

ZEANDALE TOWNSHIP, 1854-1894

by

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PREFACE

It has been said that "the axis of the earth sticks out visibly through the center of each and every town or city." It is the purpose of this thesis to examine the small community in Zeandale Township with the belief that by so studying this area I will gain a better understanding of the history of Kansas statehood, and a more thorough knowledge of the pioneer element that pushed back the frontiers of the United States.

Interest in Zeandale was first aroused by the study of a copy of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury, and other unpublished letters and papers of the Pillsbury family in the Department of History, Government and Philosophy at Kansas State College. These were brought to my attention and made available to me by Dr. Fred L. Parrish. It became evident that the story of these early settlers and others like them should be told. The Pillsbury papers were an invaluable source of information. Other sources included early newspapers of the area, school and county records, general references and interviews with descendants of early settlers. Among these people I found an intense interest in the work that I was doing.

I wish to express my thanks to the many individuals who took their time to help me find information or talk with me about Zeandale. I especially want to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs. Alma Docking and Mrs. Phoebe Teel. Above all I wish to express my gratitude to my major professor, Dr. James C. Carey, for his supervision, enthusiasm and unfailing encouragement during the writing of this thesis.

INTRODUCTION

Extent of Indian Settlement

Zeandale Township is a small agricultural community in the middle of the Great Plains. This region extends from Southern Canada to Texas and from the Rocky Mountains to the Missouri River. In early times it was a sea of grass, an area of few trees and little rainfall that made up one-sixth of the land area of the United States.

Tribes of Indians roamed Kansas long before the white man came to settle. On the basis of present knowledge, Plains pre-history has been divided into five periods. They are: Paleo-Indian, 10,000 B.C. and before; Lithic or Archaic, 10,000 B.C. to 1,000 A.D.; Woodland Period, 1,000 A.D. to 1200 A.D.; Upper Republican 1200 A.D. to 1500 A.D. and the Historic and Proto Historic Period of 1500 A.D. to 1800 A.D.¹

In the middle of the sixteenth century the following tribes were found in Kansas: the Pawnees in the Kansas River Valley; the Wichitaa in the Arkansas Valley; the Kansas along the banks of the Missouri near the present town of Atchison; the Osages who sometimes came into the far eastern area of Kansas from Missouri; and the Comanches who lived most of the time at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in what is now Wyoming, but occasionally came into Western Kansas.

In 1540, Francisco Vasquez Coronado, Spanish officer in command of an army, was sent by the Viceroy of Mexico to conquer regions to

¹Indian Exhibit. Farrell Library, Kansas State College.

the north. He advanced to a point near present Santa Fe. Here he heard about Quivera, an ill-defined region to the northeast, and in the spring of 1541 began to move towards it. He took with him only a small part of his men. There were about 40 in all, including 30 horsemen, six foot soldiers, extra horses, pack animals, wranglers and servants.² Coronado and his followers reached Quivera in July, 1541. His guides told him that nothing lay beyond Quivera but Harahey.

Quivera and Harahey were two Indian provinces. The Wichita Indians were known as the Quivera nation and the Guas Indians of the Pawnees were the Harahey. The exact location of Quivera and Harahey is in dispute. J. V. Brower claimed to have re-discovered Quivera and Harahey in 1896. According to Mr. Brower:³

Quivera was located on the upland valleys of McDowell, Humboldt, Clark and Lyons creeks and Reckon Branch and on head branches of Deep Creek. Harahey went from the mouth of Lyons Creek down Smoky Hill and Kansas Rivers, part of it in Blue River Valley and at Mill Creek in the present Wabaunsee County.

However, Mr. Brower's theory is not accepted by most reputable historians. More commonly accepted is the opinion that Coronado marched northeastward into Quivera as far as the present town of Lindsborg. During the 25 days that Coronado spent in Quivera he did not send out exploring parties, probably because he didn't feel that it was safe and his group was already small.⁴

² Herbert Eugene Bolton, Coronado Knight of Pueblos and Plains, p.282.

³ J. V. Brower, Memoirs of Explorations in the Basin of the Mississippi, p. 25.

⁴ Bolton, op. cit., p. 296.

Coronado won the allegiance of some of the Quivera chiefs to Spain before he returned to Tiguex to rejoin the main part of his army. This would have been of greater significance if the Spanish had returned in the spring to colonize.⁵

The Spanish did not return for many years, and the next white men to arrive were the French. The earliest paper record of tribes whose homes and hunting grounds were here in Kansas is found on the manuscript map of Father Jacques Marquette. The information came from the exploration of the Mississippi by Marquette and Joliet in the summer of 1673.⁶ The Sieur de Salle claimed the entire valley of the Mississippi for his King, Louis XIV, on April 9, 1682.

Kansas was part of the region that caused half a century of conflict between Spain and France before it finally culminated in the Louisiana Purchase by Jefferson in 1803. When Lewis and Clark explored the area shortly afterwards they found that there had been two Kansas villages on the Missouri River until they had been driven out by the Iowas and the Sacs about 30 years before. The Kansas, reduced in size, had then located their principal village on the north bank of the Kansas River near the joining of the Blue River.⁷

There have been several instances of finds in the area. The following statement was made by Judge John T. Keagy:⁸

⁵ John Rydjord, "The Conquistadores Come To Kansas," in Kansas The First Century, Vol. 1, ed., by John D. Bright, p. 10.

⁶ A.T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas, p. 1301.

⁷ Ibid., p.59.

⁸ Brower, op. cit., p. 102.

On upper Deep Creek, I examined six sites, but before I saw them I had received from farmer boys living there, probably a thousand chipped implements and much interesting rejectage. These Deep Creek implements were of a coarsely made type. One cache of five large blades and forty three large scrapers was found near the Grunewald site there. It is in possession of the Minnesota Historical Society for perpetual display.

An amateur, Cletus Weygandt, kept the following record of things that he had found in the area of first the Grunewald and then the Parker farms in Deep Creek:⁹

This camp site [Grunewald] of Indians about 12 miles south of Manhattan was located on both sides of the Creek, but the north side was apparently the center of their activity in so far as the making of implements and weapons were concerned for there was found the traces identifying it as such----pottery, decayed bones, charcoal from fires, but more especially the small flakelike bits of flint that have accumulated where fine chipping has been done. The south side of the Creek was given over chiefly to breaking up of large blocks of flint for usable pieces. The abattoir was located on the extreme north side of the site, which slopes gradually upward on the North side of the Creek from the Creek to the hill.

The Parker site was virtually all bottom land except for a small knoll at the southwest end; that raised up from the Creek. Extent of the two sites would comprise an acreage of approximately Grunewald north of creek 5 acres, south three; Parker, 20-30 acres.

Artifacts of all the periods of the Plains Indians have been found in the area, except for the first period.¹⁰

The Indians of Kansas, prior to the removal policy of 1825, were generally referred to as the Plains Indians. They lived primarily on the eastern edge of the state and used the central and western

⁹Material in possession of Dr. Linwood Hodgdon, Kansas State College.

¹⁰Interview with Dr. Linwood Hodgdon, Kansas State College. June 26, 1958.

area as a hunting ground. "In frontier history Kansas lay in the region included in the phrase, 'across the plains', a not too definite but inclusive term which in general meant from the Missouri River to one's destination."¹¹ In June 1825, treaties were concluded for the cession of lands of the Kansas and Osage nations. The Kansas later ceded more land before their removal to Indian Territory. As far back as 1818, the government had begun to take away the right to land in present Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma in order to provide the Indians in the east with an area to colonize.¹² Between 1825 and 1850, treaties of cession and removal to the area now known as Kansas were made with many Eastern tribes. Some of these never moved here, nor did they have representatives on land assigned to them; but Kansas became known as Indian Country. The Intercourse Act of 1834 named as Indian Country all of the territory west of the Mississippi River (except Missouri, Louisiana, and Arkansas Territory) and that east of the Mississippi River not contained in any organized territory.¹³

The 1840 to 1848 period of United States expansion made the idea of keeping this an Indian Country less desirable. It was an important link in connecting the settled section of the country with the far west. White people on either side of the area were increasing in numbers and the white man wanted to move in. Under a new plan, the Indians were to be moved from the Platte and the Kansas Valley

¹¹Eugene R. Craine, "Traversing The Area," in Kansas The First Century, Vol. 1, ed. by John D. Bright, p. 47.

¹²Paul Wallace Gates, Fifty Million Acres, p. 14.

¹³James C. Malin, "Indian Policy and Westward Expansion," "Humanistic Studies of the University of Kansas", p. 22.

in order to open the central route to the Pacific and the fertile land to settlement. Two Indian colonies were to be created, the northern one in the area that is now the Dakotas and the southern one in Oklahoma.

By 1854, through a series of treaties the Indians of Kansas had ceded almost all of their land in the Eastern part of the state. This land of the Great Plains was now to be opened to the settlement of the white man.

Geographic Description of the Area

Kansas was once a part of the region known as the Great American Desert. During the period of westward expansion, the Great Plains was largely ignored by the prospective settlers as they hurried across toward the more promising land of the Willamette Valley in Oregon or the gold fields of California.

The Township of Zeandale was located in the southeast corner of what is now Riley County, eight miles east of the present town of Manhattan, Kansas. It was bordered on the north by the Kansas River which with its tributaries flows through the northern half of the state and empties into the Missouri River at Kansas City. Zeandale Township was intersected by Deep Creek and its tributaries, the largest of which is School Creek. The climate was semi-arid and the soil fertile.

The surface of Zeandale Township was part upland and part bottom land. The soil on the upland was black loam from one to 18 feet deep with a subsoil of clay. The bottom land was generally a dark, sandy loam with a subsoil of sand or frequently clay.

"The Zeandale bottoms are considered the choice bottom lands of the county."¹⁴

Kansas was a prairie country, and the grasses of the plains held large herds of bison for part of the year. In the early days, hay could be made by cutting the wild grass found on both uplands and bottom land. This grass grew from one to five feet high on the bottom land and one foot high or more on the upland.¹⁵

The streams were bordered by heavy stands of timber. Oak, black walnut, cottonwood, hickory, ash, maple, locust and hackberry grew spontaneously wherever fires were kept off the prairie.¹⁶

This fertile farming area was soon to attract the white settler, and to provide a new home for eastern families seeking a better livelihood. It was also to become a region of conflict as the territory was opened for settlement.

THE COMING OF THE SETTLERS

Opening of Kansas Territory to Settlement

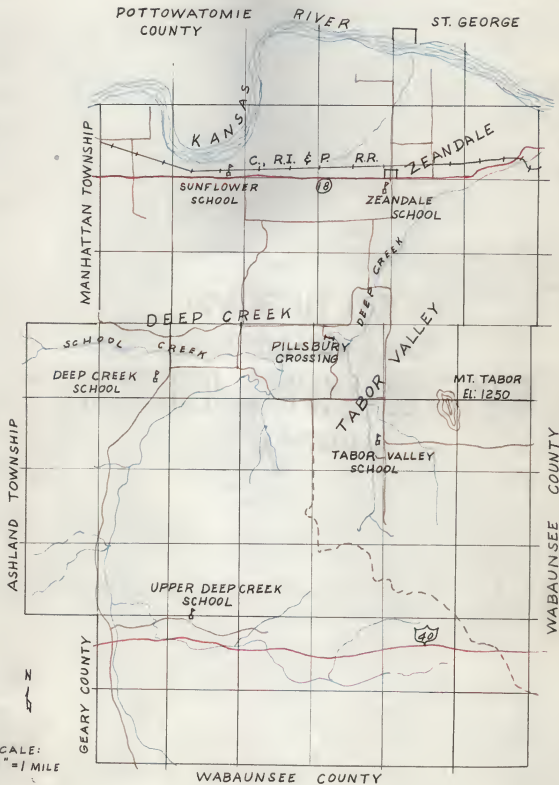
In 1853, the Kansas-Nebraska Territory was brought to the attention of the public and remained there for almost two decades. This was caused in part by the struggle to gain statehood and its position in the slavery issue. The Kansas-Nebraska Bill was passed in 1854, and in May of that year Congress opened the Kansas Territory to settlement. This bill repealed the Missouri Compromise

¹⁴Andreas, op. cit., p. 1301.

¹⁵"Manhattan and Surrounding Country," Kansas Radical, February 9, 1867.

¹⁶Loc. cit.

ZEANDALE TOWNSHIP



SCALE:
 1/4" = 1 MILE

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and substituted for it the principle of "popular sovereignty." in which the people themselves would be given the right to decide the slavery problem. When this act was passed not an acre of land was legally available for settlement. None of the treaties providing for the cession of Indian land had been ratified, nor had Congress established a public survey of the area. One of the criticisms voiced was that the Indian Country had been set aside permanently for the Indians and guaranteed to them by treaties. Some felt that the government was not keeping faith with the Indians and had no right to open it to settlement.

Private title to public lands in Kansas could be obtained in several ways. The most common of these were direct purchase, purchase with military warrants and purchase under the Preemption Law of 1841.¹ Usually a survey preceded these methods, but Congress didn't authorize the first survey of public lands until July 22, 1854, and the first contract was not let until November 2, 1854.² Some settlers brought cash with them, that perhaps represented all of their life savings or the sale of the old home back east. The buying of supplies and building of a house took most of the money these settlers might have, so few had the amount necessary for the direct purchase of land. The use of military warrants was evident, either having received the warrants themselves or having purchased them from the holder.³ The right of preemption was extended to the

¹ Homer E. Socolofsky, "How We Took The Land," in Kansas The First Century, Vol. 1, ed. by John D. Bright, p.281.

² Paul Wallace Gates, Fifty Million Acres, p. 48

³ Josiah H. Pillsbury used a military warrant in obtaining land in Section 5, Range 9, Town 11. It was in the name of Samuel Dow, Musician, Capt. Bassetts Co. N. H. Militia, War of 1812 and assigned to Pillsbury.

territory on July 22, 1854. The Preemption Act of 1841 had provided for preemption rights on surveyed land, but had previously been extended to the unsurveyed land in California, Washington and Oregon.⁴ Even before the territory was opened for settlement, a few people had already come into the area hoping for the first choice of land. If a pioneer wanted to be certain of his preemption rights, it was a good idea for him to obtain copies of the Indian treaties as they were signed. Usually a person could settle where he pleased as a small gift of ten dollars would satisfy the owning tribe.⁵ The first step in preemption was the selection of a claim and actual settlement on it. After the survey, the settler was supposed to file a declaratory statement within three months. Before the land was offered at public sale, they were expected to prove up and pay. Often there was a delay before the survey, or between it and the sale of the land, which gave Kansans several years free residence on their land before they had to pay for their claims. The price was \$1.25 per acre in gold or land warrants.⁶

The same law that provided for the survey of public lands, also provided for a land office at Lecompton, the territorial capital.⁷ Three more land offices were opened in 1857 at Ogden, Doniphan and Fort Scott, for the filing of declaratory statements by preemptors.

⁴Gates, op. cit., pp. 20-21.

⁵Max Greene, The Kansas Region, p. 38.

⁶Abner Allen, William B. Marshall and Ephraim St. John, all preempted land in Zeandale Township.

⁷Socolofsky, op. cit., p. 289.

