until about 1857, and after that most of the travel was overland. Occasional trips were made up and down the river to the year 1860, and even then it was suggested as a means of travel to Pikes Peak, going by the river to Manhattan and overland from there on. <sup>1</sup>

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1. Manhattan Express, February 25, 1860.

In 1859, the Manhattan Express stated that business on the levees had been poor, due to mistrust in the river and the climate. At that time most of the boats were lying idle and a letter from one of the local merchants to the Express, March 10, 1860 stated that in the last two years there was practically no river traffic, though there was some talk of building boats.<sup>1</sup>

On June 16, 1860, it was stated that the Big Blue and the Kansas Rivers had been rising rapidly during the past twenty-four hours and it would be a good time for the new Wyandotte steamer to make her trial trip to Fort Riley. After this river traffic at Manhattan readily declined and there is only occasional mention of it.

In 1860, the local pony express had again established a regular time, and by October of 1861, a mail schedule was established which was posted in the post office and published in the paper.

Manhattan City Post Office  
Arrival and departure of mail.

Topoka, Leavenworth, Atchinson, and East.  
Arrives-----Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 5½ P. M.  
Departs-----Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7 A. M.

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1. Manhattan Express, February 27, 1860

Post office open 6 A. M. to 9 P. M.  
Sundays 9 to 10 A. M. and 12 to 1 P. M. <sup>1</sup>

The United States Express Company, established a line from Leavenworth to Junction City which was to make semi-weekly runs.<sup>2</sup> The Transcontinental Express did not go through Manhattan.

In 1861, a bridge was built across the Big Blue. This was the first bridge to replace the government bridge at Juniata which was destroyed in 1855. The purpose of this bridge was to complete the highway over the river at Manhattan, to accommodate the Pikes Peak travel.<sup>3</sup> In 1862 there was again fear that the bridge would be destroyed. There were twenty inches of ice on the river and they thought that when winter broke, the immense pressure of the floating masses would destroy it.<sup>4</sup> During the winter, due to the heavy ice, teams and people crossed the river on the ice. There is record of several teams breaking through while attempting to cross.<sup>5</sup> In 1862 the ferry across the Blue at Manhattan was free, probably because of the completion of the bridge and people preferring to use it.

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1. Manhattan Express, October 20, 1861.
  2. Topeka Tribune, June 9, 1861.
  3. Western Kansas Express, April 20, 1861.
  4. Manhattan Express, February 8, 1862.
  5. Ibid., February 15, 1862.

Various pioneer trails went through Riley County. Among them were the old Fort to Fort trail established in 1852, the Smoky Hill Stage route and the Butterfield Overland Dispatch. The latter followed the Smoky Hill route from Leavenworth to Denver.

As early as 1858, Pikes Peak became the leading trail of Kansas.<sup>1</sup> The Manhattan to Denver road was first considered in September, of 1859. A town meeting was called to discuss the need of a road to the Colorado Gold mines.<sup>2</sup> In 1860 the Express office had a number of inquiries asking for information regarding the best road to Pikes Peak. On April 6, 1860, the subject of locating a road to Denver from Manhattan was before the city council. Green Russell, the famous mountain pioneer made the following proposition to the people. That for \$ 3,500 he would locate the road over what was known as the Smoky Hill route.<sup>3</sup> In May of 1860, the people of Manhattan met at the city hall to hear the Smoky Hill route discussed.<sup>4</sup> In June, of 1860, \$ 500.00 was apportioned to Manhattan as the sum they were to raise toward building the road from Leavenworth to the "gold regions of Western Kansas."

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1. Wilder, Annals of Kansas, p. 183.

2. Manhattan Express, September, 24, 1859.

3. Ibid., April 7, 1860.

4. Ibid., May 28, 1860.



City bonds were to be issued by the mayor and register, made payable on or before October 1, 1860. Also a special tax levied on all city property by the city marshal. The bonds issued were to be receivable in payment of the special tax levied.<sup>1</sup> Surveying was done and work finally begun on the road. By May, 1861, large trains of cattle had passed through Manhattan on their way to the gold regions.<sup>2</sup>

Another important element in the settlement of the country was the system of land grant railroads. "Agitation was begun, looking toward the building of railroads from Leavenworth to Fort Riley, with the primary purpose of having improved transportation facilities between the two military posts on the western frontier. As early as August 30, 1855, the legislative assembly of Kansas Territory passed an act incorporating the "Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Railroad for construction."<sup>3</sup> The projectors did not organize for more than a year and for a long time failed to interest capital in the enterprise. The first railroad ever laid in Kansas was put down at Elwood, opposite St. Joseph, Missouri in

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1. Manhattan Express, June 2, 1860.

2. Western Kansas Express, May 16, 1861.

3. Kansas Historical Collection, O. P. Myers, When Railroad-  
ing Out Did the Wild West Stories. Vol. IV,  
p. 339-340.

1860, but drought and the war intervened to prevent extensive building in Kansas at that time.<sup>1</sup> Surveys were made from Leavenworth and Wyandotte in the spring of 1863, after the Pacific Railroad Act of July 1, 1862, became a law.<sup>2</sup> "This act authorized the Kansas company to build from the mouth of the Kansas River, where it connected with the Pacific Railroad of Missouri, to a connection with the future Union Pacific Railroad at the one-hundredth meridian." <sup>3</sup>

The recognition thus given the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western project, by the National government, readily attracted promoters and capitalists. "The policy of subsidizing the railroads in land and bonds, by the general government, was diligently labored for by Kansas men at Washington. In 1863, Congress made to the State of Kansas, a grant of land, giving alternate sections, one mile square, ten miles in width, amounting to 6,400 acres, a mile on either side of a proposed line running from Atchinson or Topeka, to some point on the southern or western boundary of the state in the direction of Santa Fe, with a branch on the southern line of Kansas to<sup>4</sup>

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1. Noble L. Frantice, The History of Kansas, p. 124.

2. Byers, When Railroaded Out of the Wild West Stories, p. 240.

3. Ibid., p. 240.

Mexico City. This grant was transferred to the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, February 1844 and amounted to some 3,000,000 acres of land." 1

In May 1863, the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western project passed into the control of Samuel Hallet and General John C. Fremont and became the Union Pacific. Trouble arose and Fremont was bought out, John D. Perry, President of the Exchange Bank of St. Louis taking his place and financing the project." 2 The first forty miles were completed in June, 1865 and extension westward begun. January 1, 1866, the first section of the line was opened for traffic extending from Kansas City to Topeka and a branch from Leavenworth to Lawrence was next. It was begun on May 15, 1866. Wanago, Manhattan, Ogden and Fort Riley were successive stages, each being the western terminus until Junction City was reached on November 12, 1866. 3

Surveys of the Kansas Central Railroad were in progress as early as 1859 and by August 14, 1859, they had gone as far as Topeka. Engineers were planning to cross the river and locate 4 the road on the north side by

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1. Noble L. Prentie, History of Kansas, p. 184.
  2. Byers, Op. Cit., p. 240.
  3. Ibid., p. 341.
  4. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.

the way of Manhattan. This was of great interest to people and the farmers who were raising cattle expected it to overcome the difficulty of no close markets. By the latter part of December, 1859, the Central Railroad was looked upon as a fixed fact. It would connect the cities of Wyandotte, Lawrence, Topeka and Manhattan. In January of 1860, the discussion of the project under deliberation was presented to the City Council with a view to obtaining from our city "certain bonds for a large sum of money to be devoted toward helping the construction of a railroad from the Missouri River to Manhattan." <sup>1</sup> The newspaper took a favorable attitude toward this project, as being worthy of support and one greatly needed by our city. It considered the railroad as a "vital necessity to our present and future prosperity." <sup>2</sup> It would increase our commerce, agriculture, help and the general moral and the political and social advancement of our people. The people were urged to vote for the project, should it come before them.

In July of 1860, a railroad grant to Kansas, by the National government was defeated, due to the inability of Kansas men in Washington to agree on a route. Each one

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1. Manhattan Express, January 21, 1860.
  2. Ibid., January 21, 1860.



wanted his home town to be the railroad center.<sup>1</sup> At that time there was talk of calling a railroad convention of all parts of the territory to decide on a plan. A district convention was held at Manhattan, September 29, 1860 to elect a representative to the general convention in Topeka, October 17, 1860.<sup>2</sup> The state convention in Topeka succeeded in adopting a schedule of railroads that they believed would effectively develop the resources of Kansas and connect it with all the grand trunk railroads.<sup>3</sup> One of the officers of this convention was C. F. de Vivaldi of Manhattan, editor of the Express. The convention determined to present a memorial to Congress asking an appropriation of public lands to aid in the construction of several railroads. Among these one of the railroads was to go from the city of Wyandotte (connecting with the P. and G. Railroad and the Pacific Railroad,) up the Kansas valley by way of Lawrence, Lecompton, Tecumseh, Topeka, Manhattan and Fort Riley to the western boundry of the territory. About one hundred twenty-five delegates were present from various counties at this convention.<sup>4</sup>

