Dr. Edward N. Tihen (1924-1991) was an avid reader and researcher of Wichita newspapers. His notes from Wichita newspapers -- the “Tihen Notes,” as we call them -- provide an excellent starting point for further research. They present brief synopses of newspaper articles, identify the newspaper -- Eagle, Beacon or Eagle-Beacon -- in which the stories first appeared, and give exact references to the pages on which the articles are found. Microfilmed copies of these newspapers are available at the Wichita State University Libraries, the Wichita Public Library, or by interlibrary loan from the Kansas State Historical Society.

TIHEN NOTES FROM 1880 WICHITA BEACON

Wichita Beacon
Wednesday, January 7, 1880
page 3.

Report of school board meeting last Monday. Details.

Ad for the Daily House (hotel) at corner of 1st Street and Water Street, P. W. Trimmer, proprietor.

Article reports the 4th Ward school building caught fire at 9:15 p.m. on December 31st and burned to the ground. Origin of fire is a mystery.

Wednesday, January 14, 1880
page 3.

Report of meeting of board of county commissioners. Dr. C. C. Furley was given contract for care of the county poor, including furnishing of medicine with allowance for mileage outside the city limits of 50 cents a mile, counted one way. John Stewart is to be employed for the ensuing year as superintendent of the county asylum for the poor, with pay of $50 a quarter. The building known as the Poor House is to be rented as a county asylum for the poor at the same rent heretofore paid, of $12 per month.

Proceedings of city council meeting of January 12th.

School classes are being held in the lower story of the Occidental Building since destruction of the large school building by fire.

Wednesday, January 21, 1880
page 3.

Report of meeting of the Arkansas River Navigation Association last Friday. Details.

Wednesday, January 28, 1880
page 3.

The surveying corps of the St. Louis, San Francisco and Wichita (sic) Railroad went up Main Street Monday morning with several wagons loads of implements, stakes, etc.,
striking east of North Main Street towards Chisholm Creek.

Report of city finances. Details.

Report of leap year party at Russell Hall last Wednesday. Details.

Stewart has been re-appointed lamp lighter by the Excelsior Gas Company.

Wednesday, February 4, 1880

Report by Secretary of War, General McCreary, of the engineer’s report of survey of the Arkansas River, was submitted to Congress on January 15th, with details. Indicates that $100,000 would make the river navigable from Wichita to Ft. Smith.

Proceedings of city council meetings of January 28th and February 2nd.

Report of a reporter’s visit last Sunday up the county between the two rivers as far as Mr. W. T. Jewett’s farm in Park Township. Details.

“Park Township has a large amount of Railroad land, as yet unsold. The high price set upon this land is preventing the thorough development of this township, and explains why Park Township is not as thickly populated as it should be, considering the size and richness of its land.”

The new school house is now receiving the second course of plaster.

At the school board meeting Monday it was decided to submit to the voters the issuance of school bonds for $12,500 for the erection of more buildings.

D. M. Dale, Esq. of Earlville, Illinois, is now in the city, and having formed a partnership with Judge M. S. Adams, he has enrolled himself among the legal fraternity of Wichita. He is a brother of Frank Dale, of Sherman Township, who is now studying law with Judge Adams. He was here last summer on a visit and was so pleased with the country that he determined to make Wichita his future home.

M. Kohn and Company have rented the Salisbury store room, lately occupied by the Alexander Brothers. They are cutting a doorway between this room and the New York Store and will use the former as a clothing house exclusively.

Wednesday, February 11, 1880

Proceedings of city council meeting on February 9th.

Official proclamation of election on March 9th, 1880 to vote on issuance of $12,500 in school bonds.
Report of a destructive fire on east side of north Main Street between 1st Street and 2nd Street beginning about 3:00 a.m. last Wednesday. Details. Instruments of the telegraph office were destroyed but were promptly replaced by the company and its operator, Mr. Lloyd B. Ferrell.