The first public sale of land in Kansas began November 17, 1856, two years after the territory opened. For a time public lands were brought into sale slowly, but with the depression of 1857 this treatment ceased. President Buchanan and the Democratic party were blamed for the hurried sale of public lands, although it was carried out through the offices of his Secretary of Interior, Jacob Thompson.⁸ Buchanan also angered settlers by vetoing a bill that would have given them two more years to raise money for their farms and would have lowered the price to 62½ cents per acre.⁹ Very few settlers had the money to pay the \$200 that was the price for each 160 acres. They had to raise the money or lose all of the improvements they had made. If they turned to money lenders it meant that they would be in debt at a high rate of interest, if not they might have to sell their livestock or part of their land in order to buy any land at all.¹⁰ Land warrants couldn't be used at the public sale, but after land was offered at auction and not taken it was subject to private entry for warrants or cash. These warrants were usually worth 71 cents to 94 cents per acre, and the settlers used them in place of cash.¹¹

After 1862, the Homestead Act gave the settlers the right to acquire a free homestead anywhere on the public lands. Any citizen who was 21 years or older could obtain a quarter section of public land by paying a small filing fee and living there for five years,

⁸ Loc. cit.

⁹ Gates, op. cit., p. 89.

¹⁰ Ibid. p. 100.

¹¹ Loc. cit.

during which time he made certain improvements. Anyone who had fought against the United States government was ineligible. An amendment made it possible for veterans of the Union army to count up to four years of service towards fulfilling the residence requirement of five years.

Outside Groups Take an Interest in Kansas Territory

It was the principle of popular sovereignty that caused such interest and turmoil prior to statehood. The slave states looked upon this area as an opportunity for extending slavery, while the northern states urged free state settlement. In the summer of 1855, emigration was mainly from the free states; and the numerical growth of both sides was about equal, except for the Border Ruffians from Missouri.¹² The following quotation will give the reader an idea of the intense interest in the area:¹³

No sooner did the spring weather of 1856 permit, than men, money, arms and supplies were poured into the territory of Kansas from the north. In the Southern states also this propagandism was active, and a number of guerilla leaders with followers recruited in the south, and sustained by Southern contributions and appropriations, found their way to Kansas in response to urgent appeals of the Border Chiefs.

While the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was still being discussed in Congress, Eli Thayer from Massachusetts was working on a plan that would encourage free state settlement in Kansas. He aroused enough

¹² John G. Nicolay and John Hay, "Abraham Lincoln: A History," The Century, Vol. 34, May 1887-October 1887, p.82.

¹³Ibid. p. 87.

interest in his cause to organize the company finally known as the New England Emigrant Aid Company. Information about the new land was gathered and published. The emigrants were organized into large, guided parties to make the journey more pleasant and less expensive. Its most important contribution was the publicity that it gave to the Kansas Territory.

First Settlement at Zeandale

The Kansas-Nebraska Bill was passed May 30, 1854, and the first party sent out by the New England Emigrant Aid Company left Boston for Kansas Territory on August 1. On September 26, 1854, the third Emigrant Aid party left Boston. There were about 96 prospective settlers in the group. Most of them were New Englanders whose main occupation was farming. Among those travelling with this party were two future Zeandale families. Jonathan Burleigh was a shoemaker and amateur carpenter who was bringing with him his wife Harriet Pervier Burleigh and their two children, Ellen Frances, ten years old, and Joseph Frank, four years old. The other family was Josiah H. Pillsbury and Alnora Pervier Pillsbury and their infant son, Arthur J. Both families were from Londonderry, New Hampshire. Josiah Pillsbury was a carpenter and surveyor, and his wife was a younger sister of Mrs. Burleigh. The Pillsburys were destined to become one of the leading families of Zeandale Township.

It took two weeks for the Pillsburys and Burleighs to get to St. Louis by rail. Burleigh was an old time fiddler who improvised comic words which he talked or sang while playing. Alnora and Josiah Pillsbury often led the singing in their railroad car of

Whittier's emigrant song to his accompaniment.¹⁴ St. Louis was the end of the railroad so it was necessary to go on to Westport by steamboat and then overland to Lawrence. They arrived in Lawrence, October 15, 1854. Knowing that they would have to stay in town that winter, the men built a cabin, the first one in Lawrence roofed with shingles made from native wood. They purchased canvass to use for a tent kitchen where the women cooked all winter comfortably.¹⁵ Pillsbury made the acquaintance of a Mr. Carlton of Salem, Massachusetts, a New York Tribune Correspondent stationed in Lawrence; and he was asked to share their cabin that winter. At this time, Pillsbury drew the plans for the Free State Hotel which was burned by the mob led by Colonel D. R. Atchison just before it was occupied. The winter was warm and balmy and the next train brought more cottons than woolens. This was a contrast to the winter of 1855-1856 in which the temperature went to 28 degrees below zero, and many settlers nearly froze to death. Even with the mild weather there was sickness and disease in Lawrence, and Ellen Burleigh died that winter of scarlet fever.

Before winter arrived, Josiah Pillsbury and Jonathan Burleigh left their wives in Lawrence and went west into Kansas Territory to locate their claims. They also made some general observations about the region that would be of interest to those coming later.

¹⁴Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

¹⁵Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

It was Pillsbury who gave the Greek name of Zeandale to the area, meaning corn valley or corn dale. Pillsbury selected his claim on the banks of Deep Creek, because of its natural beauty and the water power possibilities of the falls at that point on Deep Creek. The natural rock bottom crossing might also have been an advantage since there were no roads at that time.¹⁶

Some free state men came into the area independently in 1854. In the fall, John McCormick, C. Perry and John McDonald and William Wiley located their claims and went back east for their families. They returned again in the spring of 1855 and brought with them several other families.¹⁷ John McCormick located a claim of 160 acres in Section 32 on Deep Creek in Zeandale Township. Few men had visited the region before him, as his were the first wagon tracks across the old Pottowatomic Reserve. He made his home in a log cabin.¹⁸ The Wiley family at first lived in a dugout until they quarried the stone and built the house that still stands east of Zeandale. The dugout was located south of the present stone house, on the north

¹⁶This area is used today as a picnic spot, and many Kansas State College students wash their cars on the concrete floor when the water is high enough.

¹⁷Obituary clipping in an old scrapbook belonging to Mrs. Glen Vail, 1009 Poyntz, Manhattan, Kansas.

Mrs. Vail's mother was the daughter of William Wiley.

In addition to the other names are: Lafayette Evans and Jonathan Snowden.

All of the men were free staters though they came from Virginia, Indiana and Missouri.

¹⁸Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington, Clay and Riley Counties Kansas, pp. 501-502.

bank of Deep Creek.¹⁹

After spending the winter in Lawrence, Pillsbury and Burlleigh once more left their families behind and went to Westport to meet the first spring party of the New England Emigrant Aid Company. It had departed from Boston, March 13, 1855, with Charles Robinson as their guide. Approximately 200 passengers had boarded the train at Boston. Among that number, the following settled in Zeandale Township:²⁰

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Home</u>
Francis A. Abbott	manufacturer	Lowell, Massachusetts
Maria H. Abbott		
Andrew Marshall	teacher	East Weare, New Hampshire (died September 22, 1857)
William B. Marshall	farmer	East Weare, New Hampshire (brother of Andrew)
Annie Pillsbury Marshall		
John C. Mossman		
Leonard Hobart Pillsbury	carpenter	Londonderry, New Hampshire (brother of Mrs. William Marshall)
Abraham Stone		
Horace A. W. Tabor	stonecutter	Holland, Vermont
Daniel M. Adams		
Mary Stone ²¹		(sister of Abraham)

This group made friends while on the train. Francis A. Abbott and Hannah M. Chapman were married in Boston the day they left for Kansas. The Abbotts had planned to settle in Lawrence; but when Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Abbott became friends, by getting their carpet bags

¹⁹Interview with Mrs. Phoebe Teel, 326 Pierre, Manhattan, Kansas. June 25, 1958.

Mrs. Teel's grandfather, William Worrell, was an early settler in this area.

²⁰Kansas Barry, "New England Emigrant Aid Company Parties of 1855," Kansas Historical Collections Vol. 29, pp. 229-233.

²¹Carolyn Jones, "The First One Hundred Years, A History of the City of Manhattan, Kansas," pages unnumbered.

exchanged in Boston Station, they decided to settle near one another in the Deep Creek area so their wives wouldn't be so lonely.²²

Leonard Hobart Pillsbury was the seventeen year old brother of Josiah Pillsbury. He had come along to help protect his sister, Annie Pillsbury Harshell, and to help her husband take care of her. "He assumed the job of protecting her from Indians, wild animals, and bushwhackers, he was to furnish wild turkeys, ducks and quail, perhaps a buffalo" while his brother in law was free to do the farming.²³

After Pillsbury and Burleigh met this group at Westport, they decided to form a New England neighborhood where they might help each other get started. Pillsbury and Burleigh had already bought oxen, wagons, farming implements and supplies in Westport, and had made arrangements about getting them across the river into Kansas Territory. This was no small matter at that time, and they were now free to help the new ones. The new group purchased ox teams at Westport, and loaded the implements they had purchased in St. Louis into the wagons. The journey into Kansas Territory started in this manner.²⁴

²²Interview with Mrs. Gaddie Abbott Smith, 508 Bluemont, Manhattan, Kansas. June 17, 1958.

Her father was Francis Abbott.

²³Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

²⁴Letter from Mrs. Anna M. Docking to Annie Pillsbury Young. October 20, 1936.

The trip to Lawrence offered some danger from pro-slavery outriders that might attempt to force them back. When they were stopped by some of them, this is what happened:²⁵

On the trip to Lawrence, the cavalcade was frequently stopped by pro-slavery outriders, demanding to know where they came from and of what purpose. After some unpleasant encounters William Marshall hit upon the reply, 'We are from New Hampshire, fifteen miles from Franklin Pierce.' That gained them unquestioned right to proceed.

Mrs. Abbott had remained in Westport with a friend, but the other women stopped in Lawrence at the Pillsbury-Burleigh cabin, while the men went ahead with the pioneer wagon train. Josiah was their guide into the western part of Kansas Territory.

They took several teams of oxen and a new wagon heavily loaded with supplies such as axes, shovels, plows, bedding, food, tents and ammunition.²⁶ They approached Deep Creek at not more than ten miles per day. They arrived at what was to be known as "Pillsbury Falls" on Deep Creek in April 1855; and pitched their tents to shelter the men and the implements while they joined forces to build their crude cabins. Josiah Pillsbury's cabin near the crossing was the first one to be built. William Marshall's cabin was the second built, but the order of the others is not known.²⁷

²⁵Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young, Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

²⁶Greene, *op. cit.*, pp. 191-192.

Prices current at Lawrence, Kansas Territory in the spring of 1855 include: corn meal, two dollars for 50 pounds; beans, four dollars per bushel; dried peaches, three dollars per bushel; bacon, 11 cents per pound; tallow, 12½ cents per pound; rice, 12½ cents per pound; crackers, ten cents per pound; coffee, 14 cents per pound; tobacco, 25 to 20 cents per pound; bar of soap, eight to ten cents per pound; calicoes, ten to 20 cents per yard; lamp oil, one dollar twenty-five cents per gallon; and nails, eight dollars per hundred.

²⁷Letter from Mrs. Anna M. Docking to Annie Pillsbury Young. October 20, 1936.

The new settlers hurried to select their own 160 acre homesteads, and they helped one another build a cabin on every claim. They had their pick of the upper creek bottom land. There was plenty of timber near the creek, and they cut the black walnut logs to use in building the cabins.

There were also several single young men living in the Pillsbury settlement. Among them were Daniel Bates from Wisconsin, who was killed in the Civil War, and Mr. (first name unknown) Morse of Hudson, New Hampshire, who was a school teacher.

In the spring of 1855, another group of settlers pitched their tents on Deep Creek further northeast. The colony consisted of fifteen persons: E. R. McCurdy and family of four children, John McCormick, C. P. McDonald and Mrs. Hull and children.²⁸ These settlers were neighbors of the Wileys who have already been mentioned.

During the years 1856 to 1860, the Zeandale colony grew rapidly.²⁹ In 1856 Abner³⁰ and Jesse Allen came to the township, also James Blain,³¹ Robert Earl,³² Joseph Haines, Rollin Moses and Orange Bardwell. The last two men were members of the New Haven Colony that came to Kansas under C. B. Lines. They were both from New Haven, Connecticut. The New Haven party settled in Wabaunsee County except

²⁸ Mary E. McDonald, "The Sunny Side of Pioneer Life," Log Cabin Days, p. 29.

²⁹ See Appendix for Zeandale Township Census List of 1860.

³⁰ Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas. p. 33.

³¹ William E. Connelley, Standard History of Kansas and Kansans. pp. 1250-1251.

³² He was probate judge of Davis County and known as Judge Blain. Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington, Clay and Riley Counties, Kansas. pp. 505-506.

Robert Earl was born in New Jersey and married Caroline Hunter.

for Moses, Bardwell and four others who selected a claim in Zeandale Township, six miles from Manhattan. They bought a pair of oxen, a cow and a wagon on their way here so they had the luxury of milk that first winter. Three of the group returned east that winter. None of them had their wives so they kept house in a tent. In the spring of 1857, Moses' wife joined him and he built a sod house with a board roof for her.³³ Among the settlers arriving in the township in 1857 there were 17 who had been teachers.³⁴ Others who joined the settlers during these years were Jonathan V. B. Thompson, who built the first stone house in the region, Harvey Marshall, Captain John Allen,³⁵ Ephraim St. John and H. D. Hull.³⁶

³³Ibid., pp. 540-542.

³⁴First Biennial Report of the State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature of the State of Kansas. p.386.

³⁵Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington, Clay and Riley Counties, Kansas. pp. 756-757.

³⁶There seems to be some confusion with H. D. Hull and H. D. Hall. The latter spelling is found in some references; but the author believes that the two are the same person, and that the name is correctly, Hiel D. Hull. There is also some question as to whether he came in 1855 or 1856.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I

- Fig. 1. Josiah H. Pillsbury.
- Fig. 2. Mr. and Mrs. John McCormick.
- Fig. 3. Looking down at Pillsbury
Crossing from the west bank
as it would look today (1958).

PLATE I



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

Biographical Sketches of Important Settlers

William Marshall. William Beard Marshall was born in East Weare, New Hampshire, April 25, 1829, to Moody and Sarah Beard Marshall. Until the age of twenty, he lived on the farm of his parents. After that time he worked as a farm laborer in the summer and went to school in the winter for a period of three years. Next, he entered a shoe factory where he cut uppers and sorted leather for three years, until he became ill. Shortly after his recovery, he married Ann Judson Pillsbury in February 1855. In March William Marshall, his brother Andrew, his wife and her brother Leonard H. Pillsbury left with the New England Emigrant Aid Company for Kansas Territory. He "squatted" on 160 acres of land in Zeandale which he preempted four years later. His wife Ann lived only a year after her marriage. She died at their home in Zeandale Township February 1856. On June 21, 1861, he married Sarah A. Allen, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio. They had five children: Anna A., John M., Phebe, William L., and Charles W. Two of these, Phebe and William L. died when they were six months old.