1. Manhattan Express, January 21, 1860.

2. Ibid., September 2, 1860.

3. Western Kansas Express, October 20, 1860.

4. Wilder, Annals of Kansas, p. 249.

In 1861, the railroad question was of vital importance and the fourth representative district, in their party platform made it a political issue by saying, "Let no man be elected to represent Kansas in the United States Senate who does not stand pledged in purpose and interest to promote the advancement of Kansas and of the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Railroads." <sup>1</sup> Another question which arose at this time in this connection was what system of railroads should be advanced and whether government aid should be employed to advance the sectional interest and whether the railroad or the whole state should participate in the benefit of congressional land grants. This question was considered to determine how leading substantial interests of the country were to be affected.<sup>2</sup> On April 26, 1862, it was announced that the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Railroad Company planned to begin work the following month. A treaty between the company and the Potawatomi Indians was ratified by the United States, thus giving the company, 355,000 acres of land.<sup>3</sup>

In August of 1862 a public meeting was held to discuss western interests. Resolutions were passed against

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1. Western Kansas Express, March 3, 1861.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid., April 26, 1862.

measures of the Leavenworth, Pawnee Railroad Company, in leasing land for fifteen miles on each side of the proposed track up this and the Republican valley to be withdrawn from presumption, sale and private entry.<sup>1</sup>

This is the last mention we find of the railroads in the newspapers during the period this paper discusses. The war becomes the absorbing topic, railroad construction is dropped. Both man and capital are needed elsewhere and the drought had taken most of the latter. During the years 1863 to 1865 the war and advertisements consume every inch of space in the newspapers. The war because it is the chief interest and the advertisements, because they are a source of money. For the years 1865 to 1866 the files are very incomplete and no mention of the railroads is to be found in the few papers obtainable. The war and reconstruction still appear to be the dominant objectives. It is known that the railroad had reached Manhattan by November 1866, but it has been impossible to find the exact time. In 1866 the National government was still making grants of land within Kansas to the railroads,<sup>2</sup> and in 1867, there were only 523 miles of railroad in Kansas. The Kansas Pacific was within thirty-five

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1. Manhattan Express, August 19, 1862.

2. Wilder, Annals of Kansas, p. 436.

miles of the western boundary, completing three hundred thirty-five miles of the main line.

The history of Kansas railroads is so interwoven with the history of the development of the state that it is difficult to determine its contribution as a separate factor. "Kansas was really a laboratory for the testing of the practicability of railroads in developing a new and savage country." <sup>1</sup> After the railroads had been extended and built into Kansas, the wealth and population began to multiply rapidly. New problems arose to confront the people on every side. Whether or not it was entirely due to the railroads was hard to say, but they were a factor of great importance and must be given proper consideration.

## CHAPTER V---SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Education

The people of Manhattan displayed an early interest in the social side of their life and education was a major phase. A public school was established almost immediately after settling of the town. Of course the very earliest part was done in the home and many of the

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1. Williamson, Harold Arthur, The Effect of Railroads on the Development of Kansas to 1870, Manhattan, Kansas, 1930.



people who settled here had a very liberal education.

By the time the first newspaper came to Manhattan the schools were well established and had been running several years. The first school building in Manhattan was where the Junior High school now stands. It was built by the city, but furnished by the people of the town. The first school was taught by Miss Vance, a paid school teacher, also an Episcopalian. The Methodists objected to this and got Amanda Arnold to start a paid school, however this school didn't continue long.

The first article to appear in the newspaper in connection with the school was one discussing the Manhattan City School and education. The free schools are the most beneficial, progressive and enlightened system or institution of our age. On April 1, 1860 the free schools of Manhattan in charge of Miss Adelia Nowell, gave an exhibition of the progress made by the pupils during the last two terms. "All children, elegantly dressed, numbered about forty, seated on a platform, ornamented with evergreens and flowers, which stood before the audience. The youngest must have been about four, the oldest not more than fourteen." <sup>1</sup>

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1. Manhattan Express, April 7, 1860.

In 1850, Mrs. A. R. Kennett opened the first music school in the city. It was held at her home on Vattier Street. Instruction was given in instrumental and vocal music at \$ 12.00 per term of twenty-four lessons. Pianos and melodians could be procured at five per cent in advance of manufacturers prices.<sup>1</sup>

On April 5, 1862, the annual exhibition of scholars was again held.<sup>2</sup> The meeting was at the Methodist Church, in charge of Miss Newell who was still the teacher. The people of the city seem to be very much interested and greatly concerned about education and interested in its advancement. The same month another school program was given. "Dialogues on different subjects, well selected pieces of prose and poetry, and other exercises of character, were delivered by the children, all of them speaking in their turn with ease, precision and evident marks of intelligence. The singing between mental exercises was good and Mr. H. D. Horton receives credit because it is hard to conduct a chorus of little ones."<sup>3</sup>

On April 19, 1862, a notice appeared in the paper stating that the spring term would begin the following

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1. Manhattan Express, May 10, 1860.
  2. Ibid., April 5, 1862.
  3. Ibid., April 7, 1862.

Monday. Children living outside the city limits were required to pay a tuition fee of \$ 2.00 in advance. <sup>1</sup> On August 25, 1862, the school committee met to consider applicants for the city school. They were examined by the committee, on their qualifications as teachers and general knowledge. <sup>2</sup>

On October 20, 21, and 22, 1863, a teachers institute was held in Manhattan. All the teachers in the county were invited. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction and several other prominent speakers were there and a general discussion for the benefit of the teachers was held. <sup>3</sup> At the present time Teacher's Institute for the county meets before the opening of the term. If this was followed then it is immediately apparent that the terms opened much later then than now. This is probably true, since according to the Manhattan Express the second term for the year 1862, did not open until April 21, 1862.

By 1864, the educational institution of the district had grown so much it was necessary to hire another teacher. Miss Sarah Kimball was hired as the assistant teach-

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1. Manhattan Express, April 7, 1862.

2. Ibid., August 12, 1862.

3. Manhattan Independent, September 28, 1863.

or to take care of the additional number of pupils.<sup>1</sup>

As early as 1859 the importance of home education is recognised. The following article appeared. "Whatever defects there may be in home education it is certain that the exceptions are rare where the moral training of the mother is not according to her best capacity for the benefit and advantage of her off spring. Her influence is often counteracted by the habits and examples of the father, but in such cases she is not responsible if her care and teaching are of no avail. Home education, where parents are united in sentiment, leaves its impression upon the mind and heart which can never be totally obliterated. The principal cause of departure from the path of right is associations. The poor mother engaged in her house-hold affairs, dependent upon her labor for her livelihood, has little time to devote to her children; and as soon as they are able to walk by themselves they seek playmates and the youthful mind is readily impressed for good or evil according to the disposition of the association. The effect of these impressions is more lasting in most cases than the influences, and examples of the parents. If children were not

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1. Manhattan Independent, April 25, 1864.



early less subject to such influences, there would be less vice in the world. Home education is the best for the youthful mind. The most determined man in every situation of his life will, to the latest period of his pilgrimage be influenced by the early teachings of his mother, if the example and the habits of the father are in unison with her council and instruction." <sup>1</sup>

In 1859 the Manhattan Express calls the attention of the people to the news depot of Mr. Patterson, who is in constant reception of the best magazines and periodicals of the country." <sup>2</sup> The depot is at the post office.

In the summer of 1860 an art exhibit came to Manhattan. At this exhibit landscape and scenes, painted by Mr. Gardner the artist were on display. Mr. Gardner depicted scenes, phases of emigrant life and Mormon life. These were painted for exhibit in the east and were displayed here by Mr. Gardner on his way back east. The people seemed to think this was a very unusual opportunity and one to be taken advantage of. <sup>3</sup>

In 1862, the first mention of the public library appears. At that time the librarian of the Manhattan

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1. Manhattan Express, October 29, 1859.

2. Ibid., September 17, 1859.

3. Ibid., July 21, 1860.

Institute had secured the use of a room in the Manhattan House. Books belonging to the library were placed there and the people were asked to return all books borrowed, also to give any of their private collection they desired. Before the small library club had maintained a library in private homes. The entire movement was an outgrowth of the Manhattan Institute, organized to provide worthwhile entertainment for the young men of the community.<sup>1</sup> Literary discussions were held and there were regular reading meetings.

According to the Secretary's Book of Blumont Central College, when George S. Park visited here in 1855, he located the town site "with special view to the erection of an institution of learning, of a high grade and having in particular an agricultural department."<sup>2</sup> Shortly afterwards a group of five individuals of liberal education, located a second town site at about the same place. These separate interests had the same end in view and consolidated.

It is known that the two groups located the said town site, but whether or not they had in mind the

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1. Manhattan Express, November 23, 1861.

2. Secretary's Book of Blumont Central College, p. 1.

building of an agricultural college when they chose the town site, is very doubtful, though romantic. "However in 1857 the Bluemont College Association was chartered to build a college at or near Manhattan under the management of the Methodist Episcopal Church." <sup>1</sup> The College trustees received a large number of Manhattan town lots as a donation to the enterprise and a considerable amount in personal solicitations here and in the east. A farm was obtained and a three story building erected in 1859, on a hill a mile west of the present college building. The Manhattan Express for October 1, 1859, describes it as a splendid three story stone edifice fast approaching completion. At that time the masons work was finished and the carpenters were working. They considered the building should be ready for school by December 1, 1859.

According to the issue of the Manhattan Express, for October, the Methodist Episcopal Church, "was one of their best projects and should be one of their best schools in the west." <sup>2</sup> On December 24, 1859, Manhattan College, the term here applied, was on the eve of completion. The trustees had decided that it should be

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1. Andreas, History of Kansas, p. 1308.