“The late fire will certainly impress all with the necessity of a steam fire engine. Notwithstanding the burden of our rates of taxation we urge the city council at once to supply our fire company with the apparatus necessary for effective work under all circumstances.”


Col. M. M. Murdock returned last Friday from Washington, where he had gone in January with Col. Taylor to urge the passage of a bill similar to the Ft. Scott court bill, to provide for the holding each year of a term of the United States District and Circuit Courts in the city of Wichita. The expenses of this commission was provided for by the city council at the request of a large number of our prominent citizens.

J. C. Fraker has moved into the house on the northeast corner of 3rd Street and Topeka Avenue.

“Read the ordinance of tree planting. Lot owners must plant, or the city will do it and charge it up to the property.”

A fire proof brick vault has just been constructed in the basement of the county building for the use of the Register of Deeds. The cost was $250.

Messrs. Adams and Dale have been refitting their office over Richards and Rogers grocery store.

Wednesday, February 18, 1880

Note mentions ad of the “Boston Store” in this issue. On Main Street, Taylor, Dow and Company, proprietors. Says the firm have been here something less than a year.

Major Allen, attorney for the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, visited Wichita last Friday to say that work was progressing rapidly and that grading would be begun in Sedgwick County this week, and that the road was located up to the bank of the river.

Messrs. Forrey and Jackson, proprietors of the Douglas Avenue Hotel, dissolved their partnership last Friday, Mr. Jackson retiring from the firm, leaving Mr. Forrey as the sole manager of this house. (The name Forrey is spelled “Fory” in the February 5, 1879 issue of the Beacon.)
Major Powell of Augusta informs us that as he was coming over from his place last Friday, he passed nine wagons loaded with coal, from the newly discovered coal mines in the Flint Hills.

The Frontier Fire Company have purchased 20 lots in a body, forming a plot 204 by 205 feet, and located near the center of the cemetery, for a burying ground for deceased members of the company. They paid $160 for the ground and hope to lay the foundation for a marble monument this coming summer.

Wednesday, February 25, 1880

Article from Newton about proposed joint meeting of county commissioners of Sedgwick and Harvey counties regarding possible disposition of the $200,000 of Wichita and Southwestern Railroad stock which is now the property of the counties. Details. Says the question of the legality of this stock is now before the Supreme Court. It is reasonably good property, worth in the Boston market about ten days ago, 80 cents on the dollar, with the value rising.

Report of the annual reunion of the Old Settlers of Sedgwick County on February 19th, at the Opera House. This was the 3rd annual reunion. Details. Address by James R. Mead, telling about the first pioneer settler in Sedgwick County, John Ross, who moved here from Wilson County, Kansas, in the early spring of 1860 and settled on the east bank of the Arkansas River, on what is now the southeast quarter of Section 4, Township 26 South, Range 1 West, with his wife and two small children. But in October that year he went west toward the Cowskin Creek on a buffalo hunt and did not return and a day or two later was found dead and dismembered. The remains were buried on the bank of the river near his house. Further reminiscences by Judge Campbell and J. P. Allen.

Mr. John McCarty, contractor for 45 miles of the west end of the present extension of the St. Louis and San Francisco RR, has put a large force on the grade between this city and Augusta. He has about 20 miles of his grade completed and has 25 more to finish. The grade in the Flint Hills will be down by the middle of April, and track laying will then begin. (The name McCarty is spelled “McCarthy” in the July 23, 1879 issue of the Beacon.)

Changes and repairs on the Occidental Hotel were begun last week.

The Wichita City Mills are putting in two more run of stones.

The corps of engineers of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, have their office in the Pacific House, on Douglas Avenue east of the railroad.

Travelers are coming to Wichita from St. Louis, via the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad to Cherryvale, and thence by the Lawrence, Leavenworth and Galveston Railroad to Winfield, thence by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to Wichita. They say
they save about $3.00.

The San Francisco road will cross the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad one square (i.e., one block) above Central Avenue. The grade stakes were set yesterday. One mile of bed is graded east of Chisholm Creek.