John McCormick. John McCormick was born in what is now Wayne County, West Virginia, October 20, 1826. His parents were Levi and Phebe Stuart McCormick. They were of Scotch-Irish descent but natives of Virginia. He grew up on the farm and in 1853 he set out for the west. He located first in Andrew County, Missouri, but in the fall of 1855 he settled on a 160 acre claim on Deep Creek that he had made the previous year. He added to this land until

he owned 1260 acres.³⁷ The upright part of his house was built of lumber hauled by himself with an ox team from St. Joseph, Missouri.³⁸ He gave most of his time to stock raising such as cattle, horses and mules. He married Nancy M. Hull in West Virginia. They had two children, but she and their children died early. After coming to Kansas he married Mary J. Gillespie at St. George. Mary's father was a blacksmith in St. George and John would go there to have his plowshares sharpened. He would ride a horse down to the river and carry an iron kettle. When he came to the deep part of the channel he put the kettle over his head and walked the rest of the way carrying his shears above the water. It was an all day trip so he was often invited to the Gillespie home for dinner.³⁹ John and Mary McCormick had seven children: Thomas L., Wolstein L., George W., Cavit H., Mary K., Zollie M. and Alvie. One son, Thomas L., died at the age of eighteen. During the Civil War, he enlisted in Company K, 11th Kansas Infantry; and served a few months before being honorably discharged because of disability. He lived on his home place until 1891.

Armstead McCormick, followed his brother John, to Kansas in 1856 and purchased 160 acres of land in Zeandale Township. Armstead enlisted in Company K, Eleventh Kansas Infantry and spent three years in it during the Civil War. He married Anna Allen November 27, 1865. She and her parents were Quakers and had come to Riley

³⁷Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington, Clay and Riley Counties, Kansas. pp. 501-502.

³⁸News Item, Manhattan Enterprise, April 4, 1879.

³⁹Interview with Misses Mabel and Fern McCormick. 728 Humboldt, Manhattan, Kansas. July 19, 1957.

They are the daughters of Cavit McCormick.

County during the war. They had four children: Bion M., Orlen, Phoebe and Sadie.

At one time all four of the McCormick brothers had farms in Zeandale Township. Walstein, Jim, Armstead and John all settled near one another, and the saying goes that you could walk on nothing but McCormick land from Zeandale clear up into Tabor Valley.⁴⁰

Horace A. W. Tabor. Horace Tabor was born November 26, 1830, in Holland, Vermont. He had a common school education and later some private tutoring. Early in life he learned the stonecutters trade. In 1855, he was part of the group that came with the New England Emigrant Aid Company to Kansas; and became a member of the Zeandale colony. At first he lived in a dugout, but later built a cabin on what is today the Del Mar Aiken farm. At that time it was located on the open prairie with almost nothing in sight except the hill now known as "Mount Tabor." Mount Tabor was the highest point to the south and looked out over Tabor Valley. His one room cabin was 12' x 16' with only one door and a small window. It had an earthen floor and a roof of split logs on which earth had been piled. The furniture consisted of a cook stove, an old trunk and a crude bedstead of poles on which there was a dirty tick filled with prairie grass.⁴¹ This one room cabin is now the bedroom of Mr. and Mrs. Del Mar Aiken's home. It used to have an attic room over it.⁴² In 1856

⁴⁰ Interview with Mrs. Sid Sword, Wamego, Kansas. June 29, 1958. She is the daughter of Bion McCormick and still owns the old home place.

⁴¹ News Item. "Tabor Helped Change Ft. Riley to Cavalry Post," Manhattan Mercury, March 9, 1935.

⁴² Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Del Mar Aiken, Zeandale, Kansas. July 21, 1957.

Tabor was chosen to be Zeandale's representative to the first free state legislature. He worked in Fort Riley as a stonemason to get money so he could return east. In 1857, he went back to Vermont and married Augusta Pierce, January 31. She had not been able to accompany him to Kansas before because she had to care for her sick mother. Tabor was a "tall, lean, powerful man with wide shoulders, deep chest, and the muscular arms of a pugilist."⁴³ He was kind and generous, ambitious and lazy. He was extravagant and could always see a bright future ahead. His wife proved to be thrifty and industrious with great endurance. He bought a yoke of oxen, a wagon, some farm tools and seed at Kansas City; and they left for Deep Creek. Two young men, friends of his, joined them on the way. They were glad of company since the roads west of Kansas City were not too safe for a free stater travelling alone. While going through pro-slavery settlements the first few days, Mrs. Tabor guided the oxen and the men marched beside the wagon with their rifles. They arrived at Deep Creek April 19. The daily rains had made the roads almost impassable, and the trip took two weeks. In 1859, he was elected Riley County Commissioner. The following year they left for the California Gulch area in Colorado where Augusta was one of the first women to arrive. They lived at first in Oro where he was postmaster and storekeeper, and then at Leadville where he was made mayor. It was there that he made his first lucky strike by staking two prospectors, August Rische and George T. Hook. They discovered the silver ore that became "The Little

⁴³ News Item. Manhattan Mercury, op. cit. March 9, 1935.

Pittsburg Mine," and Tabor received over \$1,000,000 from his interest. He bought the Matchless Mine for \$117,000, and for a time it brought \$100,000 per month.⁴⁴ He was lieutenant governor of Colorado from 1879 to 1893, and United States Senator from February 1 to March 3, 1883, to fill out the unexpired term of H. M. Teller. He was lavish in his gifts to Leadville, among which was an opera house. In Denver he built Tabor Block including the Tabor Grand Opera House.

Augusta was not used to this sort of life, and she returned to Manhattan with their son and bought land adjoining the original farm at Zeandale. Tabor kept his friendship with "Baby Doe," Elizabeth McCourt, until his first wife divorced him. Augusta lived until 1895. Tabor then secretly married "Baby Doe" September 30, 1882, and publicly in Washington D.C. March 1, 1883. They lived high until a combination of bad investments, the crash of 1893 and the repeal of the Sherman Act left him bankrupt. He worked as a day laborer until 1898 when his friends obtained his appointment as postmaster of Denver. He held this position until his death April 10, 1899.

Tabor had two daughters by his second wife. On his death bed he asked his wife not to give up the Matchless Mine, one of the few possessions they had left. She returned to Leadville to live in a shack beside the Matchless Mine. On March 7, 1935, she was found there frozen to death. Some of his friends saw that she was buried near him.⁴⁵

⁴⁴Carolyn Jones, *op.cit.*, pages unnumbered.

⁴⁵Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

Josiah H. Pillsbury. Josiah Pillsbury was born in Hebron, Grafton County, New Hampshire, August 15, 1821. He was the third of nine children born to Stephen and Lavinia Pillsbury. Of those, three others came to Kansas besides Josiah: Edwin Pillsbury, Ann Judson Pillsbury who married William B. Marshall and Leonard Hobart Pillsbury.

The Pillsbury name was derived from the word "bury," a fortified farm or block house such as was built in farming neighborhoods in England when brigandage was rife. This part of the family came from "Pyles" Bury, afterwards called Pilesbury and Pillsbury. They kept the spelling of Pillsbury with the accent on the first syllable and the last half as though it were pronounced bry.⁴⁶

A grandfather, Micajah Pillsbury, had served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Josiah's father was a school teacher and later a Baptist minister. He preached in Hebron and other New Hampshire towns before his death in 1852.

Josiah went to school in the winter, but often he was needed to plant and harvest on the farm. He attended school until he was fifteen, and then worked on the farm and studied in his spare time. At nineteen, he began teaching in the public schools and continued farm work in the summer. In 1844, he went to New York City to clerk in a store; but by fall he was back teaching again in Orange County, New York, and later in Londonderry. Here he met his wife. Upon

⁴⁶ Mrs. Nell Wood, letter to the author, June 23, 1958.
Mrs. Wood is a granddaughter of Edwin Pillsbury, brother of Josiah Pillsbury.

returning to New York City, he studied engineering and worked for the National Anti-Slavery Standard which was an anti-slavery newspaper. He remained there until the spring of 1847 when he went to work on a newspaper called the Anglo-Saxon.⁴⁷ In the fall of 1847, he set up The Eagle, a reform paper printed with a phonetic alphabet. His health failed from overwork just as he was getting started, so he left New York City to go "up state" where he again taught school. It was while he was in New York that he came in contact with Horace Greeley, and was imbued with the anti-slavery crusade. Finally he returned to Londonderry and located on a farm. He became a carpenter again, and studied surveying and civil engineering.

On April 16, 1853, he married Alnora Pervier, daughter of Joseph and Sara Pervier, Franklin, New Hampshire. Her family was descended from the French Huguenots. Alnora had been a teacher in Franklin. They lived in a home which still stands in Londonderry that Josiah built from his own plans.⁴⁸ He and Alnora came to Kansas as a part of the third New England Emigrant Aid group in 1854. They located a claim on Deep Creek, and settled with others in 1855. in that neighborhood. Josiah Pillsbury only lived in Zeandale Township until 1863; therefore his influence was felt most heavily in the early years.

⁴⁷John Eric Winter, "A study of Newspapers and Editors of Early Manhattan," Unpublished Master's Thesis. Kansas State College. pp. 15-18.

⁴⁸Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Subdivisions of the Community

Zeandale Township was naturally divided by Deep Creek into different areas. They were Zeandale, Deep Creek and Tabor Valley. The name of Zeandale was given to the entire township as well as to that part near the present town of Zeandale. The region known as Deep Creek was found in the southwest corner of Deep Creek, and Tabor Valley is on the east end of Deep Creek where Horace Tabor built his first cabin. Deep Creek might be further divided into Upper Deep Creek and Lower Deep Creek. The problems of the settlers in each area were very similar.

The Pillsbury Civic Center

Originally Josiah Pillsbury had planned that the area around his cabin would become a thriving community. From 1856 to 1860 an attempt was made towards this goal. The exact location of the first Pillsbury cabin is not known. Most people agree that the house was probably on top of the hill on the opposite side of the Creek from where the present house is located, and closer to the road. It probably was about ten rods to the southwest.¹ The door to the Pillsbury cabin was unique and could have been original. It was a long door divided horizontally about four feet from the floor, making two doors. The lower door had a heavy protecting latch

¹Interview with Mrs. Caddie Abbott Smith, 508 Bluemont, Manhattan, Kansas. June 17, 1958.

midway to the floor, and the shorter door above had a latch that could be opened easily from the outside. This door was a safety measure to keep the children in, and to keep small animals from the woods out. He made two of these doors, both of native walnut. One was made for Edwin's house.²

During the winter of 1855 and 1856 when temperatures averaged eight degrees below zero and the lowest recorded temperature was 31 degrees below zero, stories were told about the chopping of bath water, out of the ice bound creek near the Pillsbury claim. They brought the ice up the hill and melted it by heating it in the largest, heaviest iron kettle. While they waited they would shell corn by hand as there must always be a bushel or two ahead ready to send to Mill Creek Mill, a two day trip, by every passing opportunity. Sometimes Pillsbury would take time out from the shelling to bring out his flute, and he and Alnora would sing their favorite songs.

In the spring of 1856, the mail carrier brought news that Dan Adams had been appointed postmaster and that the Post Office was to be located in the Pillsbury cabin. Alnora faced the problem of making room for a Post Office under the stairsteps. She hung the cobblers kit, the large roll of shoe leather, the water bench, pail and long handled dipper and the cross cut saw, like guns, over the fireplace. The surveying tripod and compass were carried upstairs.

²Edwin Pillsbury was the brother of Josiah. He was the "black sheep" playboy of the family who ran away to sea at thirteen on a Spanish whaler and was not seen or heard of for years. When he returned to New England, he married Mary Ann Reed. In 1856, he came to Kansas and eventually settled on a farm south of Pillsbury Crossing. He farmed and freighted. It was said that he was good natured and jovial.

The clothes of the family were hung on a line stretched across the back of the head board of the bed. The flesh brush and other family treasures were put in the floor of Arthur's trundle bed. A bookcase had been nailed to the log wall to hold Josiah's books. Among these books were: the writings of John Stuart Mill, Roland's Ancient History, Lexicon of Useful Knowledge, Shakespeare, Arabian Nights and a few others.³ This bookcase was emptied and converted into a Post Office, General Delivery. Josiah was sworn in as assistant postmaster and Alnora as clerk. Most of the actual work was done by the Pillsburys with Mr. Adams coming only to sign papers.

One big enterprise was Pillsbury's desire for a neighborhood saw mill. The building of the dam was mentioned frequently in Pillsbury's diary with entries about it beginning January 18, 1860: "Afternoon I rode over to the Kansas bottom to engage help to finish the dam."⁴ The settlers came to work as often as possible, some by day and others by the hour. His most regular help was Leonard Drury who lived in the Pillsbury cabin. However, he was often sick with chills and the fever and the neighbors had to take time off to go to Wabaunsee for medicine. There is no record of any power behind the scenes, but Annie Pillsbury Young thought it must have been organized in a like manner to the corporations that we

³ Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

⁴ Annie Pillsbury Young's copy of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

know today. Everyone was interested in the mill, but Pillsbury was the leader although he was too ill to do much of the physical work. His diary continues through 1860 with the following comments about the dam:

January 21. For the last two days Wiley has been drawing logs for the dam. The others have been at work in the woods.

January 24. Have worked on the dam and bulkhead about 6 hours today.

January 27. Bates and Drury worked part of the day digging the trench.

February 8. We have put the largest logs on the dam today, 6 in number. Our help was the two Marshalls, Evans, Burley⁵, Bates, Howard Aiken, Drury and myself. We have had good success.

February 9. We finished putting the logs on the dam today.

February 10. I have laid out the work for dowelling the logs; went down to Mr. McCurdy's and borrowed his saw etc.

March 10. Have laid a plan to have a general turnout to help fix the dam next week --- Wednesday.

March 12. I have rode around town and invited people to come and work on the dam. I think there will be quite a turnout.

March 14. We have had 17 men to work shovelling and drawing gravel today, and have done about one-third part of what is necessary to secure the dam against a flood of water.

March 15. Today I have worked on the dam, and very hard too. McCormack's⁶ men worked with me. We have hauled 22 loads of dirt.

March 16. There have been four of us at work on the dam. We have put 50 loads of earth on the dam today.

March 17. I have worked upon the dam today and put in eleven ties. I have been nerved up to more than ordinary exertion, and have accomplished a great week's work. I think the largest part of the dam is safe against an ordinary flood.

March 19. Mr. Drury and I have spent most of the day putting in ties to the dam.

⁵This is a different spelling of the name Burleigh.

⁶The name is more commonly spelled McCormick.

March 27. We have nearly finished cleaning the dam today. There were nine men beside myself at work today.

March 28. We have made some progress toward gravelling the dam.

May 23. Mr. Drury and I have nearly finished the dam today.⁷

This was the last mention that the diary made of the dam. The 14 foot waterfall at the Crossing seemed to guarantee the success of the mill when Pillsbury had constructed the dam and building for it. Daniel Aiken came to the Deep Creek community from New York to help put up the dam. He brought the wheel with him from New York.⁸ Pillsbury's project proved a failure when Deep Creek didn't live up to its name, and in less than a year the stream almost went dry. The old balance wheel and a few large stones from the dam marked the site for many years.⁹

The cabin at Pillsbury's Crossing in 1858 was assuming the importance of a civic center. Even before the building of the saw mill, a sorghum mill already stood on the place south of the cabin. It was a stone chimney and furnace like affair supporting a large sorghum pan which in season was a neighborhood convenience. The Zeandale Post Office was located in the Pillsbury cabin, and Mrs. Pillsbury taught the first private school there also. Josiah had been elected

⁷Annie Pillsbury Young's copy of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

⁸There is some thought that the wheel was provided by the New England Emigrant Aid Company or some like group.

⁹One half of one of the cast bearings from the wheel is still (1958) in the possession of Mr. Del Mar Aiken in Tabor Valley.