2. Manhattan Express, October 1, 1859.

opened for reception of students during the first week of January, and that the Reverend Washington Marlatt should instruct the pupils.

The Manhattan College opened January 8, 1860 for the first time. Reverend Marlatt assisted by Miss Julia C. Bailey furnished the instruction.

Tuition per term of 11 weeks.

Common English branches-----	\$ 3.00
Higher English branches, as philosophy, physiology, algebra etc.-----	\$ 4.00
Language-----	\$ 5.00

Tuition in advance.

Necessary text books in hands of treasure at low rates

Further information can be obtained by writing  
President, Professor I. T. Goodnow. <sup>1</sup>

On January 27, 1860, notice appeared that the first annual catalogue of the college was on sale at the Express office. The price was 10 cents per copy.<sup>2</sup>

The spring term of Bluemont College opened April 16, 1860. The same teaching staff was employed and the same fees were charged.

In December of 1861, the college bell was first elevated to its lofty position. It was a gift of Joseph Ingalls of Massachusetts and the same bell that still

1. Manhattan Express, January 21, 1860.

2. Ibid., January 27, 1860.



rings here each morning and noon at the present time.<sup>1</sup>

In 1863, because of lack of funds the Bluemont College was offered to the State to be converted into a State School, in accordance with an act donating public lands to several States and territories which may provide colleges for benefits of agriculture and mechanical arts. Kansas was given 90,000 acres of land. This was acted on by the legislature in 1863 and accepted.<sup>2</sup>

The first term as organized by the authorities of the State began September 2, 1863, and continued for thirteen weeks. Plans were made to organize a music department.

Common English branches were-----	\$ 4.00
Higher English, Algebra, Geometry, Language etc.-----	\$ 5.00.
Music on the	
Melodeon-----	\$ 8.00
Piano-----	\$10.00
Incidental expense for fuel, sweeping and bell ringing-----	\$00.50
Special exercise in riding on horseback, calisthenics, gymnastics etc.-----	given without charge.
Board in private families-----	\$ 2.00 to \$ 3.00 per week.

The name of Bluemont College was changed to the Kansas State Agricultural College and a meeting of the board of regents of the college was held July 23, 1863.

1. Manhattan Express, December 21, 1861.

2. Andrews, History of Kansas, p. 1863.

3. Manhattan Independent, August 17, 1863.

Issac T. Goodnow, Superintendent of Public Instruction was chairman.<sup>1</sup> By December 7, 1863, seventy pupils were enrolled in the Kansas State Agricultural College.

In February 1864 a proposition was made to run an omnibus from the town to the college twice a day to carry and to return students morning and evening.<sup>2</sup> By March it was decided that Mr. Alfred A. Parkerson was to run the bus. It was to leave the Manhattan House 8:30 A. M. and return at the end of the days classes.<sup>3</sup>

During the winter of 1864 several public lectures were given at the college and one of the first was a lecture on Electricity given by Professor Issac T. Goodnow.<sup>4</sup> In 1865 regular lectures were given at the college by the president and his assistants.<sup>5</sup>

As early as 1861, the location of the State University was one of the leading questions. At that time a bill to locate it at Manhattan passed both houses of the State Legislature, but was returned unsigned by the governor.<sup>6</sup>

In 1862 the agitation between Topeka, Manhattan and

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1. Manhattan Independent, August 17, 1863.

2. Ibid., February 28, 1864.

3. Ibid., March 21, 1864.

4. Ibid., March 21, 1864.

5. Ibid., February 14, 1865.

6. Western Kansas Express, June 1, 1861.

Lawrence over the State University was still causing a great deal of trouble. People of Manhattan urged that since the buildings were already here it should be located here.<sup>1</sup> On January 25, 1862, an editorial appeared in the Express trying to sell the idea to the people in the surrounding country. By February of the same year Lawrence and Esplanade were both petitioning for it. Manhattan still claimed that due to her buildings it should be here. At that time they still belonged to Bluemont College and they offered to turn them over to the State.<sup>2</sup> In March a bill to locate the University at Manhattan failed to pass the senate in spite of the work of members of this part of the country.

In September of 1862, an editorial appeared in the Express, which stated that the reason they did not support Isaac T. Goodnow for State Superintendent of Public Instruction was because they feared it would be antagonistic to the people. The State University was the chief question and the people knew that Manhattan wanted it and that Goodnow was intensely interested. The paper was afraid that due to his interest he would cause enemies instead of friends even though he was well quali-

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1. Manhattan Express, January 19, 1862.

2. Ibid., February 1, 1862.

fied.<sup>1</sup> It was some time before this question was settled and then the University went to Lawrence. Manhattan finally succeeded in obtaining the Agricultural College. Education was just one of the many elements in the social development of the people at this time which dominated their lives.

#### Morals and Law Observance

The early settlers of Manhattan were greatly concerned about the moral welfare of the community. The purpose of the Manhattan Institute and other similar organizations was to provide wholesome amusement and further the intellectual development of the people. The newspapers cooperated in carrying out this purpose. In the first issue of the paper an article appeared lauding up right men. "We love upright men. Pull them this way or the other, and they only bend, but never break. Trip them down and in a trice they are on their feet again. Bury them in the mud and in an hour they would be out and bright. You cannot keep them down, you cannot destroy them. They are the salt of the earth, who but they start any noble project. They build our cities,

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1. Manhattan Express, September 2, 1862.



whiten the ocean with their sails and blacken the heaven with smoke of their cigars. Look to them, young men and take courage. Imitate their example and catch the spark of their energy." 1

In the issue for October 29, an article appears in regard to the home. "Six things are requisite to create a really happy home: Integrity must be the architect, and tidiness the upholsterer. It must be warmed by affection and lighted by cheerfulness, and industry must be the ventilator, renewing the atmosphere and bringing in fresh salubrity day by day; while over all, as a protecting canopy and glory, nothing will suffice except the blessing from above." 2

Such articles as "an inordinate desire to obtain possession of secrets is an unerring indication of inability to keep them," 3 and "mother, teach your child to wait upon itself, to put away a thing when done with it, but do not forget you were once a child. The grief to little ones is too often neglected; they are great for them. Bear patiently with them, and never<sup>4</sup> in any way arouse their anger if it can be avoided?" appears

1. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.

2. Manhattan Express, October 29, 1859.

3. Ibid., October 29, 1859.

4. Ibid., December 1, 1859.

quite frequently. "Fun at home" was emphasized as a means of keeping morals of youth high. <sup>1</sup>

Most of the papers carried a front page story with a very pointed moral and such titles as "Misdirected Revenge," "The Self Sacrifice," "Whining," "Hints to the Young Gentlemen," and "Pride."

Every attempt was made to keep the community orderly and law abiding yet discrepancies did appear and misdeeds were frequent. March 24, 1863, this article appeared.

"On Wednesday evening last about dusk a man named Hardesty, confined in the jail in this city, broke out of that institution and 'got up' and dusted.' A company of men started on Thursday morning in pursuit, but we think the individual has rather too much of a start." <sup>2</sup>

Various attempts at horse thievery were made around Manhattan. Two horses were taken June 10, 1860, from a Mr. Dodge and an unsuccessful attempt was made to take two from Dr. A. Hunting. The thieves were scared away. <sup>3</sup>

Lewis Kurtz, merchant, submitted the following notice. "A fine black cassimere hat with low crown, edge of rim trimmed with satin patent leather band, size

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1. Manhattan Express, December 10, 1859.

2. Ibid., June 10, 1860.

3. Ibid., May, 26, 1860.

about 6 3/4, little worn by the subscriber, was taken from my store on Thursday eve between four and six o'clock. The person is requested to return the same, and there will be no questions asked, otherwise he will be dealt with according to the law, as he is known."

For some time the country around Manhattan was disturbed by the depredations of a gang of lawless men, who engaged in the business of runing off horses, stealing and "all things not pleasing to a respectable community." These men were a great nuisance, and in order to rid the community of them a citizen's meeting was called to be hold at the court house at 2:00 o'clock, March 24, 1860. The purpose was to devise a means of protecting the property of citizens from the vagabonds who were annoying them. <sup>1</sup>

In July of 1860, the sheriff of Morris County offered \$ 50.00 reward for the apprehension of one Thayer, alias Smith, who shot his wife. He was last seen going to Junction City from Riley. <sup>2</sup>

John Pipher, a Manhattan merchant, on his way to Atchinson for goods had two horses stolen from him, but these were recovered about thirty miles from the place

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1. Manhattan Express, March 24, 1860.

2. Ibid., July 21, 1860.

where they were stolen. <sup>1</sup>

Manhattan also had a small number of more serious events touch its community. In July of 1860, John McGram, a young man in the employ of the Manhattan Gas Company, "went on a spree." Later he went to Kansas City and while there took arsenic. <sup>2</sup>

One of the few shootings in Manhattan occurred when a man from Pikes Peak, Munroe, who was drunk, shot Newton Sarber, injuring his limb, the ball lodging in his foot. This grew out of Munroe's wanting to pour whisky down Sarber's neck while he was being shaved. Sarber knocked the glass out of Munroe's hand, cutting his forehead. Friends of Sarber thought the dispute had been peacefully settled, but a short time later the shooting occurred. <sup>3</sup>

An event of great local interest occurred when Mr. Vivaldi was attacked by Mr. W. H. Smythe. Vivaldi was crossing the street from his home to his office when the incident occurred. It was believed to be due to Mr. Vivaldi, as editor of the Express, asking Mr. Robinson to to publish a brief statement of the disposition of a relief fund of \$ 100.00 which Mr. Robinson had received. <sup>4</sup>

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1. Manhattan Express, July 28, 1860.