Wednesday, March 3, 1880

3. Article reports a different version of the first settlers in Sedgwick County. Says it was the first land taken up and the first ground plowed and planted grain, west of the Whitewater River. It was southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 26, Range 1 West, in Park Township. Clint Arnold and a man named Clark squatted on the land in the spring of 1857, built a cottonwood log cabin, and Clark plowed 15 acres of it and planted it in corn. They also had 130 cows and that summer caught 130 buffalo calves and raised them on their cows. In the fall of that year the ranch was sold to the Juracken boys, who held it until about 1861 when it was abandoned. The quarter was then taken again by David Dodson, a cowboy, in 1870, who sold it to the present occupant, W. T. Jewett, on March 25th, 1871. For years it was known as the Juracken Ranch.

The improvements now being made on the Wichita City Mill will cost about $18,000. It will be to all intents a new mill. Capacity will be 200 to 225 barrels a day. Further details.

Long article about contesting between north and south parts of town for location of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad depot. No final decision, but says the company indicated that $1,200 plus guarantee of the right-of-way from Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad east to the cemetery at the assessed rates would lead them to locate the depot in the north part of the city. Details.

The old Blue Front stable, on corner of Main Street and 1st Street, has been torn down and hauled off.

Wednesday, March 10, 1880

3. The school board will accept the 1st Ward school house at their next meeting.


The General Superintendent, Captain Rogers, and the Chief Engineer, Major Dunn, of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, will be here this week and the exact location of the freight and passenger depots will then be decided upon. It is thought the passenger depot will not be far from Main Street and Pine Street.

Discussion of costs of equipping a first class fire department, totaling at least $15,000. Details.
Report of a proposition by Sears and Irland to build a water works with mains and 75 hydrants in Wichita. Details.

Since settlement of the location of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad depot in the north part of town, property in the north end has taken a jump upwards. One year ago lots north of Central Avenue were offered at $8 to $12, and now $75 to $100 is demanded.

Track laying on the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad was begun on Tuesday last week from Severy, about 70 miles east of Wichita. It will be laid on the average at a mile a day.

The bridge abutments of the railroad bridges across the Walnut Creek (sic) and Whitewater Creek (sic), near Augusta, will be finished this week. The stone work between Wichita and Augusta is about finished, and road bed is graded over half way.

Mr. D. P. Alexander has obtained a contract to grade ten miles of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad bed between Wellington and Caldwell.

Another line of telephone has been put up from Captain J. M. Steele’s land office to J. H. Hilliard’s livery stable, distant about a quarter of a mile. Mr. Chatfield put up the wire and the speaking apparatus. The cost was about eight dollars. It operates very well and the sounds are distinctly conveyed.

Wednesday, March 17, 1880

Proceedings of city council meeting March 11th, Ordinance 235 adopted granting right-of-way to St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad. Discussion of water works proposal.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad used corn to run their train south from Newton Saturday night. (There is a current coal famine throughout the area.)

Wednesday, March 24, 1880

The Excelsior Mill, Fraker and Humble, proprietors, is now in first class working order. The machinery for making what is called “New Process” flour has been put in and the mill is turning out a brand that is excelsior. The first car load was shipped to St. Louis yesterday.

Mr. Grubb has a large force at work on the new brick block on Main Street. The Odd Fellows Hall will be over the two center buildings and is to be 48 by 20 feet in the clear.

Wednesday, March 31, 1880

Mr. Milo B. Kellogg was absent last week in the Indian Territory, south of Medicine Lodge, looking after his herd of cattle.
The brick school house in the 1st Ward was occupied last Monday for the first time. Teachers in the four rooms are named. By next fall the Board hopes to have the new building in the 4th Ward ready for use and the frame building in the 1st Ward moved to the 2nd Ward.

A large force was at work Monday and Tuesday on the grade this side of Chisholm Creek (i.e., on St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad).

The office of the engineer corps of the St. Louis, Wichita, Western Railroad has been moved to the second story of the Bitting Building.