Justice of the Peace and Chairman of the Association. The Association was a progressive organization that planned for school districts, roads and a public building for meetings and religious services. Pillsbury travelled with the mail carrier to help him select the most direct and safest route. They chose a trail over the hills to Deep Creek. The men from the Association helped him survey and stake out the road and remove the rocks. This is today a part of Highway 13.¹⁰

Josiah Pillsbury was a leader in those early years. He helped his neighbors as much and as often as possible. His diary mentions his making furniture, brooms, wheels, ox-yokes and bow. He was a good mechanic and rebuilt wagons for his neighbors, made sashes for windows and built doors and frames for houses. He also filed saws and made and mended shoes. Most of this was done on the basis of exchanging services rather than for money. The services were exchanged for heavier work on his farm that he was physically unable to do.

In the early years Reverend Harvey Jones, pastor at Wabaunsee, helped organize and build the first church building in the township. It was located on Deep Creek just north of Pillsbury Crossing. Quite a number of the early settlers had been members of the Congregational Church back home, so it was natural that the church should be Congregational in denomination. The church was organized

¹⁰Annie Pillsbury Young's copy of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

July 20, 1856, as the fifth Congregational Church in the state. It had ten members.¹¹ At that time there were two committees from which Congregational Churches of the west might seek help. One was the Congregational Union, which required that the church be completed to within the amount requested before any aid was granted. All applications were made directly to New York and the decision was made there. Most churches in the west needed funds for cash materials at the outset. They could get the labor and most of the materials after they got a start. Under the Church Election Committee, funds were apportioned among the states and territories; and were distributed to the churches by local committees. In 1858, the church at Zeandale received three hundred dollars from this fund.¹² In 1859, the Zeandale Church had 18 members with an average congregation of 25 persons. They had 15 in Sunday school and 200 volumes in their library. The wooden church must have been completed early in 1860 at a cost of about \$1,000.¹³ The exact date of its destruction is not known, but it is said to have been blown down. By 1863, the church was considering disbanding and uniting with the church in Manhattan, because the old church had been destroyed. Other ministers who served this congregation in addition to Reverend Harvey Jones¹⁴ were H. P. Leonard and Brother Beckwith (first name not known).

The first child born in Zeandale was Ernest McCurdy, son of E. R. McCurdy, on April 26, 1856. The first marriage was that of

¹¹ Congregational Record, No. 1, Vol. 1. p. 9.

¹² Loc. cit.

¹³ Ibid., Vol. II., No. 3, p. 55.

¹⁴ During 1856 he held services on alternate Sundays.

C. P. McDonald and Mary E. McCurdy. This ceremony was performed on December 11, 1856, by Reverend Harvey Jones.

Both of the Pillsburys urged other members of their family to come to Kansas, and in letters to their relatives at home pointed out the advantages in glowing terms. The following letter was written by Josiah Pillsbury to his brother Stephen, April 15, 1860:¹⁵

Times are getting better here and it will soon be so that a man can get a living here with one quarter of the exertion it requires in New England. A feeble man may farm here to advantage when he would starve to death undertaking to farm in the east. We can plant from March to July. We can make hay from June till October and harvest corn from September to January or even till March. We do not have to devise every possible means to manure the ground.

I raised provisions enough last year to feed your family and mine both and still I had no team to work my ground with. Money has been extremely scarce here for three years past from the fact that almost everybody came here poor and they have had their land to pay for besides supporting their families. Considerable cash has found its way here this season from the sale of pork and the amount will be largely increased each succeeding year. This region has but just begun to furnish cattle for the market as there is not yet a full supply of cows; yet several hundred dollars were brought into this neighborhood the past year from the sale of oxen.

We can raise a larger proportion of what is necessary to make a family comfortable barring apples and pears, than an eastern farmer. All kinds of produce that is grown in New Hampshire grows better here except white beans. Wild grapes grow in great abundance and with a little care we can have any quantity of raspberries and gooseberries. Strawberries are indigenous to the soil but it will require a little effort to spread them as to the annual prairie fires have confined them to narrow limits. The most luscious melons are as common as pumpkins. Sugar cane is a most valuable crop. From 100 to 200 gallons

¹⁵Excerpts from a letter among Annie Pillsbury Young's papers. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

of most excellent molasses can be produced from an acre. It furnishes us with both cider and vinegar. I expect our sawmill and grist mill will be in operation in the course of the summer. We have the dam just completed; it was a great work. It is sixteen rods long; five feet high; built mainly of stone and it required near one thousand loads of earth to rubble it. I have turned all my means and labor this winter and spring to forward the enterprise.

Fever and ague are almost the only disease incident to this country, and that may in most cases be entirely avoided, by taking proper precautions. Keeping the skin in a healthy condition by frequent washing is an excellent preventive. It has been ascertained that the atmospheric influences that cause the ague are transmitted to the system through the pores of the skin and not through the lungs. It was the unavoidable exposure and fatigue that subjected us to the ague when we first came here. Generally those who have taken the best care of themselves have had the least of it.¹⁶

The summer of 1860 brought a drought that occurred before the settlers had the necessary facilities for the storing of corn or other grain, even though quantities had been grown. Farmers either had to see their pigs starve or butcher them regardless of their poor condition. Some neighbors brought theirs to Pillsbury; and using the boiling pan of the sorghum mill to heat water for scalding, they turned their livestock into poor sidemeat and hams with which to flavor their bean soups. After the year of the drought some of the settlers had to give up and return east. "During the fall of 1860 nearly a third of the settlers abandoned their claims and the improvements that had been made at the expense of so much labor and left Kansas."¹⁷ In the winter of 1860, Josiah Pillsbury

¹⁶The last paragraph of this letter was dated April 22, 1860.

¹⁷Anna E. Arnold, A History of Kansas, p. 100.

was sent on a mission to the east to secure aid for the sufferers from the drought. The mission was successful due to the help of his old friend Horace Greeley. As soon as the condition of Kansas settlers became known, help was forthcoming from the east. Some states sent quantities of provisions and clothing. Hundreds of bushels of seed for planting arrived, and relatives and friends also sent supplies. The drought set Kansas back in its development because those who returned east tended to discourage others from coming to Kansas, and made it sound like a place of famine. A tone of discouragement is evident even in the letter written by Alnora Pillsbury to her sister in law, Lavinia Hobart Pillsbury.¹⁸

We received a letter from William¹⁹ yesterday in which he proposed to us to go to New Hampshire. Josiah could not live there one New Hampshire winter, he will not live through many here even unless we can get a better house, which we hope to if he is able to work any this summer.

We could not get a living for our family there and have things at all like other people, while here we can get food very cheap and all we lack to make us independent, that is very comfortable is a good house.

I fear you think we are worse off than we really are, we suffered some for want of vegetables last year but the prospects are good for this year. We have tomatoes two inches high, onions up and our garden is all made, gooseberry are very abundant and will be big enough to eat in a week. We have had greens in plenty for a month. We have plenty of milk and butter. It will be hard for us to get clothes but one calico dress will last me all summer and two for Annie will do and I guess we can get them. Calico is twenty cents at Leavenworth and thirty here.

¹⁸ Excerpts from a copy of a letter, the date is not known but probably shortly after the drought year. Annie Pillsbury Young's papers. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

¹⁹ William Pillsbury was the business man of the family and was the only one to become prosperous.

The drought of 1860 and the failure of the mill brought an end to the dreams of Josiah Pillsbury for making a civic center out of the settlement near his place. After nine years of living at Pillsbury Crossing, the family moved to Manhattan in June 1863. He bought the Western Kansas Express, established by Charles de Vivaldi; and began to put it out under the name of the Independent. It was a free state newspaper. In a town "where everything but blacksmith shops sold liquor, he refused to advertise liquors in any form and thus antagonized the major part of the population whose support he needed in order to support his family."²⁰ A boycott was started against his paper because of his refusal to run liquor ads and because of his opposition to a corrupt politician who was running for control of the town. Most of the financial power of Manhattan backed the opposition and Mrs. Pillsbury had to go to work in the office to keep the paper going, while Pillsbury went back to surveying to earn a livelihood to support his paper. Many citizens afterwards changed their attitudes and apologized to him.

Alnora Pillsbury died July 15, 1868, shortly after the birth of twins. Alnora and Josiah had eight children, but only four had survived childhood. They were: Judson, Annie M., Nellie and Mary A. After her death, Pillsbury sold his paper to L. R. Elliott who also bought the rival paper and consolidated them into the Standard, afterwards called the Nationalist. Josiah met and married Mrs. Emma Steele, November 4, 1870. She was from Terre Haute, Indiana, and

²⁰ Arthur Judson Pillsbury, "Our Father and Mother," in back of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

St. Louis, and was a medical doctor. She also considered herself clairvoyant, which supposedly aided her powers of detecting illnesses and treating them. This was not a happy marriage and they were divorced in 1874.

Pillsbury was active in local and state matters. He took the leading newspapers and thought and read as much as he had time for. He was elected to the Senate of the Topeka Legislature in 1856 and served until the fall of 1857 when the government was disbanded by United States troops. He was elected surveyor for the county in 1863 and continued until 1872. He held the job of deputy collector of Internal Revenue from 1868 to 1870; and was postmaster for Manhattan from the spring of 1869 until his death November 12, 1879.

During the nine years that Pillsbury lived on Deep Creek he was deeply interested in the area, an interest that he kept even after his removal to Manhattan. Although his dream of a civic center never came to birth, Zeandale Township became a thriving agricultural settlement due to the help of Josiah Pillsbury and others like him.²¹ The settlement near Pillsbury Crossing was only a segment of the groups that were living in other parts of the township also.

²¹On August 25, 1936, the town of Manhattan honored Josiah Pillsbury by naming the new approach and street to the new bridge over the Kansas River, "Pillsbury Drive." The new drive was officially opened July 29, 1937. It serves as a fitting memorial to a pioneer settler.

Life in Other Parts of Zeandale Township

A pioneer has experiences that cannot be obtained by any other means. Some of these are amusing and others tragic. They were typical of the problems facing settlers all over the township and state.

There were many Indians in this area when the first settlers arrived. Relations with these Indians were almost always friendly, though that did not prevent the women and children from being frightened by their presence. During the Civil War, when Indians were camping nearby and their husbands were away, the women used to stay up all night to guard the already barricaded door. Usually the Indians came merely to beg when they were hungry. They often asked for biscuits because they knew the housewives generally had some on hand. The Indian in several instances helped the white man, sometimes even saving his life. He was a friend to Ann Pillsbury Marshall, wife of William Beard Marshall. Their claim was on Deep Creek. The Marshall cabin had two rooms on the ground floor and one in the loft. Two rooms at that time was considered a big house. The cabin stood just west of the stone house that was later erected.²² It was known in the neighborhood that Ann was very particular about her home. She had real muslin curtains at the window, a homespun spread on the bed and braided rag rugs on the floor. These luxuries probably represented the contents of her hope chest. Ann had taken

²²The stone house still stands today on the Docking farm.

a cold on the boat from St. Louis to Westport and she was in very poor health. In those days a woman's hair was her glory, and Ann Marshall had combed hers out until it hung clear to the ground. While sitting in the splint bottom chair that Josiah had made for her, she looked up to see a group of Indians a few paces away. They were only admiring her beauty. Leonard Hobart Pillsbury, her younger brother, was nearby. He had met Indians before while he searched for Josiah's straying livestock. He had made inquiry of them in sign language, and the Indians had helped him find his cattle. Through a performance of more sign language and a few words that he had learned in Indian, Leonard now made the Indians understand that his sister was very sick and needed all sorts of game, prairie chicken, turkey birds and such. He told the Indians that he had to stay, while her husband went to hoe corn to make hominy for the winter. From that time on, Ann never lacked for game. The Indians also brought her as a special present a young antelope which they had tamed. This gave her a new interest that helped to pass the summer and lessened her fear of Indians.²³

Leonard took his sister's death hard. One day he went to see the bachelor school teacher, Mr. Morse.²⁴ He had come to Kansas to teach school, and when he found no schools or school districts he took a claim next to William B. Marshall's. Mr. Morse was very

²³Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

²⁴Many sources confuse Mr. Morse and Rollin Moses. Rollin Moses was married and his wife joined him in Zeandale Township later.

homesick. He had been tutoring the children of Jude Bursaw, Indian trader on the Pottowatomie Reservation, but Leonard found him one morning packing to go home. He had sold his claim and his right to the claim on which he had declared his intentions, for \$15. Leonard bought his pony and rode over to Jude Bursaw's to apply for the vacant job as tutor and got it. He stayed with them through the winter of 1855 and 1856.

The settlers in the Upper Deep Creek area were the William Taylor, James Jeffrey, John Hardy and A. F. Grow families. The east fork of Deep Creek had five early families: the Koepsels, Meyers, Blasings, Hoggs and Criss Yaegers.²⁵ William Taylor had been a native of New Hampshire. He had gone to sea as a young man, and during a voyage to the South Seas he was put off to die on a small island because of a severe illness. This island was off the regular course of sea travel. The governor of the island was an Englishman who had married a native woman and settled there for life. He took Taylor into his home and his family nursed him back to health. Since the island was very remote, it was probable that Taylor would never be picked up again so he made his home there. He taught the women to spin and knit the wool of the native sheep and to cook his favorite American dishes. He married the daughter of the governor and gained importance in the community. The British finally ordered the island abandoned and sent a ship for the 100 people on it, because

²⁵ "Deep Creek History Has Tie in With South Seas," Manhattan Mercury, May 4, 1955. p. 15.

hurricanes were increasing in intensity in the area and the island was in danger of sinking. Taylor returned to his home in New England with his wife and seven children. His relatives welcomed him, but did not approve of his dark skinned wife and family. When he learned that settlers were wanted in Kansas, he was among the first to come west and locate on Upper Deep Creek. He built chimneys, did plastering and painting and was a good butcher. His services were in great demand when settlers were preparing their winter beef and pork for their large families. Mrs. Taylor was referred to as a "Creole" or "half-breed." She was a woman of simple, honest ideas and made no pretense at being anything that she wasn't. She was trained to be a midwife so the settlers called on her many times. It was a long way to a doctor and they often needed her services.²⁶ After Taylor's death in 1875, most of his family moved by wagon to Washington County.

A tragic event in the history of Deep Creek was the death of Charlie Meacham, small son of Oscar and Martha Meacham, in the fall of 1859. He had been playing outside the cabin; but when his mother called to him, he couldn't be found. A general search was held; and every settler from Upper Deep Creek to St. George looked for him, but found no trace. The next spring, J. Bardwell found a little skull in a cave which doctors felt was that of a child about Charlie's age. It was not certain whether he had been taken by Indians, wandered away and become lost or had been carried off by a wolf.²⁷

²⁶ Interview with Mrs. Caddie Abbott Smith, 508 Bluemont, Manhattan, Kansas. June 17, 1958.

²⁷ The 8th U.S. Census 1860 lists him as being taken by a wolf.

The settlers of Zeandale Township found out early that in order to survive and make a living they must depend on the help of others. All of the settlers were hospitable; and while there was not a particular place for visitors to stay, the homes of John McCormick, Josiah Pillsbury and others were always open to travellers. The shake-down prairie feather bed in the loft of the Pillsbury home was nearly always occupied on the weekends, either by one of the bachelor claim holders, the mail carrier or a lonesome man whose family was in the east.