2. Ibid., July 28, 1860.

3. Ibid., September 22, 1860.

4. Ibid., March 16, 1861.



In November of 1861 the Deputy U. S. Marshall arrested one of the noted horse thieves, E. W. Brach, a few miles from Manhattan.<sup>1</sup> This was the beginning of an open war on "jayhawkers." In December a number of jayhawkers were arrested who had been especially active in thivory and plundering. They were arrested while running their acquired stock to places of safety outside of town. "Vilo whiskey added to this, made these men dangerous to the countryside. They glorified in their crimes and defied civil authority. While making the arrest one man was shot in the head and died immediately."<sup>2</sup> Six were arrested with the one killed. Manhattan was put under military control until Monday.

Jayhawking continued, even though military authorities had been put in charge. Cleveland, the most notorious scamp, and his gang were still at large. The people felt that the military authorities were not doing their part and that, if they had waited for them to furnish protection, they would have been wiped out some time before.<sup>3</sup> In May, of 1862, Cleveland was finally captured and put to death by General Burt, a government

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1. Manhattan Express, November 30, 1861.

2. Ibid., December 14, 1861.

3. Ibid., April 12, 1862.

official. <sup>1</sup>

Quantrell's raid did not directly affect the citizens of Riley County, yet it aroused a great deal of sympathy among the people here for the people of Lawrence.<sup>2</sup> A relief committee was formed in Manhattan to send aid to Lawrence and to render all possible services. <sup>3</sup>

The week of September 7, was one of excitement for Manhattan. About three o'clock Wednesday morning, men were summoned to appear at the militia headquarters armed. Messengers from Fort Riley had arrived saying Quantrells were ranging the Neosho country. This was evidently false, since no attack was made. Nevertheless, all places of business were ordered closed from 4:00 to 6:00 P. M. and all able bodied men were to present themselves on parade for drill. <sup>4</sup>

The trial of John Brown, produced a great deal of interest, but little comment among the people. The papers followed it closely, but did not take, as far as the newspaper was concerned, partisan views. <sup>5</sup>

The Temperance Union was a very active and important society in Manhattan at the time the paper came to the

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1. Manhattan Express, May 17, 1862.

2. Ibid., August 23, 1863.

3. Ibid., September 24, 1863.

4. Ibid., March 24, 1863.

5. Ibid., November 26, 1859.

community. It was organized here in 1859.<sup>1</sup> The first notice of it appears in the issue of the Express for December 10, 1859, when it was noted that a Temperance meeting would be held "in the name of the Western Star Division No. I of S. of T. on Tuesday, December 13, 1859, in the Congregational Church."<sup>2</sup>

That there was need for such an organization is shown by the following quotation: "Quite an interesting 'set to' occurred in our town last Wednesday, between a couple of young bloods. From slight misunderstanding, originating in too free use of the ardent, the lie was passed, and after considerable swearing, cussing, etc. they 'peeled and went in.' A few blows were sufficient to put their eyes in mourning and place upon their faces sundry 'Fourth of July'..., when the parties were separated, taken before his honor, the mayor, and 'diddled to the tune of \$ 5.00 and costs.'"<sup>3</sup>

On April 17, there was a State Temperance meeting in Topeka. The people of Manhattan were very much interested and were urged to attend.<sup>4</sup> As a rule the meetings were held at the various homes<sup>5</sup> but in March of 1862, a

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1. Andreas, History of Kansas, p. 1307.
  2. Manhattan Express, December 10, 1859.
  3. Ibid., March, 1861.
  4. Ibid., December 24, 1859.
  5. Ibid., November 23, 1861.

general meeting was held in the Congregational Church and "friends and enemies were invited to attend." Selections from the Evening Temperance Advocate were read.<sup>1</sup>

In February of 1862, and again in June of the same year the city passed an ordinance to regulate the sale of intoxicating drugs. This was to be enforced by the city marshal. A licence was required to sell them.<sup>2</sup> From time to time articles such as the following would appear. "Tis' little trouble to brew beer, but beer brews much trouble."<sup>3</sup> In December the Express said, 'There had been a lull in the temperance movement for the last few months' and the devil had gotten in his work. It appealed to the people to put an end to it.<sup>4</sup>

In February of 1864, the first bill regulating the sale of intoxicating liquor appeared before the legislature of Kansas.<sup>5</sup> At that time the people opposed it fearing that such a bill would increase the vice. In March of the same year there was a citizens meeting to revive the temperance union.<sup>6</sup> Shortly afterward a notice to the effect that Mr. C. A. Parkinson made a nice arti-

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1. Manhattan Express, March 28, 1862.

2. Ibid., February 2, 1862.

3. Manhattan Independent, August 10, 1863.

4. Ibid., December 21, 1863.

5. Ibid., February 8, 1864.

6. Manhattan Independent, March 24, 1861.



cle of Root Beer appeared and it was suggested, that the people substitute it for the stronger beverages they had been using.<sup>1</sup>

In the first issue of the paper, August 20, 1859, a petition for divorce appears.<sup>2</sup> And these reappear from time to time at infrequent intervals. They were not uncommon, but were looked upon by the people with disapproval and dislike.

In writing this paper it has not been intended to depict a sordid view of Riley County. The community was really much freer from vice and crime than Junction City and many similar communities surrounding it. Then as now a history traced through the newspapers pictures more or less of the yellow side, since that is what furnished copy for them. It is only occasionally that the better and brighter side is brought to attention. We know that the people were really concerned about the welfare of the community and were endeavoring to make it of the highest type, with high type of moral and law abiding citizens.

#### Religion

1. Manhattan Independent, May 25, 1864.
2. Manhattan Express, August 20, 1859.

The religious life of Manhattan was one of its earliest considerations and one given immediate attention. Reverend Blood and his settlers came here with that purpose in mind and all of the early founders were deeply concerned with this phase of their life. As early as 1854, services were held at the Dyer home at Juniata.

Methodist Episcopal services were first held on board the steamer Hartford about April 30, 1855. They continued after reaching Manhattan and in 1857 the first Methodist Church was erected.<sup>1</sup> The next church to be located here was the Congregational church. It was the second church of this order to be established between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains. The first services were held April 22, 1855, in a tent erected,<sup>2</sup> for that purpose. Contributions from people of the east gave the church a good start. Among the people contributing to this church were: Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln and Owen Lovejoy.<sup>3</sup> The third church to be organized in this community was the Protestant Episcopal or St. Pauls, which held the first service in July, 1857, and in May, 1858 a parish was organized.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Andreas, History of Kansas, p. 1306.

2. Ibid., p. 1306.

3. Ibid., p. 1306.

4. Ibid., p. 1307.

On August 14, 1858 the first services of the Baptist Church were held. It continued as an active-body until November 13, 1860, when it became an incorporated organization.<sup>1</sup> In July of 1867 the Presbyterian Church was organized, though services were held as early as 1866.<sup>2</sup> The next religious organization was the Methodist Episcopal Colored Mission organized in 1866.<sup>3</sup> After this a number of new religious demonstrations and organizations appear to become a part of the life of the people of this community.

In the issue of the Express for August 20, 1859, a notice appeared which stated that the First Baptist Church hold services regularly at the school house at 10:30 o'clock, every Sunday morning.<sup>4</sup>

In January of 1860, a resolution passed by the Congregational Church and society acknowledged the reception of \$ 500.00 from the American Congregational Union and several donations made by individuals and churches of the east and of the west for the erection of a church here. Also a vote of thanks was given to George W. Underwood of Michigan for the gift of a clock.<sup>5</sup>

1. Manhattan Express, April 21, 1860.

2. Ibid., May 11, 1861.

3. Ibid., April 23, 1860.

4. Ibid., July 14, 1860.

5. Ibid., January 4, 1862.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated on April 15, 1860, at 11:00 A. M. <sup>1</sup> All the different religious societies in the town were represented. The church was of white limestone, with the pews and wood-work of native black walnut. <sup>2</sup> The choir was under the direction of Mr. N. D. Horton and the organ music was furnished by Mr. Charles Barnes Junior. In 1861, a new pastor, Reverend J. T. Auld came to Manhattan to begin his work. <sup>3</sup>

In 1860 one of the first Episcopal conventions of the Diocese of Kansas met in Topeka to elect a Bishop. Representatives from Manhattan were present and took part in the meeting. <sup>4</sup>

In 1860, a camp meeting was held on the farm of Mr. Thompson, three miles southeast of Manhattan. This meeting began on July 19. "Brethren in the ministry and members from surrounding charges" were invited to attend and meet there. It was stated that there was a good supply of water, wood and pasture convenient to the ground, and a large attendance was anticipated and hoped for. As was stated in the Express, "Come brethren and

1. Manhattan Express, April 7, 1860.

2. Ibid., April 21, 1860.

3. Ibid., May 11, 1861.

4. Ibid., April 28, 1860.



sisters and let us worship God together in the tented grove for a few days." <sup>1</sup>

On December 29, 1861, the Riley County Bible Society held its annual meeting at the Methodist Church. The object of this meeting was to see that every family in the community had a Bible. <sup>2</sup>

This gives a fairly clear picture of the early religious activities of Riley County. It is known that in the next few years the churches grew and prospered, but because of the war being the chief consideration the papers neglect to give mention to the churches and their activities. The next church to be organized was the Church of the Disciples in 1872 and 1873.<sup>3</sup> After that several new churches come into the community and play rather an important part.