**Wednesday, April 7, 1880**

3. School board Monday adopted resolution to build a six room building in the 4th Ward and a four room building in the 2nd Ward.

House moving begins to assume a good deal of activity. Every day or two we see frame buildings on wheels which are being moved from the business localities to the outer edges of the city. This means a replacement by good business houses on the lots made vacant.

**Wednesday, April 14, 1880**

3. The Occidental Hotel has been rented to Major William Powell of Emporia. He has taken a lease for three years at a rent of $1500 for the first and $1800 for the last two years. The cost of refitting and improving the building will be over $4000.

The City Mills have had difficulty in sinking their large well on account of the caving in of the sides. The well is ten feet in diameter and is to be 30 feet deep. Water was struck at about ten feet.

**Wednesday, April 21, 1880**

3. Letters to editor about right-of-way needs of St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, surveying of a town site called Cloud City along the railroad line 11 miles west of Augusta and 12 miles east of Wichita, etc.

The work on the Temple Block is being prosecuted with vigor. The walls for the first story are about up.

The city schools closed this year on Friday last. Exercises were held at the Opera House.

Mr. Sawyer, who has been repairing Russell Hall, says that it is a stronger building than it ever was. He has braced it up in a manner he considers perfectly safe.

**Wednesday, April 28, 1880**
Mr. Balch sold his part of the Temple Block to Messrs. Van Ness and Dorsey, who will complete the building. The price was about $1700.

Mr. E. A. Woelke of this city, is the agent for the Bell Telephone. He proposes to establish a circuit in this city over which messages may be transmitted without the expense of a central office. A regular wire has already been put up from Hacker and Jackson’s coal office, near the depot, to L. N. Woodcock’s drug store on Main Street, near 1st Street. Parties desiring to enter the circuit can connect with the wire at any point along the route or at either end. Each station will have a number and a special signal. Expenses outside of the ten dollar per annum rental for the receiving tube, will be determined by the members belonging to the circuit.

The Wichita City Mills will be ready to grind by the 10th or 15th of May. Details.

The El Paso Bridge is in a bad predicament. The funds appropriated by the county and raised by the township have been exhausted, and about 250 feet of the bridge remains unbridged at the west end. The old county board made the contract and located the bridge, but they later consented to change its location to a point further down the river without realizing that the river was considerably wider at that point.

At least 3000 trees have been set out in Wichita this spring.

The iron pillars, windows and door caps for the Temple Block were received last week from the Seaton Foundry in Atchison.

Wednesday, May 5, 1880

Article about the cigar trade in Wichita. Says Wichita has four cigar factories with total capacity of 6000 to 8000 cigars per day, employing about 30 men. Details.

The St. Louis, Wichita and Western Railroad will run into the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad depot on a “Y,” to be surveyed and staked out east of the present railroad. There is no sure thing yet as to where the depot will be located.

Mr. D. P. Alexander, having about completed his contract on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad extension between Wellington and Caldwell, left Saturday for Texas.

The City Mills Company is putting a large addition on to the south of the mill for a dust room.

The Beacon sign, put up last week, over the entrance to this office, attracts attention and admiration. It is from the shop of Mr. C. R. Viney and was painted by Mr. William Atkinson, an artist in ornamental and decorative painting. He painted the lettering on the
windows of the Wichita Bank. The sign in question is a lighthouse in the midst of an angry sea. The border is of blue and gold.

**Wednesday, May 12, 1880**

2. Proceedings of city council meeting on May 10th.

3. Mr. Fiskheissen’s school had a picnic last Saturday in Shuman’s Grove.

It is now positively stated that the depot is located in the north part of town (i.e., St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad).

Saturday night the track was three miles this side of Augusta.

Mr. Balch bought the frame building on Lawrence Avenue used for school purposes, and last week he moved it to his lot on Douglas Avenue, north side, between Topeka Avenue and Lawrence Avenue.