An example of the settlers coming to the aid of one who needed help could be seen in the case of J. V. B. Thompson. He had served in Company G. of the Eleventh Kansas Infantry, and when he returned home after the war he found his fields and fences ruined by prairie fire. After investing his savings from his wages in a team to restore his farm, it was stolen by horse thieves. Poor health made him unable to support his family. The people of Zeandale brought to the Thompsons their teams, plows and provisions that would be of use to a family. They plowed and sowed ten acres of wheat and left the provisions for their use. This was a neighborhood whose citizens recognized their duty towards one another.²⁸

Another example of neighborliness occurred when Francis Abbott was unable to attend the public land sale. On September 12, 1859, the final sale of public land was held at Ogden. The settlers had

²⁸"A Neighborhood of Practical Christians," Manhattan Independent, April 7, 1866.

already filed their claims before this with a declaratory statement. On October 6, 1859, the land office was moved to Junction City. Any settler not appearing at the sale would lose his rights as good claims were in demand with people constantly coming to Kansas. Francis Abbott had been taken ill with the ague a few days before. His wife administered hot applications and chafed his limbs. The only remedy they knew about was called "collygog" which had been prescribed by eastern doctors who were opposed to the use of quinine. At daylight, Mrs. Abbott hung out a white cloth which was the neighborhood signal of distress. This was noticed by William Marshall who arranged for James Blain to come and give Abbott a dose of quinine. Mr. Abbott not being used to it, was left deaf for several days but it probably saved his life. He couldn't attend the land sale, so Mr. Blain took his money for his quarter section and represented him at the sale.²⁹

During the Civil War there were very few able-bodied men left in Zeandale. There was very little money in circulation during the war years. When Francis Abbott sold a horse to a Mr. Campbell of College Hill, he was not paid in cash; but he received an order for \$75 at Higginbotham's store. Abbott rode the horse over to Manhattan and left it with Mr. Campbell. Then he went to the store and traded out the entire amount for sheeting, gingham and other household items before walking home.³⁰

²⁹Francis A. Abbott, "Some Reminiscences of Early Days on Deep Creek, Riley County," Kansas Historical Collections, Vol. 11 pp. 395-396.

³⁰Loc. cit.

The present town of Zeandale grew up with the Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame Railroad in the late 1870's and early 1880's. There was nothing south of the present railroad tracks in Zeandale for a long time. The only structure north of the tracks was a little one room store that belonged to Johnny Kent. Zeandale was a flag stop for the railroad and they used the tool house for a depot. There was a blacksmith shop where the Ackerly store is now located (1958), and just west of it was a baseball diamond. The grocery and dry goods store of C. T. Schipps was located north of the Methodist Church, it also contained the Post Office. After the death of Schipps, the store was moved to where it is now, the Ackerly store. North of the Christian Church there was a hardware store owned by the Moore brothers in the 1890's.³¹

Life was not all hardship in the early years. There were many organizations that met for entertainment as well as cultural and educational reasons. Such activities as singing schools, spelling bees, croquet parties, ice skating, wolf hunts, lyceums, bands, baseball, candy pulls, glass ball shooting matches and quilting bees were well attended. Life was hard and often lonely so the women especially welcomed these gatherings. A literary society was organized at the Marshall schoolhouse, also a debating society. One of their topics for debate was: "Resolved that navigation has done more for the country than the printing press."³² Oyster suppers were

³¹ Interview with Mrs. Alma Docking, 508 Bluemont, Manhattan, Kansas. July 5, 1958.

³² News Item, Manhattan Enterprise, January 21, 1881.

a popular method of raising money for the school or church. There was a temperance club, but after it was organized the people seemed to lose interest in it. In 1887, W. E. Blasing built a 12 room limestone home to operate as a hotel and health resort for persons who sought the medicinal values of the water from the springs nearby. At first they bottled the water and sold it. There was a big grove nearby, and families used it for a picnic area. Some stayed over several days camping or living at the hotel. The building was destroyed a few years ago by a cyclone. Most of the leisure time activities were purposeful. Families did things together and social gatherings were held in their homes.

Neighboring Settlements

The settlers in Zeandale Township found neighbors already settled in the area, but distances were great because of poor transportation. The Juniata settlement was made in 1853 by Samuel D. Dyer. This site was first a government station and then became a settlement about 1855. A hotel, blacksmith shop and post office and store were built there. The Wabaunsee settlement was near, being begun in 1854 and added to by the arrival of the Beecher Bible and Rifle Company from New Haven, Connecticut, April 1855. The Zeandale residents did a lot of their small trade at Wabaunsee and St. George. Manhattan was near, but it wasn't much larger and it was hard to cross the river. For many years the pontoon bridge was the only means of crossing, and when the wind blew, the pontoons would sink. Sometimes it would be several days before it could be crossed. John Allen operated a ferry across the river to St. George. Before the

days of the ferry if anyone wanted to come across they would just yell, and he would get a boat to row them to the other side. The families didn't go to town often. Usually it would mean at least a days trip to get supplies depending upon where they were going. Often one settler would bring supplies for everyone in his vicinity.

The Building of Churches

In the earliest days, religious meetings were held in the cabins of the settlers with a visiting minister present, or a member of the group doing the preaching. Josiah and Alnora Pillsbury often provided the music, Josiah pitching the hymns with his tuning fork and Alnora leading the singing, with Elder Jones or Reverend Giddings preaching. After the failure of the Congregational Church at Pillsbury Crossing, the Pillsburys attended the church at St. George. There were often upheavals within the Christian Church there and a minister would stay only a very short time. During one of these periods, a committee called on Josiah and asked him to fill the vacancy temporarily, which he did. Each Sunday morning he found a skiff tied on his side of the Kansas River for him and his party to cross.³³ Pillsbury was deeply interested in things of a religious nature, as can be seen in this excerpt from his diary:³⁴

³³ Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

³⁴ Annie Pillsbury Young's copy of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

I desire to devote a part of my time in the search for religious truth. However the belief in a certain creed is necessary to the future well-being and happiness of the soul. I most earnestly desire to know what that creed is, for the spirit of God is given to lead men into the truth; I most certainly and earnestly desire the aid of that spirit.

This feeling was not unique with him. Most of the members of the early Zeandale settlement were willing to drive many miles to attend services at the home of a neighbor. In many homes, the Bible was one of their only books.

Reverend A. L. McNair, a licensed preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church with a farm in Ashland Township, helped with the erection of the Methodist Church at Zeandale.³⁵ It was located on the northeast corner of the road where Mrs. A. E. Moore's home now stands. The church was dedicated March 27, 1887. It had been meant for a community church, but in a short time the Christian Church members began holding their own services in the old stone school. Sometime in the early 1900's Cal Taylor bought the church and made it into a home.

The Christian Church was built in 1896. It is the stone church that still stands today in Zeandale and serves as a community church. Mr. C. T. Schipps gave the land on which it was built, and others donated their labor or money. Most of the money was contributed by

³⁵ Two pewter communion plates used by the first permanent church in Zeandale, a gift of Mrs. Anna Docking are on display at the museum of the Riley County Historical Society, Manhattan, Kansas. There are also other items from the area in the possession of the Society.

the Worrels³⁶ and the McCormicks. The first minister was J. C. Irving. He was also a good stone-mason and helped build the church. It was not uncommon to have morning church services and then meetings in the afternoon or prayer services in the evening.

Early Schools

The Deep Creek School was one of the earliest schools built. It was erected in 1858 on the southeast corner of the William B. Marshall farm, and was a six-sided log building.³⁷ It had two or three windows and was heated by a wood burning stove. The teacher's desk was handmade and there was a small blackboard. The Upper Deep Creek School that stands today near Blasing Springs was built about 1870. It was called the "cracker box" because it had only one window. It was a white frame building and is now used as a private dwelling.

The Lower Deep Creek School was located west of the old William Marshall (now Docking) place. It was a stone building and is now used as a Community center.

The Tabor Valley Schoolhouse was erected in 1892 and still stands today.³⁸ Prior to that date, there had been a log cabin school there but it was blown away.

³⁶ William Worrel came to Zeandale Township from Kentucky in March 1870. He married Susan Moore December 1854 and they had five children: Richard, Alfred, Sallie, Alice and Charles.

³⁷ Interview with Mrs. Alma Docking, 508 Bluemont, Manhattan, Kansas. July 5, 1958.

Some accounts state that the school was located in the northeast corner of the farm, but it was pointed out to Mrs. Docking by her mother-in-law, Mrs. Anna Marshall Docking, who lived there as a child.

³⁸ The Manhattan Centennial Committee 1955 erected a memorial there in honour of Augusta Pierce Tabor and her husband who gave the valley its name.

There have been three schools in Zeandale, probably all of them located at approximately where the third one stands today (1958). The earliest school was a log schoolhouse. It was made of slabs with large cracks between the floor slabs. Mrs. Anna Marshall Docking said, "I used to gaze into the holes and wonder what rabbits and other animals may be down under in the dark."³⁹ Mrs. Ella Child Carroll was once a teacher there. A stone building took its place in 1867 or 1868.⁴⁰ It was a two story structure that served both as a school and a community center. Before the Christian Church was built, the upstairs room was used by them for church services. Classes were held on the bottom floor. The one acre of land was deeded to the Zeandale School District, Number Six, by John and Mary McCormick on February 24, 1865, for five dollars.⁴¹ It was a one teacher school most of the time, except for several years when it also operated a ninth and tenth grade. A brick building has taken its place within the last decade.

There have been two schools known as the Sunflower School. At about the same time that the stone school was built in Zeandale, the Sunflower District broke off to serve the families in that area. The old Sunflower School was built around 1871 and sits one half mile west of the present building, and on the opposite side of the road.

³⁹

Interview with Mrs. Anna Marshall Docking (now deceased), 1205 Pomeroy, Manhattan, Kansas, July 30, 1953, by Dr. Fred L. Parrish. There is some question in the mind of the author as to whether it was the Zeandale school that she was describing.

⁴⁰ Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Del Mar Aiken, Zeandale, Kansas. July 5, 1958.

Hiel D. Hull did the woodworking when they were building it. The Aiken's saw the school records before they were destroyed, and remember seeing that he worked at the school during those years.

⁴¹ Transcript Book 1860-1865, Wabaunsee County, p. 82, Riley County Courthouse, Manhattan, Kansas.

The building stands today, but is very run down. By the 1890's the new Sunflower School had been built as a one teacher school.⁴² From 1890 to 1898 it averaged about 17 students per year, counting the number with which they ended the school year. Their teachers included John Davis, Lillian A. St. John, E. D. Williams, Walter S. Herline, Grace Wells and C. W. Shull.⁴³

Two school districts were established March 1, 1860, for Zeandale Township in Wabaunsee County.⁴⁴ These districts were Number One and Number Two. John Allen was made director of the first district, and James Blain Director of the second district. On August 19, 1862, the school districts in the county were renumbered. District One became District Six, and District Two became District Seven. In the annual report for 1860 from District Two, there were listed ten males and six females between the ages of 5 and 21 years. Of

⁴²It is now the dwelling place of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Houston. They have an amateur moonwatch station there. The purpose of it is to watch satellites when they first are up and before their orbit is computed, and to watch as they come down. Their work is voluntary and is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institute Observatory at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

⁴³School Register for District 43, Riley County, Kansas. Mrs. Everett Everson, Zeandale, Kansas.

⁴⁴Public School Records of Wabaunsee County, Vol. 1, 1859-1887. p. 6. Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, Kansas.

School District Number One was established as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of the township then south to the quarter section line of Section 34, Town 19, Range 9, thence west to the west line of Section 35, Town 10, Range 8, thence north to the Kansas River thence east to the place of beginning.

School District Number Two was established as follows: Beginning at the quarter section line of Section 34, Town 10, Range 9, thence south to the corner of Section 15, Town 10, Range 9, thence west to the west line of the township thence north to the Section 35, Town 10, Range 8, and east to the place of beginning.

that number, eight males and two females attended school. The teacher was M. Sanford. She made \$16 per month for the three months session of school.⁴⁵ For several years, the school term was usually three months in length and the salary of the teachers varied from eight dollars a month to \$16 per month. Eventually the men teachers received about twice as much as the women received. On October 10, 1865, some Zeandale residents petitioned the Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. H. Gould, for the sale of part of the school lands in Sections 16 and 36. Each subdivision was appraised before being offered for sale. By 1866, the school terms were growing longer and lasted from five to six months during some years. On June 24, 1868, the settlers of District Six asked to break off to form a new district. This became District 26. When Zeandale Township came into Riley County in 1872, District 42 was the first one formed on July 31, 1872.

School was important to these settlers, but earning a living was even more important. School terms were short, because it was necessary for the students to be out in the fields helping their parents to plant and harvest the crops. The agricultural nature of the township influenced the schools to that extent.

⁴⁵
Ibid., p. 26.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE II

Fig. 1. Tabor Valley Schoolhouse (1958).

Fig. 2. Sunflower School (1958).

Fig. 3. Deep Creek Schoolhouse (1958).

Fig. 4. Upper Deep Creek Schoolhouse (1958).

Fig. 5. Zeandale Public School taken before it
was replaced by the present brick building.

PLATE II



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture

Zeandale Township was primarily an agricultural region from the very first. After the pioneers broke the sod, corn led all the other crops as the most important, with enough vegetables raised to provide food for their families. Corn was used for feeding livestock and poultry, meal for cornbread, grits and mush and for home-made hominy. Sorghum was raised as a sweetening agent. Oxen furnished most of the transportation and farm power that was not exerted by the pioneers themselves. Prairie chicken and wild turkey helped supplement their diet.¹ Dried buffalo meat was also eaten.

Between the years 1860 and 1880, some of the other crops raised were: oats, tobacco, flax, clover, blue grass, peanuts, sweet potatoes, beans and rye. At one time there was an attempt made to grow cotton.² In the early 1860's, chickory attracted attention and was recommended for anyone who had a garden. It was mixed with coffee in order to save up to one half the quantity of coffee that it was necessary to use.³ Fruits grew when taken care of, and many early settlers had their own orchards with apples, peaches, grapes and pears growing in abundance.⁴

¹ Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

² Farm and Household Column, The Manhattan Independent, September 7, 1863.

³ Ibid., September 14, 1863

⁴ Deep Creek News Item, The Manhattan Republic, August 20, 1891.

Building material was easily obtained. Fine lumber could be imported, black walnut, oak and cottonwood were manufactured in Manhattan. Brick was also manufactured and white magnesia limestone could be purchased. There was plenty of sand for mortar.⁵

At one time, a strip of land one half mile wide from Pearsons' farm to Zeandale along the south side of present Highway 18 was swamp and covered with blue grass. When it was drained it became the most valuable farming land in the township.⁶ In the years when the prairie grass was still high, the rattlesnakes were so thick that the men working to cut hay had to wrap their legs up to the knees with ropes to keep them away.

Prairie fires were an ever constant danger, especially in hot, dry weather. This excerpt from a news item describes one:⁷

A prairie fire came sweeping down from among the hills east of Deep Creek Saturday evening. Seen from the west side of Deep Creek it looked fearful in the extreme. The wind blowing a perfect hurricane, a party started across the Creek in order to find someone who needed help, but owing to the fierceness of the wind it blew out where the grass was short.

Often people were not so fortunate. When the fires began they lost their farm buildings and sometimes even their lives. William Anderson and his brother Dan, burned to death in a prairie fire on their way from Manhattan to Zeandale about 1870.⁸

⁵"Manhattan and Surrounding Country," Kansas Radical, February 9, 1867.

⁶Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Del Mar Aiken, Zeandale, Kansas. July 21, 1957.