The church furnished much of the social life and activity and plays rather a major part in daily affairs. This will all be discussed under the Social Life of the community and the part it has in every day affairs will be discussed.

#### Political Growth to 1866

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1. Manhattan Express, July 14, 1860.
  2. Ibid., January 4, 1862.
  3. Andreas, History of Kansas, p. 1306.

Kansas, while still an unorganized territory, caused a great deal of political strife, which finally resulted in the Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1854. This bill caused both free and slave people to enter Kansas. The great majority of the latter came over from Missouri and did not make permanent settlements. Most of the free-staters came here and settled permanently and came with the expressed purpose of saving Kansas from slavery.<sup>1</sup>

During the years of 1854 to the early part of 1861, Kansas was a territory. From 1855 to 1859 the people of Kansas were so busy gaining a foothold in the soil and getting themselves permanently established, that political development of their own was neglected. There was interest in national politics, but there were no newspapers or means of keeping the people well informed.

From the first the people were dominantly Republican in sentiment. The first declaration of their intention to organize politically appeared in the Manhattan Express, September 17, 1859. At this time all citizens who were interested in the formation of a Republican Club were invited to meet at the court house, Tuesday evening at 7:00 o'clock. At that time the first

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1. Goodnow, Personal Reminiscences and Emigration, p. 248.

meeting was held, and the Republican Club officially formed. <sup>1</sup>

On September 30, 1859, a Republican convention was held in Ogden to elect delegates to attend the State convention. At this convention the Riley County delegates chosen were C. F. de Vivaldi of Manhattan and B. B. Edmonds of Ogden. They were to be the representatives at the State convention, to be held at Topeka October 12. <sup>2</sup>

On the first Tuesday in October, 1859, the Wyandotte Constitution was submitted to the people to vote on. All male persons, white, who were twenty-one or over and citizens of the United States, and all persons of foreign birth who had declared their intention to become citizens, were allowed to vote. <sup>3</sup>

On September 16, 1859, there was a meeting at the Methodist Episcopal Church. Governor Charles Robinson, who was visiting in Manhattan, talked on why the people of Kansas should support the Wyandotte Constitution and gave a review of the reasons of Democratic opposition. <sup>4</sup>

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1. Manhattan Express, September, 24, 1859.

2. Ibid., October 1, 1859.

3. Ibid., September 17, 1859.

4. Ibid., September 19, 1859.

In the issue of the Express a copy of the Wyandotte constitution was printed so that all the people might read it and become familiar with it. A copy of the Osawatomic Platform appeared at the same time, also a registry of the voters of Riley County. <sup>1</sup>

General Pomeroy addressed the people of Manhattan at the Methodist Church. His subject was the Wyandotte constitution. At this time the attitude of the people toward General Pomeroy appeared to be very friendly and he was held in high esteem and looked upon as a leader in Kansas affairs.<sup>2</sup> At this time the Express predicted that Kansas would soon become a State and cease to be bleeding Kansas.<sup>3</sup>

On September 24, 1859, another copy of the Osawatomic Platform appeared, and a statement, apparently by the editor, that Kansas had, since the organization of the territory been controlled, both in the legislative and executive departments by the Democrats. The affairs and welfare of Kansas had not been fostered in the proper manner and it was recommended that they should be turned over to the Republicans.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Manhattan Express, September 17, 1859.

2. Ibid., September 24, 1859.

3. Ibid., September 24, 1859.

4. Ibid., September 24, 1859.



The Express of October 1, 1859, urged the people of Riley County to vote for the Wyandotte constitution and through the paper the following heading appeared, "Vote for the Constitution," meaning the Wyandotte constitution.<sup>1</sup> The Express was to receive all returns for the election in regard to the vote on the constitution and on the home-stead law, and volunteered to keep the people notified.<sup>2</sup> All free-state men of Kansas were urged to vote at the October election which was to decide definitely whether Kansas would be slave or free.<sup>3</sup>

On December 10, 1859, the following article appeared in the Express. "Admission of Kansas into the Union by the people of Kansas and a complete set of State officers elected under it. Congress has decided in her favor. The question now is whether she will be admitted to the United States during the present session under her present constitution. Congress is under the control of the Democrats and they may oppose Kansas being admitted because she is a free State. The Democrats want the presidential election of 1860 and Kansas, whether in or out of the Union will exert a great influ-

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1. Manhattan Express, October 1, 1859.

2. Ibid., October 8, 1859.

3. Ibid., October 29, 1859.

ence against their candidate." <sup>1</sup> Following this article arguments were put forth attempting to prove that the admission of Kansas into the Union would be best for the Democrats.

In November, 1859, the second Republican Club was formed in Riley County. This was at Ogden. Before this the people of Ogden had been very active, but this is their first organized effort. <sup>2</sup>

On April 28, 1860, a copy of "The Kansas Admission Bill" as passed by the Senate and House of Representatives appears on the front page of the Express. In May a statement appeared to the effect that the House had passed three important measures, The Homestead Bill, the bill to suppress polygamy and the Kansas Admission Bill. They were then waiting for the decision of the Senate and the president. The support of all Republicans was urged as being needed for most worthwhile causes. <sup>3</sup>

On June 9, 1860, the Express stated that the Kansas Admission bill which passed the house by a large majority April 11, was virtually killed in the United States Senate, being postponed to no definite date. <sup>4</sup> Buchanan

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1. Manhattan Express, November 5, 1859.

2. IBID., November 5, 1859.

3. IBID., May 12, 1860.

4. IBID., June 9, 1860.

vetoed the homestead bill and the two most important issues which had one time been considered as passed had failed.<sup>1</sup> Discontent was very apparent and the papers were filled with political propaganda.

On Monday, December 24, 1860, the bill for the Admission of Kansas to the Union again went before the House. The papers predicted that this time it would probably pass.<sup>2</sup> It was again postponed till January 7,<sup>3</sup> and did not pass the Senate until January 21, 1861.<sup>4</sup> On February 1, a meeting was held at the city hall to "greet and celebrate the intelligence of our admission into the Union."<sup>5</sup> Senator elect S. B. Huston of the 4<sup>th</sup> district was present and addressed the meeting. By March 30, 1861, the first legislature of Kansas was in session at Topeka.<sup>6</sup>

The election of the Senators to represent Kansas in the United States Senate did not create much of a stir. General James M. Lane and General Pomeroy were elected.<sup>7</sup> After the election the editor of the Express became rather doubtful about the election of Pomeroy, feeling

1. Manhattan Express, June 30, 1860.
2. Ibid., December 24, 1860.
3. Ibid., January 3, 1861.
4. Ibid., January 24, 1861.
5. Ibid., February 1, 1861.
6. Ibid., March 30, 1861.
7. Ibid., April 13, 1860.

that he might hinder the cause of Kansas. <sup>1</sup>

In January of 1862, there was State legislation against jayhawking<sup>2</sup> and in June of the same year two State officers were impeached.<sup>3</sup> There was some difficulty at this time because the governor did not want to appoint new officers to fill these vacancies.

In July of 1862, the question arose as to whether or not the State should avail itself of the offer of the General government to receive the bonds of Kansas to the full amount of the direct tax,<sup>4</sup> which at this time would be most burdensome. This was immediately following the two seasons of drought and the people felt that at this time they could not support such a measure.

On July 15, 1862, the people of Riley County met with the Senator and Representative of this district to discuss with them the "doings" of the last legislature and to instruct them in regard to the will of the people.<sup>5</sup>

In the first issue of the Western Kansas Express the Homestead bill was taken up and discussed. The question was discussed whether or not it should be or would be a part of the constitution of Kansas. At this time the

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1. Manhattan Express, April 13, 1861.
  2. Ibid., January 23, 1862.
  3. Ibid., July 28, 1862.
  4. Ibid., July 22, 1862.
  5. Ibid., July 26, 1862.



newspapers were asked to support the measure. They feared the Democrats would oppose it because it would curtail the credit system, which the majority of the people feel is already too large. It appealed to the business men on the ground that it would locate more homes in Kansas and give them more trade, to the mechanics, saying it would give them greater or more work and to the Republicans because it will give them greater power.<sup>1</sup> In May, 1862, the Home-Stead bill passed both houses and was signed by the president.<sup>2</sup> And in the June 7, issue of the Express a copy of the bill was printed. This bill was looked upon as a great boom to freedom by the people of the west.<sup>3</sup>

The year for the presidential election was 1860, and the people of Kansas were very interested. The Democratic convention was called to order at Charleston, South Carolina, April 23, 1860.<sup>4</sup> An attempt was made to nominate a candidate, but without success. The delegates of the convention were divided and they had split over slavery. Part of the delegation wanted to support Douglas and popular sovereignty, others were for

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1. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.