⁷News Item, The Manhattan Enterprise, January 16, 1880.

⁸Interview with Mrs. James Fisher, Riley County Hospital, Manhattan, Kansas. July 3, 1958.

William Anderson was her father. Mrs. Anderson later married Henry Daniels.

In 1859 and 1860, Kansas suffered a drought which was to precede a famine. From June 1859 to November 1860, there was not enough rain to penetrate the earth more than two inches. During the winter there were two light snows, but neither one was heavy enough to cover the ground and provide enough moisture. The ground became so dry that it broke apart in large cracks, the wells and springs went dry, and the crops failed.⁹ The following describes the plight of the settlers during that period:¹⁰

The summer of 1860 was one long to be remembered. The corn crop of the year before was so heavy that there was no market for it. Some used it for fuel and others left it in the field to be burned in the spring. One pioneer, with wise regard for possible future failures, carefully cribbed his surplus. One fine summer day in 1860, as the farmer gave the final cultivation to his dark green corn he noticed that already the graceful blades swept the oxyoke. He rejoiced in the promised abundance which would insure growth and increase of his sleek cattle and fat hogs. These would furnish means for necessities and comforts yet unattained and for educating the children. Perhaps he could, while land was cheap, buy more land. The sun was very hot. A breeze which, in the morning, had been cool and refreshing, was becoming a fierce hot wind. The corn blades rolled, withered and drooped. The relentless blasts ceased not till their cruel work was done, and only dried parched leaves remained where once had been life and beauty. When autumn came there was a great demand for corn and but little to meet the demand. Cattle were a drug on the market and were offered for corn. They were accepted at liberal prices. Many were thus saved from suffering, till help came for those in real need through the Emigrant Aid Society.

The number of bushels of corn and wheat grown in 1859 and 1860 showed the effect of the drought on crops. On November 27, 1860, Zeandale

⁹ Anna E. Arnold, A History of Kansas, p.99 .

¹⁰ Emma Haines Bowen, "Pioneer Life and School Days," Log Cabin Days, p. 28.

11

Township certified that the following situation existed:

Families -- 34; Persons -- 140; Acres paid for -- 5702½.
 Acres to corn 1859 -- 428; raised 12565 bushels, 30 per acre.
 Acres to corn 1860 -- 563; raised 585 bushels, 1 per acre.
 Acres to wheat 1859 -- 45½; raised 543 bushels, 12 per acre.
 Acres to wheat 1860 -- 119; raised 241 bushels, 2 per acre.
 Potatoes 1859 -- 1008 bushels; in 1860 -- 91 bushels.
 Garden Produce in 1859 -- \$239; same in 1860 -- \$18.
 Horses -- 39; cattle -- 363; hogs -- 200; do driven off 83.
 Money in 18 families -- none at all.
 16 families with no groceries.
 15 families with no winter clothing.
 Corn or meal in 13 families, 1140; in 23 others, none.
 Flour in 12 families, 3085 lbs.; in 22 others, none.
 The need for seed: 125 bushels wheat, 26 bushels corn,
 44 bushels potatoes.

This makes evident the need confronting many families. On December 1, 1860, Charles Burrill Lines at Wabaunsee wrote a letter to General Samuel C. Pomeroy describing the situation in the township;¹³

In our township and in Zeandale next west of us, there has been literally nothing raised, in a very few instances small quantities of corn badly eaten by worms mite be harvested but the average in the two townships would not be one bushel to the acre about the same is true of wheat and every other crop except sorghum of which there mite be a moderate crop and if the frost holds off for two weeks their mite be some potatoes for seed. A large amount of land was planted -- larger than even before and as a general rule corn fodder will be harvest except sorghum and there will not be enough of the latter for home consumption. No hay except on the river bottoms and most of that coarse and poor. No garden vegetables, no fruits -- plums and grapes cut off by late frosts in the spring. Our streams and springs are mostly dry and also a number of the wells owing to the state of things. The people in this vicinity have recently sold about 700 hogs to dealers

¹¹ Zeandale Township Certificate, Manuscript and Archives Division, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

¹² The meaning of this is not clear.

¹³ Manuscripts and Archives Division. Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

from St. Joe at from 2 to 2½ cts. fen fowid (not clear). There is not 500 bushels of corn in our township and money is a curiosity full one sixth of the population have left the country or will soon leave. I speak particularly of Wabaunsee and Zeandale Township, Alma the German settlement next south of us are not better off as to crops. In Wabaunsee -- Zeandale and Alma I think the people can be kept from suffering by the citizens, but their will be a number of families who will need help.

This drought and famine was of political significance to the territory. The relief work was sponsored mainly by the Kansas Territorial Relief Committee and the New England Kansas Relief Committee. The former was under the direction of Thaddeus Hyatt of New York and his assistant Samuel C. Pomeroy of Atchison who had been an agent of the New England Emigrant Aid Society. Headquarters for district relief goods were at Atchison. The New England Kansas Relief Committee was directed by Thomas H. Webb, secretary of the New England Emigrant Aid Company. His distributing agent was George W. Collamore with headquarters at Lawrence. This statement shows that politics and relief worked together :¹⁴

In the counties where the relief provisions would fall on fruitful soil the distributions were liberal, regardless of need; whereas in counties where the results were apt to be negative irrespective of aid, the distribution was very meagre.

The 1870's were prosperous, except for 1874 which is known as the "grasshopper year." The hoppers came suddenly and covered the

¹⁴

Gustave Raymond Gaeddert, The Birth of Kansas, p. 24.

area from the Dakotas to northern Texas. The invasion began in Kansas in late July and August which left them only the corn, since the wheat had already been harvested.¹⁵ The grasshoppers left little unnoticed. Some settlers said they ate even the tips off the pitchforks. The farmers tried many methods of ridding themselves of the pests, but nothing seemed to work well. Robert Worrell of Zeandale dug a big hole near the hedge on his farm to trap the grasshoppers. Then he poured coal oil on top of them and set fire to it.¹⁶ One of the most vivid stories is told about the coming of the hoppers to the farm of Francis Abbott.¹⁷ When Horace Tabor left for Colorado, he made Francis Abbott his agent with instructions to rent out his farm and pay the taxes on it. In 1874, Mr. Abbott and his sons decided to rent and care for the farm themselves in order to make a little extra money. They had gone over to the Tabor farm early that morning. It was about eleven o'clock when Mrs. Abbott went out to water the pigs. As she came through the gate and back into the yard, the black cloud that had been hovering overhead suddenly began to "rain" grasshoppers. They fell like hail. The men soon returned from the Tabor farm with the team. When they had left, the field of green corn had been high and in its prime; but when they came back there was nothing left but the skeleton. They decided the only

¹⁵ James C. Carey, "People, Problems, Prohibition, Politics and Politics 1870-1890," in Kansas The First Century, Vol.1. ed. by John D. Bright, p. 377.

¹⁶ Interview with Mrs. William Morgan, Zeandale, Kansas. July 25, 1958.

Mrs. Morgan was the daughter of Robert Worrell.

¹⁷ Interview with Mrs. Caddie Abbott Smith, 508 Bluemont, Manhattan, Kansas. June 17, 1958.

thing to do was to cut the corn and put it into shocks. The younger children helped carry the corn to form shocks and took water to the men. The grasshoppers didn't seem to bother the shocks. The Francis Abbott home was one and one half stories high, and the outline of the house made an area of shade on the ground. During the morning the grasshoppers ate their fill, but in the afternoon they would crowd into the shade of the house, very thick. The children were frightened of them. They had a peach orchard, but there was nothing left there except the bare branches, and the pits and twigs. In the fall after the grasshoppers left, they saw wagons coming through from areas where the settlers were going back east. The mother usually sat on the front seat holding her baby, her husband drove, and the other children, numerous and ragged and dirty crowded in the back. Sometimes they had a sign on their wagon: "Going Back to the Wife's Folks."

The grasshoppers caused not only physical ruin, but also a hysteria that was perhaps more serious. There was more destruction in the western part of Kansas where the settlers had just arrived, and they were not able to cope with such a disaster. Governor Osborn called a special session of the legislature on August 28, 1874, to deal with the problem. It only passed an act authorizing the counties to issue bonds for local relief and to delay the bond levy for ten years. There were \$7500 of state bonds issued, and more than 15,000 people needed aid.¹⁸ When Osborn saw that the state was not

¹⁸James C. Carey, op. cit., p. 379.

going to be able to solve its own problems, he called on the nation to help. On November 12, 1874, the State Central Relief Committee was organized with its headquarters in Topeka. Contributions were asked from the old eastern counties, and it was suggested that help from the outside state be channeled through their committee to prevent graft.¹⁹ The federal government also helped, and free transportation was given the contributions by the railroad and express lines. There was some threat of grasshoppers again the following year, but they left the state while relief was arriving. That year was a prosperous one for Kansans.

The years following the grasshopper year were productive. During this period, Kansas sheep became well known because of their excellent quality of mutton and heavy fleeces.²⁰ Sheep feeding had been profitable from the start among those people who were skilled at it. However, opportunities were lost and unskilled growers suffered financially because they tended to let the sheep take care of themselves. The sheep were shipped in from Texas by the train-load. Sometimes from 3,000 to 6,000 were brought into Zeandale at one time. They were kept in sheep lots, but after the corn had been picked they turned them out into the corn fields. Coyotes were a real problem for the sheep feeders as they either killed the sheep or stampeded them. About 1898, 700 were killed at one time when sheep belonging to Valdi Aiken got into a field of kaffir corn. The snow was deep and they floundered. The dead sheep were shipped to

¹⁹

Ibid., p. 381.

²⁰

Fred L. Parrish, "Kansas Agriculture Before 1900," in Kansas The First Century, Vol. 1. ed. by John D. Bright. p. 417.

Kansas City on the railroad and they were paid \$1.50 a head for them. Among those who were sheep feeders were: Valdi Aiken, Cavit McCormick, Bion McCormick, Zollie McCormick and Alvie McCormick. When the time came for the shearing and dipping of the sheep everyone helped each other. Sheepfeeding lost favor long before World War I.²¹

There was an increase in the number of horses and cows, little change in the number of mules, a drop in swine due to a cholera epidemic and some decline in the livestock mortality rate.²² The years 1881 and 1882 were poor ones for corn, but after that the crop was good. Wheat acreage increased despite the inroads of its two enemies, the Hessian fly and winterkill. Cane sorghum was still an important crop.

Farmers lacked much in the way of machinery to make farm work easier. After the first year, they prepared ground for the planting of corn with plows and harrows and later with the lister-drill. The disk cultivator for the tillage of corn only came into use near the end of the 1800's, prior to that the shovel cultivator was used. Horses and some mules provided the power for the farm machinery. The gang plow was often used for planting wheat in the 1870's, a drill was used for sowing, a reaper cut the grain at harvest time and it was tied by hand into bundles. Binders were first used in the 1870's. Reapers, binders and threshers had to depend on the horse for power, until they were replaced by steam power in the 1880's.²³

²¹ Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Del Mar Aiken, Zeandale, Kansas. July 5, 1958.

²² Fred L. Parrish, *op.cit.*, p. 418.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 420.

At harvest time the entire family was often put to work in the field, or helped in some way. Sometimes extra workers were needed, in fact most of the labor hired in those years was employed by stockmen, farmers and their families. The farmhands who worked every day were paid a wage of about \$20 per month plus room and board.²⁴

The farmers of 1885 and 1886 found that the heavy snow and cold weather of that winter brought them additional problems. Many homes on the plains were not sturdy enough to withstand the wind and snow and cold for a prolonged period, and offer any comfort for those within, especially when fuel was hard to get. Obtaining food was difficult as the rabbits, prairie chicken, quail and antelope were dying from the cold.²⁵

It was only natural that a region such as this would be interested in the organization of an agricultural society. In April 1870, all of the townships in Wabaunsee County were present for the formation of the Wabaunsee County Agricultural Society. Provisions were made for the preparing of the grounds and stockyards for a county fair. Leonard Hobart Pillsbury of Zeandale was elected to the executive committee. Their first annual fair was held in Alma on October 13, 14, 1870. Everyone in the township was urged to bring horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, grain, vegetables, butter, cheese, preserves, pickles, canned fruit and anything else they might

²⁴Ibid., p. 421.

²⁵James C. Carey, op. cit., p.384.

wish to exhibit.

Some of the earlier residents of Zeandale may still remember the flood of 1903 that forced many of them from their farms on the bottom land to higher ground. Mrs. Robert Earl was one of those who had to be removed from her home. She died a short time afterwards. The Indians had warned the pioneers about the bottom land because they knew about the damage done by the bad flood of 1844, but their warnings were forgotten as the white man came pouring into the area. The May 1903 flood caused no loss of life but it took a serious toll of property including homes, land, stock, crops, orchards, implements and household items. Along the Kansas, the river was from two to ten miles wide and the bridges were gone or damaged. The bridge over the river to St. George went down in this flood. It was replaced but went out again in the 1951 flood and was never replaced. New channels were formed after both floods that gave some farmers a lake and left others on an island.²⁷

Transportation and Communication

The pioneers were interested in the building of roads that would make travel easier and attract people to their area. Josiah Pillsbury, being a surveyor, played a prominent part in this task. During 1860, petitions were presented to the Board of Commissioners

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News Item, The Wabaunsee County Herald, October 6, 1870.

²⁷

Elizabeth N. Barr, Business Directory and History of Wabaunsee County, pp. 20-21.

of Wabaunsee County asking them to view roads.²⁸ Usually three men were appointed by the board to report if the road was laid out as specified by the surveyor and township officers. If the road was approved, it was declared to be "open" and the expenses were ordered paid by the township. One of the roads to be opened that year went along this route:²⁹

Beginning at the west line of Wabaunsee town site and runs in a north westerly direction nearly to the present crossing of Deep Creek thence following the north bank of Deep Creek as near as practicable until it strikes the section line two miles north of the Township line and follows said line to the County boundary.

Travel was unpredictable in the latter part of the 1800's. Before the ferry was established at St. George it was difficult to get there to do the trading that was necessary. The journey to Manhattan was just as long and inconvenient. Josiah Pillsbury states in his diary:³⁰

March 15, 1860. Old Mr. Tabor went to Manhattan with my pony yesterday and did not return until almost night today. The ferry boats were sunk by the wind so that he could not cross the river.

Pioneers going to Manhattan from the area of present day Zeandale followed a road that went approximately the same place as Highway 18 today until it ended near the Old Sunflower School. Then they had to turn north and follow a trail along the river, until they reached

²⁸ Record of Board of Commissioners, Wabaunsee County, Kansas, Vol. A. April 1, 1859-February 9, 1872. pp. 19-20.

²⁹ Ibid., pp. 33-34.

³⁰ Annie Pillsbury Young's copy of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

a place where they could cross over to Manhattan.³¹

The settlers of the Zeandale area were very much in favor of the Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame Railroad running through Zeandale. The track was laid just north of where the Rock Island Railroad track now lies. It was a branch of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe built under the supervision of John K. Wright. The first engine to run was named for E. B. Purcell, a Manhattan businessman who was a director of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company.³² The railroad extended from Manhattan southeast through Wabaunsee and Osage Counties, making junction with the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe at Burlingame. The length of the road was 56.62 miles and it was owned jointly by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Company and the Union Pacific which connected with its northern limit at Manhattan.³³ The railroad was opened for operation August 1, and the first mail was carried on it September 1, 1880.³⁴ The railroad was called a "bobby," it ran up and down the track once a day. It took about 30 minutes to get to Manhattan, and the fare was approximately 25 cents.³⁵ Zeandale was a flag stop for the Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame, and Anna Marshall Docking told

³¹ Interview with Mrs. Phoebe Teel, 326 Pierre, Manhattan, Kansas. June 25, 1958.

³² Centennial Edition, Manhattan Mercury, April 27, 1955. p. 4.

³³ A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas, p. 214.

³⁴ Matt Thomson, Early History of Wabaunsee County, Kansas, p. 335.

³⁵ Interview with Mrs. Phoebe Teel, 326 Pierre, Manhattan, Kansas. June 25, 1958.

this about it:³⁶

The Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame Railroad was operating when I was a girl. The railroad went by my father's farm. He stopped the train at my father's farm and left me off an on. The engineer was accomodating to others too, especially to hunting parties, letting them off in areas where hunting was supposed to be good.

The line was discontinued about 1893 and the track was torn up August 9th to 15th, 1898.³⁷ The Rock Island line was built about 1885. Originally it had a passenger and freight line, but today it runs only a freight line.

The Post Office Department, December 31, 1857, issued the order that proposals would be received until March 31, 1858, for carrying the United States Mails for four years beginning July 1, 1858, and ending June 30, 1862, in Kansas Territory.³⁸ Route Number 15022 was to go from Topeka by way of Wabaunsee, Zeandale and Ashland to Fort Riley. The round trip journey was to be made once a week. Josiah Pillsbury drew up a bid for carrying the mail on that route.³⁹ After Pillsbury went to Manhattan, the Post Office was moved to the Akin farm. Later it was located in the C. T. Schipps store and then moved to the lumber yard. Gal Taylor had a mail route through 32 miles of Zeandale Township in the early 1900's. He carried the mail first in

³⁶ Interview with Mrs. Anna Marshall Docking, 1205 Pomeroy, Manhattan, Kansas, July 30, 1953, by Dr. Fred L. Parrish.

³⁷ Matt Thomson, *op. cit.*, p. 347.

³⁸ News Item, Herald of Freedom, February 6, 1858.

³⁹ Annie Pillsbury Young's copy of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah F. Pillsbury. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

a top buggy with a team, and then changed to a horse and cart. In extreme weather he went on horseback. He got the mail at the C. T. Schipps store in Zeandale and made a six mile route north and east of Zeandale. He came back into town before going on the 26 mile route that took him south into Tabor Valley and even into Wabaunsee County.⁴⁰ Other Postmasters prior to 1907 were: George Brooking, 1884; John H. Kent, 1886; Charles F. Shipps, 1887; and Hugh R. Kirk.⁴¹

The telephone line at Zeandale and Tabor Valley was built in 1904. The Zeandale Home Telephone Company later sold out to the Manhattan Telephone Company.⁴²

Civil War Era

One of the first organized methods of protection was that of the Connecticut Kansas Colony at Wabaunsee. On May 17, 1856, a call was sent out for volunteers who were interested in forming a military company. The president of the colony was C. B. Lines. The group chose the name Prairie Guards after discussing several others. It had about 40 members and the Captain was William Mitchell. In the balloting for officers that followed, Josiah Pillsbury was chosen third Sargeant. The purpose of the group was to form an independent

⁴⁰ Interview with Mrs. Alma Docking, 508 Bluemont, Manhattan, Kansas. July 5, 1958.
Her father was Cal Taylor.

⁴¹ Letter to the author. June 30, 1958. General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Washington D.C.

⁴² Interview with Mrs. A. E. Moore, Zeandale, Kansas. June 17, 1958.

volunteer military company for the "protection of ourselves and the community at large and also to cultivate the military art."⁴³ The Prairie Guards were enrolled as Company H of the Free Kansas Militia; and received their commissions from G. W. Topliff, adjutant general.⁴⁴ This rifle company was engaged in the early struggles around Lawrence and Franklin. Almost every member of the Wabaunsee settlement went to the seat of the war and they were joined by several settlers from upper Deep Creek. They were gone about six months.

Two Zeandale settlers were line officers with Company K of the 11th Kansas Cavalry and others served with it.⁴⁵ Under the call of Lincoln, July 2, 1862, a quota was assigned Kansas for three regiments of Infantry. J. H. Lane was authorized to recruit these troops and he gave Thomas Ewing, Jr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas, the authority to raise one regiment and officer it. The 11th Kansas Infantry, later Cavalry, was the end result of this.⁴⁶ The line officers were chosen by the companies, and the field officers, by the line officers. During late 1862 and 1863 they saw action in Arkansas and Missouri. Through the summer of 1864 they were

⁴³ Minutes of the Prairie Guards, May 16, 1856-May 7, 1857. Archives and Manuscripts Division, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

⁴⁴ Alberta Pantle, "The Connecticut Kansas Colony," Kansas Historical Collections. Vol. 39. pp. 42-44.

⁴⁵ John M. Allen was captain and Jacob Van Antwerp, first lieutenant. John and Armstead McCormick also served with Company K. T. S. St. John served as a major with Company A and C. P. McDonald as captain with Company K, 11th Regiment, Kansas State Militia.

⁴⁶ A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p. 195.

stationed in Kansas and in October 1864, the 11th took part in the campaign against Price. The 11th Kansas was composed mostly of working men from the farm or shops who left their dependent families behind.⁴⁷

On October 1, 1863, Thomas Carney, governor of Kansas, issued an order for all able-bodied men to organize into militia companies. Zeandale had a company of its own with Perry McDonald as captain.⁴⁸ In July 1864, a call came to get every available man who had a horse to proceed to Fort Riley immediately. A wagon train had been attacked by the Indians near the bend of the Arkansas River. After killing some of the drivers and stealing goods, cattle and horses, they had escaped into the hills northeast of Fort Larned. At Junction City the group from Wabaunsee was joined by groups from Pottawatomie and Riley Counties and the Zeandale Company. They were all put under the command of Captain Henry Booth of Company L., 11th Kansas Cavalry. The command left Fort Riley and camped the first night on the Solomon River. The next day at noon they camped where Salina was just started, and the third day at Fort Ellsworth on the Smoky Hill River. The following day they made a forced march to the place where the Indians had attacked, and then on to Fort Larned where they camped for about a week. From there they moved northwest into what is now Trego County and to Big Creek which they followed to what is now Fort Hays. At

⁴⁷Ibid., pp. 196-198.

⁴⁸George S. Burt, "The Wabaunsee Militia Company," Kansas Historical Collections, Vol. 9, p. 605.

Fort Hays the volunteer companies were sent home.⁴⁹

When "Pop" Price invaded Missouri from Arkansas, under law the militia men of Kansas couldn't be ordered to cross the border of another state without their consent. When the Manhattan Company was ordered to fall in line so a vote could be taken whether to go to the aid of the Missourians or not, those willing to do so were asked to step forward two paces. The story is told that Josiah Pillsbury, then living in Manhattan, was one of two men who did step forward.⁵⁰ Pillsbury, like many others in this area, was an owner of a Sharps Rifle which he had already used against the Border Ruffians when help was needed.⁵¹

Unfortunately, the Civil War came just as settlers were recovering from the drought and famine of 1860. It took most of the able-bodied men from the township and left the women and younger children at home to run the farms.

Township and County Organization

Zeandale was originally part of Davis County, which in 1856 lay south of the Kansas-Smoky Hill River, extending east to the guide meridian and west indefinitely. It had been named in honor of Colonel Joe Daviess, of Kentucky, a noted orator, statesman and

⁴⁹George S. Burt, *op. cit.*, p.606.

⁵⁰Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

⁵¹Arms had been given to many free state settlers on their way to Kansas in 1855 and 1856 by societies in the east who were interested in keeping this state free from slavery. A large portion of these were Sharps rifles, manufactured by the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company at Hartford, Connecticut.

soldier who fell in the final charge at Tippecanoe. In some way it became changed to Davis, and signified to free state settlers that hated Confederate, Jefferson Davis. The town of Ashland was the county seat.⁵² The eastern part of present Zeandale Township lay in Richardson County.

Richardson County was named by the legislature of 1855 in honor of William A. Richardson, congressman from Illinois, who introduced the first Kansas-Nebraska Bill in the House of Representatives. In 1859, the name was changed to Wabaunsee County, in honor of an Indian chief. The word in English means, "dawn of day."⁵³ In 1860, a strip of land six miles wide was added to the west side of the county.

Zeandale Township remained in Wabaunsee County until 1871, when it became part of Riley County to compensate for the loss of the territory in the southwest part of Riley County that had become a portion of Davis County.⁵⁴ The act annexing Zeandale Township became law, March 16, 1871. This did not meet the approval of the residents of Wabaunsee County as may be shown in the following article:⁵⁵

⁵²W. Marlatt, "Kansas Reminiscences," The Beacon, June 20, 1872.

⁵³Matt Thomson, op. cit., p.318.

⁵⁴A. T. Andreas, op. cit., p.1301.

⁵⁵News Item, Wabaunsee County Herald, March 9, 1871.

The bill detaching Zeandale Township also passed the senate and was signed by the governor. We understand that it also takes 6 miles square out of Alma township, coming up to within $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Alma, and running nearly 4 miles south. Not one man in this territory desired to be detached. They have been taken out of the county against their will, to gratify the ambition or the malice of one individual. Of all the infamous acts in Kansas legislation this caps the climax.

In 1872, J. M. Johnson introduced a bill into the legislature to recover the lost land, but it failed to become law. The following year, Representative Sellers did succeed in recovering six miles of the territory for Wabaunsee County, but Zeandale Township remained in Riley County.⁵⁶ Sections 5, 10, 15 and 22, of Town 11, Range 8 were added to the township on April 11, 1873.

As a part of Wabaunsee County, the first recorded meeting to mention Zeandale Township was that of April 2, 1860, at Wabaunsee; when the bonds of A. P. St. John as Trustee and Josiah H. Pillsbury as Justice of the Peace for the township were presented to the County Commissioners and accepted.⁵⁷ A little later, J. H. Pinkerton and Jonathan Burleigh were made Constables.

Zeandale took an active part in the choice of a county seat for Wabaunsee County. When the county was first organized, Wabaunsee had been designated as the county seat because it seemed to be the center of population. At that time Alma had no place on the map, but later the settlers in the southeast part of the county didn't like the

⁵⁶ Matt Thomson, op. cit., p. 316.

⁵⁷ Record of Board of Commissioners, Wabaunsee County, Kansas, Vol. A. April 1, 1859-February 9, 1872. pp. 15-16.

distance between them and the county seat and wanted the site changed. Alma was one of the chief contenders for the honor. In the February 20, 1866, election Zeandale even received one vote for the county seat. Other choices were: Alma, 110; Wabaunsee, 87; Peter Thoes' Place, 27; Dragoon, 1; Maple Hill, 1; Wilmington, 1; Total vote, 222. Although Alma had a plurality of the votes cast, no place had the necessary majority of 112 votes. Another election was scheduled for March 6, 1866.⁵⁸ This election was challenged for its legality and another election was set for November 22. At that time Alma again received the highest number as well as a majority of the votes cast, and the county seat and records were moved to that place. In 1871, the question was brought up again when two new places, Eskridge and Newbury, became rivals for the county seat. After two elections, the majority of votes went to one place, Alma; and the county seat remained there. Throughout the contest, Zeandale voters stood behind Alma as their choice for the county seat.⁵⁹

Article IX., Section 4, of the Kansas Constitution provided that all township officers should hold their office for one year with the exception of the Justice of the Peace. Their term began the Monday following their election. The township officers of Zeandale read like a roll of the settlement with many able men serving

⁵⁸
Matt Thomson, op. cit., p. 11.

⁵⁹
Ibid., p. 75.

in different positions.⁶⁰

The population of Zeandale Township showed a steady growth between the years 1860 and 1890, although it never attained a very large number of people. The 1860 Territorial Census gives Zeandale Township a recorded population of 154 persons.⁶¹ This was the first year that the census count broke the county down into townships. By 1870, this number had grown to 375, although Zeandale was still the lowest in population of all the townships in Wabaunsee County.⁶² In 1880, the count of the federal census was 569 but by 1889 it had dropped to 522.⁶³

Participation in State Politics

The citizens of Zeandale Township took an interest in the events that led up to the entrance of Kansas into the Union as a state, and several of its members took part in the legislature and conventions. Kansas framed four constitutions before the state was finally admitted. Those four constitutions were the Topeka, Lecompton, Leavenworth and Wyandotte. The Topeka Constitution was adopted by the

⁶⁰Record of Board of Commissioners, Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Vol. A, April 1, 1862, p. 75.

The Zeandale Township officers elected for 1862 were: A. P. St. John, Trustee; William Marshall and Joseph Haines, Justices of the Peace; J. H. Akin and J. H. Pinkerton, Constables; A. Allen, Road Overseer, District One; R. Moses, Road Overseer, District Two; L. P. Hurlburt, Road Overseer District Three; and J. M. Burleigh, Road Overseer, District Four.

⁶¹U. S. Census 1860, Zeandale, Wabaunsee Territory, Kansas, Vol. 5.

⁶²News Item, The Wabaunsee Herald, August 18, 1870.

⁶³News Item, The Manhattan Republic, July 4, 1889.

Convention, November 11, 1855, and by the people in an election on December 15, 1855. It represented the efforts of the free staters to find some pillar of unity for this state. If Kansas could have been admitted under the Topeka Constitution, it would have saved the state five years of struggle.⁶⁴ Josiah Pillsbury was chosen from the eighth district as one of their delegates to the Topeka Constitutional Convention, meeting in Topeka, October 23, 1855.

Josiah Pillsbury was also a member of the Topeka Legislature in which he was a Senator. When he was elected to this, he had so few clothes that he had to borrow some from Dan Adams in order that he might attend. In exchange Mr. Adams asked to borrow Pillsbury's pony to ride to the meeting. This made it necessary for Pillsbury to walk all the way to Topeka.⁶⁵ Horace Tabor was another Zeandale representative to the legislature. It met until it was ordered dispersed July 4, 1856. When Colonel Sumner marched into the Senate, and speaking for the President of the United States ordered that the group disperse, Josiah Pillsbury gave the answer that was later made the official reply of the group: "Colonel Sumner, we are in no condition to resist the United States Troops; and if you order us to disperse, of course we must disperse."⁶⁶

⁶⁴Hon. T. Dwight Thacher, "Notes from the Report Opening the 7th Annual Meeting of the Society," Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society, Vol. 3, p.5.

⁶⁵Unpublished papers of Annie Pillsbury Young, Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

⁶⁶William Addison Phillips, Conquest of Kansas. p. 406.

The Lecompton Constitution was adopted by the Convention November 7, 1857, and submitted to the vote of the people, December 21, 1857. The election did not give Kansans any opportunity to vote against it, so many free state people did not take part in it. However, supporters of the constitution went ahead and sent it to Washington; and Buchanan urged the state be admitted under it. Despite this, the bill failed. Congress then passed the English Bill which gave the people of Kansas a chance to vote for or against the Lecompton Constitution on August 2, 1858. It was soundly defeated. Zeandale Township was still a part of Davis County at this time. The township opposed the Lecompton Constitution and voted against it 54 to 6.⁶⁷

While the Lecompton Constitution was still being discussed in Congress, free staters sent delegates to a third constitutional convention at Mineola to draw up another constitution. This was to be a rallying point, if the Lecompton Constitution should pass Congress. Josiah Pillsbury was a delegate to this convention. It took him from March 18 to March 23 to make the trip to Mineola, staying with friends each night. He got there only to find that after a day of organization and debate, the convention adjourned to Leavenworth.⁶⁸ Although a constitution was drawn up, the passage of the English Bill and the vote before the people rendered it useless.