2. Manhattan Express, May 24, 1862.

3. Ibid., June 7, 1862.

4. Ibid., April 28, 1860.

Jefferson Davis and slavery. They agreed to adjourn and meet again June 18, at Baltimore, Maryland. <sup>1</sup> The convention was generally spoken of as a farce. They had adopted the same platform as that of 1856. <sup>2</sup>

In January of 1860 president Buchanan sent out a message to the people. It was printed in the Express along with an apology of the editor for forcing the long message of the president on them. He was criticized very severely. From the editorial it was very evident that he was not entirely pleasing to the people, at least the people of Kansas and that they did not approve of his attitude. He had criticized the people rather unjustly and they felt that it was the Democratic party that deserved the criticism. <sup>3</sup>

On May 12, 1860, the first notice of the impending Republican convention appeared. The probable Republican candidates were discussed and their respective ages given. Among these were:

William Seward, 59 years old, born May 16, 1801, New York.

Salmon P. Chase, 52 years old, born January 13, 1808, New Hampshire.

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1. Manhattan Express, May 5, 1860.

2. Ibid., May 12, 1860.

3. Ibid., January 7, 1860.

Abraham Lincoln, 51 years old, born February 12, 1809  
Harden, Kentucky. <sup>1</sup>

This convention was to meet in Chicago, June 13, 1860.<sup>2</sup>  
A later issue sets the date as Wednesday, the 19, of May  
as opening date.<sup>3</sup> Five slave states and all the free  
states were to be represented. The aim was the triumph  
of Republican principles.<sup>4</sup> This convention nominated  
Abraham Lincoln for president and Hannibal Hamlin of  
Maine for vice- president.<sup>5</sup>

The nomination of Lincoln for president met with  
the approval of the people. Through his administration  
the newspapers support him and encourage and urge the  
people to do the same. Vivaldi, appeared to be a great  
admirer of Lincoln and to understand and have a great  
interest in politics. From now until the end of the  
Reconstruction period the greater amount of copy in the  
Manhattan papers is given over to Lincoln and to the  
war. During the year 1860, each copy of the paper car-  
ried a Lincoln for president and Hamlin for vice-  
president notice, with a rather lengthy discussion of  
their fitness and ability.

On May 9, 1860,<sup>4</sup> the Union convention of the old

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1. Manhattan Express, May 12, 1860.
  2. Ibid., January 23, 1860.
  3. Ibid., May 12, 1860.
  4. Ibid., May 19, 1860.
  5. Ibid., May 12, 1860.

line Whigs and Know Nothing parties was held. They adopted the platform, "The Union and the Constitution."<sup>1</sup>

This was the first hint or notice of the fact that there might be a division in the Union, up to this time it had been ignored or unseen. As time passed, it was very easy to recognize that they, the people, had made the chief issue of the campaign a moral issue. Slavery stood out unparalleled, above all issues.<sup>2</sup> In the issue of the Express for October 20, 1860, appeared an editorial "Disunion." The South at that time were threatening to break up the Union over the slavery question and the nomination of Lincoln: By November secession was being discussed with considerable warmth and much ability. South Carolina was at that time the center of agitation. Even then the people of Kansas, as the following article shows, did not realize fully just how serious it was. "While we do not believe that the present threatening aspect of the cotton states will result in anything which will be likely to endanger the stability or permanence of the Federal Government, we are of the opinion that an investigation should be made. That States possess the abstract right of cession we

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1. Manhattan Express, May 12, 1860.

2. Ibid., October 13, 1860.



cannot doubt." 1 In December the "Irrepressible Conflict grew warmer" the slave States were becoming more united and more insistent upon the institution of slavery.<sup>2</sup> Later there appeared a discussion of the "value of the Union" and an article on "California against Secession."<sup>3</sup>

On December 20, 1860, South Carolina's State convention declared itself in favor of secession, following a debate on the adoption of secession ordinance.

In 1861 Lincoln took office as president and this greatly increased the high feeling in the South. In the issue for March 9, 1861, Lincoln's presidential address was published accompanied by many articles of praise.

A very interesting case appeared in Kansas during this year, in which slavery was upheld. A man attempted to reclaim a slave and brought it to court. Judge Peterson who was presiding, decided in his favor, saying that a law prohibiting slavery in Kansas was unconstitutional.<sup>4</sup>

By January 1861 it was realized that war was inevitable. The United States Arsenal at Baton Rouge had

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1. Western Kansas Express, November 24, 1860.

2. Ibid., December 1, 1860.

3. Ibid., December 22, 1860.

4. Ibid., January 5, 1861.

surrendered and Florida and Alabama had seceded. <sup>1</sup> By February 16, 1861, six States had seceded: South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana. <sup>2</sup>

On June 1, 1861, an editorial on "Our Government" appeared. It urged the people to stand back of their government. They were needed and the government was deserving. They also asked that in the coming Congressional election the people preserve the Union by electing members to Congress who would work with Lincoln and support him.<sup>3</sup> Throughout the war Lincoln was given the support of the people of Kansas and of Riley County. In the early days of the war Mr. Vivaldi went to Washington to visit. While there he joined the army and was later appointed consul to Santos, Brazil by President Lincoln. During the war the major part of the paper was taken up with war news, various campaigns and battles. On February 22, 1864, a notice appeared to the effect that on that day Lincoln was to issue his proclamation of Universal Emancipation.<sup>4</sup> By March, 1864, <sup>5</sup> the Riley County papers were beginning again the old

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1. Western Kansas Express, January 26, 1861.
  2. Ibid., February 10, 1861.
  3. Ibid., June 8, 1861.
  4. Ibid., February 22, 1864.
  5. Ibid., March 7, 1864.

campaign cry, "Lincoln for president." For the years 1865 and 1866 many issues of the paper are missing. We know that they did relate the fact of Lincoln's death and mourn with the rest of the nation, but the copies which deal with this phase of our nations history are missing.

During this period little mention is made of local and state affairs. Everyone is too tensely interested in the nations struggle. On September 14, 1861, a note was made of the coming state election to decide where the state capitol would be located, and Manhattan, along with every other town in the State was cited as the ideal place.<sup>1</sup> By October, though still a vital question to the people here, the idea of locating the capitol here had been dropped. The town was considered to be too far west, and Lawrence and Topeka became the contending points. Manhattan threw her support to Topeka in hope that she might get the State University here.<sup>2</sup>

The banking law was another issue which was submitted to the voters and one of the last issues, outside of the State University to be mentioned.<sup>3</sup> Every-

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1. Western Kansas Express, September 14, 1861.
  2. Manhattan Express, October 19, 1861.
  3. Ibid., October 26, 1861.

one, Republican and Democrat was dominated by the war and the reconstruction after the war. Then as now Riley County was largely Republican and her destiny was in the hands of a few political leaders.

### Social Life

Looking at the social life of the people of Manhattan as portrayed by the newspapers they appear to be one big family. Up to 1859, when the first paper was issued, there is no way of tracing the social life of the community in any definite form, but when it is followed through the next seven years, it is very easy to picture the Thanksgiving services, the Christmas parties the fourth of July picnics, and the numerous school programs and church fairs as forming a very important part in those years from 1859 to 1866.

In the Manhattan Express for November 26, 1859, the following notice appeared. "Thanksgiving day in Manhattan. This day of joy and prayer was generally observed in our community in the true spirit of its institution. A union religious meeting was held in the Congregational Church, where the resident pastors of the Methodist Episcopal, Congregational, and Baptist



Churches conducted together the services of the day. The sermon was preached by the Reverend Mr. Kernott of the Baptist Church." <sup>1</sup> The people of the various joined services on this day every year. <sup>2</sup>

The Christmas celebration as portrayed by the papers was looked upon with due reverence. "Tomorrow is the anniversary of the birthday of the Savior of the World, a day consecrated by holy customs of ages of religious observances and social rejoicing. As it falls on Sunday, the religious part of the ancient usage will be performed in all our churches, Episcopal Methodist, Congregational and Baptist, where appropriate services will be held at 11:00 o'clock A. M. The social rejoicing will be held the following day." <sup>3</sup> This gives us a hint as to the active part the churches played in the lives of the people.

At the same time it was noted that Messers Ed Hewall and George Wiener were getting up a ball and supper, to be given Monday evening, January 2, 1860, at the Peoples hall in Manhattan. Extensive preparations were made and it was to be "one of the grandest entertain-

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1. Manhattan Express, November 26, 1859.
  2. Ibid., November 30, 1861.
  3. Ibid., December 24, 1859.

ments ever given in Manhattan." The Manhattan string band was to furnish the music, with such "solo-string" music as they produce, for a "gay assembly of those who delight to 'trip the light fantastic.' " 1

On June 30, 1860, the following Fourth of July celebration was arranged. It was to take the form of a Sunday school picnic, in charge of the officers of the various schools, with program arranged.

#### Officers

President-----Dr. Whitehorn  
Chaplin-----Reverend C. R. Blood

#### Order of Exercises

Prayer-----by chaplin  
Singing-----by children  
Reciting of the Declaration of Independence----by  
James Humphrey  
Singing the National Aire-----by choir.  
Address-----by Reverend J. Paulson to the  
parents  
Singing-----by children  
Address to the Sunday School----by Reverend N. V.  
Preston  
Singing-----by choir.  
Popular Address-----by Reverend W. J. Kermott  
A General sing  
Refreshments  
Toasts and Sentiments

It was expected that each family would supply them-  
with the necessary amount of refreshments. The Sunday

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1. Manhattan Express, December 24, 1859.

Schools were to meet at the Methodist Episcopal Church at 9:00 o'clock A. M. and from there were to go to Mr. T. J. Roosa's grove. Everyone was invited to attend. <sup>1</sup>

That evening a 4<sup>th</sup> of July dance was given at the Peoples hall and about seventy-five couples attended, many of them from neighboring towns. <sup>2</sup>

Washington's birthday was celebrated by the ladies of the Methodist Church holding services in his honor and an entertainment was held at the college. <sup>3</sup>

The annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic was held at the grove on the banks of the Blue. The program was much as the previous year, with a patriotic and religious service followed by dinner, speeches and patriotic songs. <sup>4</sup>

During the winter of 1862, social parties became more numerous, so much so that the Express saw fit to mention it. "Social parties are becoming quite numerous among us this winter. We notice our citizens are enjoying themselves in this way to an unusual degree. We consider it a good omen and hope that friendship and good will will continue to be cultivated among us." <sup>5</sup> It also mentioned that Christmas that year was attended

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1. Manhattan Express, June 30, 1860.

2. Ibid., July 7, 1860.

3. Manhattan Express, February 23, 1861.

4. Ibid., July 6, 1861.

5. Ibid., January 4, 1862.

with the usual festivities. "The gay and merry ushered in its welcome dawn with a festive dance at the Stone Hotel, while smiling faces of little ones told plainly that good Santa had not forgotten them." <sup>1</sup> A Masonic festival was held at the school house which was largely attended and described as a fine affair. Following this festival, the next important event was the annual fourth of July picnic.

In September, arrangements were being made for the State fair, in Leavenworth. The citizens of Manhattan took a very active part in this. There was to be a Stock Auction, ladies exhibition and a Colorado Premium and Target shooting.<sup>2</sup> The date of the fair was October 6, 7, 8, and 9. This was the first State Fair to be held in Kansas. <sup>3</sup>

On December 7, 1863, a public meeting was held at the Methodist Church at which Governor Carney was the chief speaker. The people of Manhattan and community appeared to be very fond of oratory. <sup>4</sup>

Plans for the annual fourth of July picnic of 1864 were very elaborate and for the first time fire works

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1. Manhattan Express, January 4, 1862.

2. Manhattan Independent, September 14, 1863.

3. Ibid., September 23, 1862.

4. Ibid., December 7, 1863.



were mentioned. Mr. A. A. Parkenson had a large assortment consisting of Rockets, Roman candles, and Indian fire crackers. If fire works were a part of previous celebrations they were not mentioned, and judging from the papers, this is their first appearance.<sup>1</sup>

Fairs, given by the ladies of the various churches, were another important element in the social life of the community. In November 1859, the ladies of the Protestant Episcopal Sewing Society of Manhattan, held a fair. All people were invited to attend. "A sumptuous entertainment and many rare articles to attract the eye were to be found on their tables."<sup>2</sup> On February 14, 1862, the ladies of the Methodist Church held a fair at the College building. Articles were on exhibit and to sell. Supper was served, the price of the tickets being twenty-five cents.<sup>3</sup>

Beginning in May of 1864, the first of a series of concerts was given under the auspices of the ladies of the Episcopal Sewing Society. The purpose was to pay the remaining debt on the church that was then nearing completion.<sup>4</sup>

1. Manhattan Independent, July 4, 1864.
2. Manhattan Express, November 5, 1859.
3. Ibid., January 25, 1862.
4. Manhattan Independent, May 2, 1864.

In the spring of 1860, Juvenile concerts became quite frequent. One of the first concerts was held in the city hall, May 10, open to the public, with the admission price twenty-five cents. <sup>1</sup> Mr. J. D. Patterson was the director; he had formerly bought books for the children at his own expense and given them musical instruction free of charge. This shows somewhat the spirit of the people. <sup>2</sup> On May 11, 1862, the children of the Sabbath schools met in the Congregational Church. Singing and the recital of passages of scripture and addresses by the Reverends Beckwith, Hartford and Kermott and also by a soldier of a Wisconsin regiment were part of the program. <sup>3</sup>

In October of 1864, a music class or singing school was formed at the Methodist Church. This was one of the first organized attempts to give instruction. <sup>4</sup> About \$ 40.00 was made at one of these concerts. <sup>5</sup>

Manhattan also had several noted visitors who created quite a flurry in the social whirl. One of these was Horace Greeley, who was making a tour of the west. On his trip he made a memorandum of the diminishing comforts of life for the patrons of his Tribune, and in the list he

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1. Manhattan Express, May 5, 1860.

2. Ibid., May 12, 1860.

3. Ibid., May 17, 1862.

4. Manhattan Independent, October 10, 1864.

5. Ibid., June 20, 1864.

has Manhattan, May 26, the date of his visit, potatoes and eggs last recognized among the blessings that "brighten as they take their flight, chairs ditto." <sup>1</sup> It was very apparent that at this time he considered Manhattan the last civilized settlement. On June 21, 1860, Governor and Mrs. Reeder visited Manhattan. Mr. Reeder was the first governor of the Kansas Territory. <sup>2</sup>

Manhattan gained some notority when Charles de Vivaldi was appointed consul to Brazil. This event caused a great deal of comment which increased rapidly when the assistant editor, Mr. Humphrey brought suit against him for the sum of \$ 528.75 for money loaned and for back pay.<sup>3</sup>

The humor of the people lies mostly in their mode of expression and inevent as compared with the present day. They had a very serious outlook on life and neglected or did not care for many of the frivolities. Part of this was due to the life they were forced to lead and in their struggle for existance and part to their better judgment. The early papers and a few of the papers during war time carried a Humor Column, but most of the jokes and puns which appeared in these were of the commercialized type,

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1. Connelley, Kansas and the Kansans, Vol. I., p. 98.
  2. Manhattan Express, June 26, 1860.
  3. Ibid., November 2, 1861.

just as they are today. The greater number of their jokes center around married life or the attempt to gain such bliss, politics and religion, the major elements in their lives. The following quotations give examples. "A young lady once hinted to a gentleman that her thimble was worn out and asked what reward she merited for her industry. He sent her an answer in the shape of a thimble with the following line engraved. I send you a thimble for your finger nimble, which I hope will fit when you try it: It will last you as long, if its half as strong, as the hint you gave me to buy it." <sup>1</sup> There is no doubt that at the time this created a great deal of merriment, much more than it possibly could now.

This short selected story appeared in the Express for August 20, 1859, and was no doubt fully appreciated. It was a take off on the Millerites and described the neglected husband and family after Mrs. Peters, the wife joined the Millerites. She immediately began work on her assencion robe, feeling she would be called immediately. Mr. Peters became very worried and finally hit on a plan. He told his wife that after she was gone he must have a

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1. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.



wife to care for the family. He then picked one of her best friends and suggests that Mrs. Peters invite her over to train her. Mrs. Peters immediately gives up the idea of assencion and the Millerites and peace is restored to the family. <sup>1</sup> Some of their jokes would be very appropriate today and greatly appreciated by us, such as:

"We hope the debating club at Topeka will not consume the substance of the people of Kansas, by much longer prolonging their useless wrangling." <sup>2</sup>

And another which is very applicable to present day conditions.

"I think I have seen you before, sir; are you not Owen Smith? Oh yes, I'm Owen Smith and Owen Jones, Owen Brown, and Owen everybody." <sup>3</sup>

At the time this appeared the Kansas drought was at its height.

In the Express for November 26, 1859, rather an amusing comment appeared on a book entitled "Woman a Hundred years, Hence." "He must be a bold man who will attempt to predict what women will be then. Will she wear crinoline and small bonnets, or will she have invaded the sphere of man, donned the b--loomers and taken possession of the presidents chair." <sup>4</sup>

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1. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.

2. Ibid., April 20, 1860.

3. Ibid., May 18, 1861.

4. Ibid., November 26, 1859.

This vivid description was given of the dancing in Washington, in 1860. "The want of variety in the metropolitan dancing, was fully made up by fancy things, such waltz and poka. These were absolutely barbarous. The old fashioned waltz, the morality of which, even Bryon called in question is here ignored as altogether too cold and distant. The lady lays her head on the gentleman's bosom, puts her hand in his and the other in his coat tail pocket, and resigns herself to his embrace, and goes to sleep, all but her feet, which, when not carried by him clear off the floor, go patting around on the toes. The gentleman, thus entwined, throws his head back and his eyes up, like a dying calf; his body bent in the shape of a figure 4, he whirls, backs up, swings around, and swoons to all appearances, dashes forward and leaves the ring to the delight of all descent people." <sup>1</sup>

Considerable attention was given to fashions and quotations from various parts of the country appear. Then as now Paris appeared to be the index. "Parisian Fashions. As hoops once got out of fashion, so they will again fall into disuse. The latest fashion bulletin from Paris which describes the modes for July, announces two facts, highly

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1. Manhattan Express, January 21, 1860.

interesting to most female society, double skirts to be discontinued, in consequence of the change of mode just beginning, which only permits a great width to the lower part of the dress, thereby diminishing the proportion of the upper. Invasion on rights of long triumphant crinoline. Empress Eugenie, who rules fashion in Paris, is against excess crinolines. She is inclined to bring back fashions of early part of Empire when Josephine was the autocrat of dress, and restore the figure to its natural shape. Short waists were to be revived." <sup>1</sup> This short bit of advice followed the above quotation. "Not good for short stumpy women, who we predict will cling to extraordinary crinolines, remarkable double skirts, mutilated flounces and wonderfully long waists." <sup>2</sup> From time to time advertisements appear which announce or advertise "Madam Demorests' Mirror of Fashions," "a fashion magazine, patterns accompanying each magazine; no young lady can afford to be without it." <sup>3</sup>

Various crazes and fads appeared here, as they are bound to in any locality, but one of the most highly advertised and most amusing was the mysteries of the Crescent

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1. Western Kansas Express, August 20, 1859.