⁶⁷ Daniel W. Wilder, The Annals of Kansas, p. 187.

⁶⁸ Annie Pillsbury Young's copy of the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury. Kansas State College, Department of History, Government and Philosophy.

Kansas finally entered the Union under the Wyandotte Constitution. The Topeka, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Constitutions were all similar in that they contained the same sections forbidding slavery. When the first free state legislature was formed, Dan Adams, first Postmaster at Pillsbury's Crossing was made the engrossing clerk.

Zeandale Township was predominantly Republican in political interests from the very beginning. During the years of agrarian discontent, the usual organizations of the Grange, Greenback Party and Alliances were formed. Zeandale had a Greenback Party started in the area, but it never became very popular. In 1877, the newspapers carried the announcement that the Grange was meeting on alternate weeks with the Temperance Society.⁶⁹ Both Zeandale and Deep Creek formed Farmer's Alliance groups to deal with the problems of freight, finances, mortgages and prices. The Zeandale Alliance in 1890 had a membership of 66, and 13 others had made application to become members.⁷⁰ Anyone who was over 16 years of age and a farmer, farm laborer, mechanic, country doctor, country minister, rural school teacher or connected with the farm in any other way was eligible to join. Francis Abbott was elected president of the Deep Creek Alliance in 1890.⁷¹ Sometimes the Alliance meetings featured

⁶⁹News Item, Manhattan Enterprise, September 12, 1877.

⁷⁰News Item, The Signal, April 18, 1890.

⁷¹Ibid., May 9, 1890.

debates on topics of current interest such as: "Resolved that free coinage is for the best interest of our country."⁷² The year of 1891 brought a falling off of interest in the Alliance in the Zeandale area although many people still attended the lectures and speeches.⁷³ Zeandale residents leaned with the state of Kansas towards the Populist Party in the 1890's. However, they never quite lost their Republican loyalty. Although the Populist Party was an outgrowth of the Alliance and the Grange, it was to be only a temporary deviation until the settlers were once more back within the folds of Republicanism. Zeandale settlers were more concerned with the everyday problems of making a living than with state and national political upheavals.

⁷² Ibid., February 20, 1891.

⁷³ News Item, The Manhattan Republic, September 3, 1891.

IN RETROSPECT

More than a century has passed since Josiah Pillsbury located the first community of Zeandale on the banks of Deep Creek at Pillsbury Crossing. Only a few children of the original pioneers are alive today, and their memories are the best link with those years of struggle and hardship.

The Zeandale Township of 1958 still remains a multiple agricultural region with no important industry. There is no civic center at Pillsbury crossing, instead the unincorporated town is located on the bottom land east of Manhattan on Highway 18.

The Pillsburys, the McCormicks and the Marshalls, as well as other old settlers, would find it difficult to recognize their Zeandale among the many changes that have been made. The residents are no longer startled by Indians at the door, in fact many have never seen one. The log schoolhouses have been torn down, and even the stone ones that took their place stand vacant now. Distances have grown shorter with improved methods of transportation and communication. The pontoon bridge over the river to Manhattan has been replaced by a bridge of concrete, and it takes only a matter of minutes to come to town.

Many of the stories of the early pioneers were lost when families saw their pictures, letters and records destroyed by fire or in the floods of 1903 and 1951. School records were not often preserved when the school closed or when it was replaced by a new

For Rivall

one. Zeandale still retains her pioneer spirit though, as evidenced in the interest of her people in their heritage. They are proud of the accomplishments of those first settlers and are enthusiastic about preserving the memory of them.

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APPENDIX

Table 1. Zeandale Township Census List 1860.¹

Dwelling	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation of: all over 15 years of age	Place of Birth
1	G. Taylor	46	m	farmer	New Hampshire
	A. Taylor	41	f		Islands ²
	C. A. Taylor	21	m	farmer	Islands
	E. Taylor	17	m	farmer	Islands
	M. A. Taylor	14	f		Islands
	I. Taylor	9	f		Islands
	J. Taylor	15	m		Islands
	A. Taylor	1	m		Kansas Territory
	T. Kunau ³	30	m	farmer	(not clear)
2	H. Kunau	20	f		(not clear)
	L. Kunau	2	m		Missouri
	J. M. McCormick	33	m	farmer	Virginia
3	M. McCormick	26	f		Kentucky
	L. McCormick	3	m		Kansas Territory
	H. W. McCormick	2	m		Kansas Territory
	G. McCormick	3/12	m		Kansas Territory
	H. W. McCormick	37	m	farmer	Virginia
	M. Scranton	22	m	teamster	Connecticut
4	B. F. Palmer	30	m	farmer	Ohio
	H. Palmer	25	f		Germany
	H. J. Palmer	3	m		Kansas Territory
	H. W. Palmer	1/12	f		Kansas Territory
	W. _____ ⁴	55	f		Germany
6	E. R. McCurdy	41	m	farmer	Tennessee
	K. McCurdy	28	f		Iowa
	H. W. McCurdy	16	f		Iowa
	R. G. McCurdy	10	m		Missouri
	R. L. McCurdy	7	m		Missouri
E. E. McCurdy	4	m		Kansas Territory	

¹U. S. Census 1860 Zeandale, Wabaunsee Territory of Kansas, Vol. 5, pp. 236-239.

²The name of the Islands is not clear. The author believes that this is the family spoken of as the William Taylor family, even though the first initials of the head of the household differs.

³The name is not clear.

⁴The last name is not clear. It is not Palmer.

Table 1. (cont.)

Dwelling	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation of all over 15 years of age	Place of birth
	L. McCurdy	2	f		Kansas Territory
	W. S. McCurdy	4/12	m		Kansas Territory
7	J. Pinkerton	25	m	farmer	Iowa
	Pinkerton ⁵	29	f		Tennessee
	T. E. Pinkerton	2	m		Kansas Territory
	L. F. Pinkerton	3/12	f		Kansas Territory
8	J. W. Blaine	37	m	farmer	New York
	M. C. Blaine	33	f		Connecticut
	R. T. Blaine	12	m		Ohio
	R. C. Blaine	10	m		Ohio
	C. B. Blaine	7	m		Ohio
	J. Blaine	4	f		Kansas Territory
	J. W. Blaine	1	m		Kansas Territory
9	J. M. Burleigh	39	m	farmer	New Hampshire
	H. Burleigh	34	f		New Hampshire
	F. Burleigh	12	m		New Hampshire
	F. L. Burleigh	2	m		Kansas Territory
10	J. H. Akin	24	m	farmer	New York
11	Wm. C. Teck ⁶	38	m	M. D.	New York
12	J. Hains ⁷	49	m	farmer	Ohio
	M. W. Hains	40	f		Ohio
	S. M. Hains	18	f		Ohio
	L. E. Hains	11	f		Ohio
	M. A. Hains	8	f		Ohio
	T. M. Hains	6	f		Ohio
	W. D. Hains	2	m		Kansas Territory
13	J. M. Deases ⁸	27	m	brickmaker	New York
14	J. M. Allen	36	m	farmer	Ohio
	M. N. Allen	36	f		Ohio
	W. C. Allen	10	m		Ohio
	E. J. Allen	8	f		Ohio
	B. Allen	5	m		Ohio
15	J. B. Allen	23	m	farmer	Ohio

⁵The initial is not clear.

⁶The last name is not clear.

⁷The last name should be spelled Haines.

⁸The last name is not clear.

Table 1. (cont.)

Dwelling	Full Name	Age	Sex	Occupation of all over 15 years of age	Place of birth
16	H. Reyes ⁹	27	m		Ohio
	L. Reyes	23	f		Ohio
	C. H. Reyes	1	m		Kansas Territory
17	A. Allen	33	m		Ohio
	L. Allen	31	f		Ohio
	S. Allen	24	f		Ohio
18	Robert Earl	45	m	farmer	New Jersey
	C. Earl	39	f		South Carolina
	M. E. Earl	16	f		(not clear)
	E. R. Earl	14	m		(not clear)
	C. H. Earl	12	f		(not clear)
	H. J. Earl	8	m		Mississippi
	F. H. Earl	6	m		Mississippi
	F. R. Earl	4	m		Mississippi
19	A. T. McCormick	37	m	farmer	Virginia
20	Wm. Wiley	30	m	farmer	Virginia
	J. Wiley	29	f		Virginia
	D. A. Wiley	8	m		Virginia
	M. A. Wiley	5	f		Missouri
	E. J. Wiley	3	f		Kansas Territory
	S. B. Wiley	6/12	f		Kansas Territory
	S. Hull	24	f		Virginia
21	Robert Wioney	40	m	farmer	Indiana
	E. Wioney	27	f		Pennsylvania
	A. Wioney	11	m		Pennsylvania
	T. Wioney	9	m		Pennsylvania
	L. Wioney	7	f		Pennsylvania
	H. Wioney	4	m		Pennsylvania
	J. Wioney	2	f		Indiana
22	P. M. McDonald	26	m	farmer	Indiana
	M. McDonald	21	f		Iowa
23	W. Mitchell	25	m	farmer	Iowa
24	J. M. McDonald	28	m	farmer	Missouri ¹⁰
25	J. H. Pillsbury	39	m	farmer	New Hampshire
	A. F. Pillsbury	25	f		New Hampshire
	A. J. Pillsbury	6	m		New Hampshire
	A. Pillsbury	2	f		Kansas Territory
	E. Pillsbury	5/12	f		Kansas Territory

⁹The last name is not clear.

¹⁰The state is not clear.

Table 1. (cont.)

Dwelling	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation of all over 15 years of age	Place of birth
26	L. Drusey ¹¹	28	m	laborer	New York
27	Wm. Peck	38	m	laborer	New York
28	L. Stearns ¹²	24	m	farmer	New Hampshire
29	J. V. B. Thompson	24	m	farmer	New Hampshire
	H. W. Thompson	21	f		New Hampshire
	H. M. Thompson	2	f		Kansas Territory
30	D. B. Chapman	38	m	farmer	New Hampshire
31	D. L. Bates	28	m	farmer	New Hampshire
32	D. M. Adams	28	m	farmer	New Hampshire
33	T. J. Giddings	43	m	farmer	Pennsylvania
	Jane Giddings	33	f		New York
	Jerome Giddings	78	m	farmer	New York
	M. Giddings	15	f		New York
	S. Giddings	9	f		New York
	M. Giddings	6	f		New York
	Samuel Giddings	3	m		New York
34	Marcus Giddings	25	m	farmer	New York
35	O. Meacham	28	m	Post Master	Michigan
	M. Meacham	26	f		New York
	M. A. Meacham	11/ ¹²	f		Kansas Territory
36	H. Marshall	24	m	farmer	New Hampshire
	E. Marshall	29	f		New Hampshire
	H. L. Marshall	11/ ¹²	m		Kansas Territory
	W. B. Marshall	31	m		New Hampshire
37	Ambrose Grow	36	m	farmer	New York
	A. Grow	25	f		New York
	F. Grow	5	m		Illinois
	E. Grow	3	f		Iowa
38	H. Sanford	23	m	farmer	Ohio
39	S. P. Hurlburt	31	m	farmer	Vermont
	M. C. Hurlburt	32	f		Vermont
	A. L. Hurlburt	7	f		Vermont
	A. J. Hurlburt	4	f		Vermont
	E. R. Hurlburt	3/ ¹²	m		Kansas Territory
40	E. R. Hurlburt	25	f	farmer	Vermont
41	A. P. St. John	57	m	farmer	New York
	Seymour St. John	25	m	farmer	New York
	E. St. John	22	m	farmer	New York
	T. St. John	22	f		New York

¹¹The last name is not clear.¹²The last name is not clear.

Table 1. (concl.)

Dwelling	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation of all over 15 years of age	Place of birth
42	J.L.Starkweather	30	m	farmer	Connecticut
	S.P.Starkweather	28	f		Rhode Island
	L.A.Starkweather	1	f		Kansas Territory
43	O. Bardwell	49	m	farmer	Massachusetts
	A. Bardwell	45	f		Connecticut
	J.L. Bardwell	18	m	farmer	Massachusetts
	H.L. Bardwell	14	f		Massachusetts
44	R. Moses	35	m	farmer	Connecticut
	A. Moses	34	f		New York
	J. Moses	12	f		Connecticut
	J. W. Moses	12	m		Connecticut
45	F. P. Benton	27	m	farmer	Connecticut

ZEANDALE TOWNSHIP, 1854-1894

by

MARILYN LOUISE GEIGER

B. S., Kansas State College
of Agriculture and Applied Science, 1952

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of History, Government and Philosophy

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

1958

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the settlement of Zeandale Township and to trace its development from 1854 to 1894. The study begins with the period prior to white settlement and is built around the coming of the settlers, the community organization and economic and political development.

A description of Indian settlement in the area as well as a geographic description of the township is included in the introduction. A map of Zeandale Township is included to clarify certain places mentioned here and throughout the remainder of the thesis. "The Coming of the Settlers" begins with the opening of Kansas Territory to settlement and discusses some of the problems that arise as the white man moves into Kansas. Interest is taken by both pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups as each tries to encourage pioneers to locate in Kansas. The New England Emigrant Aid Company played an important part in bringing groups to settle here, and it was with one of these parties that Josiah Pillsbury made the journey from New Hampshire to Kansas Territory in 1854. In the fall of that year, he came west from Lawrence into the township and gave it the name of Zeandale, meaning corn valley. In the following spring, Pillsbury and others came back to build their first log cabins and break the sod for their corn crop. A brief biographical sketch and several pictures of the better known pioneers is included in this section.

The section, "Community Organization," opens with an explanation of the divisions of the township into Deep Creek, Tabor Valley and Zeandale. Josiah Pillsbury planned to establish a civic center near his claim at what is now called Pillsbury Crossing. To further

this, he encouraged newcomers to settle on Deep Creek. The failure of Deep Creek to live up to its name, and the destruction of the saw mill and church hastened the failure of his dream. Settlers continued to arrive in all parts of the township; and their problems were similar regardless of whether they settled on Deep Creek, in Tabor Valley or on the bottom land near the present town of Zeandale. As soon as the first homes were built and crops planted, they turned their plans towards the providing of churches and schools.

"Economic and Political Development" discusses the early crops, the drought of 1859-1860, the grasshopper year of 1874 and other problems that faced the farmer. The settlers were also interested in improving the transportation and communication in the township. The present town of Zeandale grew up with the Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame Railroad that operated in the 1880's. Matters of local and state concern were not completely neglected. The Zeandale residents took part in the movement towards statehood, and the organization of county and township. During the Civil War, almost every able-bodied man found a place to serve his country, and the women were left at home with the children to take care of the farm.

The major source of information was the 1858-1860 diary of Josiah H. Pillsbury, and other unpublished letters and papers given by Annie Pillsbury Young to the Department of History, Government and Philosophy. The use of this material proved invaluable. Census records, county records, information from the register of deeds, school records when obtainable, and the early newspapers of Wabauensee, Riley and Davis County as provided by the state historical society

were also consulted. Interviews were conducted with the children or more recent descendants of early settlers, and their stories added much to the information already obtained. In many instances old letters, pictures and records had been destroyed by fire, flood or simply because the people did not realize their historical value.

Orange Line
Band