3. Ibid., August 20, 1859.

4. Manhattan Express, May 3, 1862.

and Pot Hook dialect. "Persons desirous of obtaining an insight into the mysteries of the Crescent and Pot Hook dialect, commonly termed Phonography, were invited, on paying \$ 3.00 to become a member of the class formed by Professor J. D. Patterson, who could be consulted at the Postoffice at all times or at the meeting of the class which met Thursday night at the People's Hall.<sup>1</sup> Frequently the name of J. D. Patterson appeared in various sections of the paper and it is very probable that he was a resident of Manhattan.

The Manhattan Institute was responsible for much of the entertainment furnished the people during these years.<sup>2</sup> It early became an established organization and conducted very worth while programs, having debates, spelling bees, lectures, group reading, and encouraging individuals to read. It also entertained with socials and fairs.

The Kansas State Agricultural Society was another of the early organizations. This was formed in March, 1862,<sup>3</sup> for the advancement of agriculture, to encourage the people, to discuss new fields and for social purposes. At that time almost every organization served as a social

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1. Manhattan Express, January 21, 1860.

2. Ibid., January 12, 1861.

3. Ibid., March 22, 1862.



organization and the purpose for which it was originally intended.

To me the social life and interests of this community seem very high, and the people show an unusual concern. The lawless element was well under control and every opportunity was taken to advance the intellectual and moral welfare of the community. Most of the social activities of the community were tied up with intellectual interests, either through the schools or the churches, and they all seem to work together for the benefit of society. A most altruistic attitude was taken by the entire community. And as for the individuals, they appeared to be very concerned about the development of their better self. The life of Riley County was very harmonious and well ordered. The people made it fit the definite pattern they had intended for it. However during the middle sixties the war interrupted a share of the social activities, which it took the community several years to regain.

#### CHAPTER VI---RILEY COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

The first talk of war seemed to come as rather a shock to the people of this community. Even while the discussion of the secession of South Carolina was raging

the Express, expressed the belief that the "threatening aspect of the cotton States" would not result in anything likely to endanger the stability of the Union. <sup>1</sup> They realized and recognized the fact, that slavery was the chief moral issue of 1860, but not as a power capable of breaking the Union. <sup>2</sup>

On April 28, 1860, the first real mention of slavery was made by the Express, in an article "Twin Relics of Barbarism" in which Mr. Owen Lovejoy was exalted for publishing an anti-slavery newspaper. Even then slavery had to share its honors with polygamy, these being the "Twin Relics of Barbarism." In this article slavery was attacked on a moral basis and because of frequent attempts to plant it in the North and in territories.

In the October 29, issue of the Express, an article on "Disunion" appeared, stating the South was threatening to break up the Union because of slavery and the nomination of Lincoln for president.

On January 5, 1861, the Express stated that Fort Moultrie and Pickens Castle had surrendered to the militia of South Carolina. And at this time the president was

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1. Western Kansas Express, January 5, 1861.

2. Id., January 13, 1861.

condemned for not strengthening the forces there and supporting the commanding officer. A report that the president feared assassination was also published. At this time a doubt was still expressed about this secession movement, stating that as yet it had not taken practical shape in resistance to the laws of Congress.<sup>1</sup> On January 4, the United States Arsenal at Mobile was taken, followed by the rumored capture, of Fort Morgan.<sup>2</sup>

In April of 1861, the long threatened hostilities between the United States and the Confederacy commenced. Loyal States were responding to the president's calls<sup>3</sup> in the North and in the South. At that time the border states were looked upon as being in sympathy with the south.

The war in Kansas was but a continuation of the border troubles;<sup>4</sup> the people were open to exposure from attack by the Indians and the Missourians. It assumed the character "of a war of revenge, of ambushes and ambuscades,...of swift advances and hurried retreats, of stealth, darkness and murder."<sup>5</sup>

War news consumed the greater part of every news-

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1. Western Kansas Express, January 5, 1861.

2. Ibid., January 12, 1861.

3. Ibid., April 20, 1861.

4. Frederic, Mobile L., History of Kansas, p. 99.

5. Ibid., p. 99.

paper, from 1861 to 1866, when the reconstruction was the chief problem. Campaigns and battles were told and retold. Dispatches were printed at length and the one consuming thought of the people seemed to be the war. Slow as to the realization that such an event was really possible, after it was once determined they entered the conflict to give it their full support.

By April 27, 1861, Fort Sumpter had been stormed, to be followed by the taking of Harper's Ferry arsenal. <sup>1</sup>

In the April 27, issue of the Express a call to arms appeared. Citizens of Manhattan and Riley County were requested to meet at the City Hall in Manhattan, April 30, 1861, at 2:00 P. M. to organize a military company and to prepare for threatened emergencies. "Let patriots rally and defend their flag." This order was issued by James Humphrey, mayor of Manhattan at that time.

By May 4, 1861, the Fifth Regiment was organized composed of companies from Riley, Clay, Davis, Dickenson, Saline, and Ottawa Counties. <sup>2</sup> Two of these companies were organized at Manhattan, one a company of infantry under Captain A. B. Spinney, and a company of cavalry under A.

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1. Western Kansas Express, April 27, 1862.

2. Ibid., May 4, 1861.



F. Mead called the "Manhattan Greys" 1

Mr. C. F. Vivaldi, who had gone to Washington, had enlisted in General Lanes Company,<sup>2</sup> which at that time was defending Washington. This was prior to his appointment as consul to Santos, Brazil.

By May 11, 1861, a company of forty-three men was organized at Ogden. This company chose the name of the "Riley County Mud Sills." 3

By June 1, 1861, Missouri had decided to remain in the Union.<sup>4</sup> This stopped a great deal of the border warfare and gave the people renewed confidence, because from that time on they did not have the invasion of a Southern army from Missouri to worry about.

By March 15, 1862, the third company had been formed at Manhattan since the war began and at that time the paper stated that perhaps Manhattan had contributed more men than any other place of the same number of inhabitants in Kansas.<sup>5</sup> This statement may or may not have been true, but it was entirely possible.

In July of 1862, the war pressure was again brought to bear upon the people. During this time it was played

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1. Western Kansas Express, May 4, 1861.

2. Ibid., May 4, 1861.

3. Ibid., May 4, 1861.

4. Ibid., June 1, 1861.

5. Manhattan Express, March 15, 1862.

up more by the paper and a call for 300,000 more men was issued. <sup>1</sup>

In September of 1862, a recruiting and mustering office was established at Manhattan and more men were needed. This is the last call for men that appears in Riley County papers. Late in 1864, Manhattan organized another company, but they never saw action. Manhattan and Riley County were through the war always able to furnish more men than they were asked for and this was true for the entire State of Kansas.

During the latter part of the war when the soldiers were beginning to return home some of them disabled for life a number of their stories appear in the papers, also a number of letters written home by the soldiers, many of whom saw active service in the North and in the South and played very important parts in the war. A few were known to be in Shermans and Lane's army.

After the war Riley County settled down to a routine, similar to that before the war, with the exception that then it was necessary to do more work to make up for the time lost. Prices had been good during the war, but man power had been cut down and this slowed down production.

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1. Manhattan Express, July 12, 1862.

One old settler, told the following story. During the winter months of the war, a guard was kept day and night to protect the people from Indian attacks. At that time he was the only able bodied man in the community of Manhattan, and because of defective hearing he had not been accepted. He kept watch at night to relieve the older men and let them have day duty. If there was an attack, he was to give the alarm to arouse the community. During the winter months when the nights were much longer this duty was very trying, and the guards which were to relieve him were often late. This particular morning they were exceptionally late and after waiting several hours past the time they were due he sounded the alarm. Immediately the whole community was awake and ready for attack when they came out. Whether the people were disappointed at having this false alarm given was not stated. It had served the desired purpose.

Through the war Manhattan nor any part of Riley County was ever attacked, though occasionally the people heard that war parties were headed their way. Their part was to supply the men and food and their contributions in both served to help the cause of the Union.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion I wish to state that the material for this paper has been gathered from the Riley County newspapers or to be more definite from the Western Kansas Express, the Manhattan Express, and the Manhattan Independent, the only newspapers existing in Riley County up to 1866.

Parts of this paper appear to be and are rather brief and sketchy, and do not portray a clear or definite trend of events and happenings. Especially is this true for the years from 1864 to 1866. From this time on there are many issues of the paper missing. The file in the State Historical Library at Topeka is not complete and it was impossible to find the missing issues, or a treatment of the economic and social development in any other source for this period. Occasional references were taken from the Topeka, and Leavenworth papers, but local communication at that time was very poor. The interest of the people either settled on their immediate locality or on affairs of the National Government.

On looking back at the preceding paper, I realize that Riley County was settled by a very high minded and enlightened group of people, who throughout their lives,



worked and struggled to give it those qualities and things with which it is endowed today, and have taken so little effort on our part. In this respect I believe it was superior to other pioneer communities. There seems to be less strife and less trouble here than in most communities. Peace, prosperity and progress seem to have joined hands with the people in making this community an ideal place in which to live.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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