Rooms on the first floor of the Temple Block, now under construction, have already been rented. Mr. W. B. Smith’s will be occupied by Harding and Gowdy, Mr. Ferrell will occupy his own room, Mr. Tucker’s will probably be occupied by the D. P. Alexander as a clothing store, and Messrs. Van Ness and Dorsey have rented to Mr. H. R. Butler for a hardware store. The builders are now at work on the second story.

**Wednesday, May 19, 1880**

2. Officers and directors of Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad elected at recent meeting are listed.

3. Article expressing concern locally that the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad is controlled by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad.

Article about the Southwestern Kansas District Fair, to be held under the auspices of the Sedgwick County Agricultural Society on September 14th through 17th. Details.

The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad was opened to Augusta for business on May 10th.

Tomorrow the construction train will be in sight of Wichita.

Saturday night the track on the new railroad was laid over two miles this side of the east line of Sedgwick County. They are laying track at the rate of two miles a day.

We learn that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad has made a proposition to the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad to build a union passenger depot at the crossing of
the two roads in the northeast part of the city. Details.

Last Friday at Topeka, the state treasure with cooperation of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick and Harvey counties, made sale of the stock of the Wichita and Southwestern Railroad to the amount of $200,000, which was held by the above counties. The stock was sold to Mr. Cooledge (sic), President of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, for 77 99/100, reaching the sum total of $154,000. The feeling here is one of great satisfaction. Two or three years ago no one thought the county would ever realize a cent on this stock. A year or so ago many were eager to have it sold for 40 cents, which was the offer first made.

Wednesday, May 26, 1880

Page 3. Article about the new Fair Association. Details.

Mr. Isaac Shellabarger arrived here last Friday. He will remain until the mill begins running, which will be some time next week.

A large number of discharged railroad hands are camped on the other side of the Big Arkansas River, who, having completed the grade as far as this city, are waiting the continuance of the road farther west.

The Richey House has changed hands. Mr. William Alexander, of Illinois, has leased it for a term of years.

The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad is the all absorbing topic of conversation.

By Saturday night last, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad track had been laid to within 300 or 400 yards of the city limits. By 8:00 p.m. Sunday the junction was completed uniting the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and St. Louis and San Francisco RRs. The “Y” seemed to settle the long vexed question of the location of the depot. There was no enthusiasm nor welcome expressed. There is none felt. The intention of Wichita to have a road competing with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad has been thwarted. Etc.

Wednesday, June 2, 1880

Page 3. Several articles about demands of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad for payment of Sedgwick County of $40,000 in bonds for the part of the railroad already completed in the county. Much local opposition. Details.

Article about proposition of Mr. D. B. Sears for installation of a water works in Wichita. Details.

John Exton divides the honor with George Ross of shipping the first car lots (sic) over the
St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad. It was bones, and ten dollars a ton were saved.

The first car load shipments over the new road from Wichita was made last Sunday by Mr. George Ross, who dispatched ten cars of hogs to St. Louis.

The Occidental Hotel will soon be ready for business. It has been greatly improved and remodeled.

Wednesday, June 9, 1880

2. Letter to *Beacon* from J. R. Mead from Arborville, Colorado, on June 2nd, 1880, saying he was one of the original organizers of the Wichita and Southwestern Railroad in 1871 and its first president and protesting criticism of the local directors and Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in the *Beacon* of May 19th. Details.

3. School board meeting Monday voted to purchase ground in 2nd Ward for not to exceed $500. Building committee appointed to take charge of building of the two new buildings (1st and 2nd wards), with the $7000 of bonds voted in 1879 for a school house.

Masons are at work on the third story of the Temple Block and will have it ready for the roof by Saturday.

Mrs. Vigus, wife of Mr. Henry Vigus, died last Saturday after a short illness.

The Wichita City Mills put their new machinery to the test last week everything is new and it will take some time before everything runs smooth.

Mr. N. Baldwin has lately finished a half life size photograph of Mrs. H. W. Lewis, which was made from a smaller picture taken a short time before her death.

A number of gentlemen of Wichita met at the rooms of Messrs. Innes and Ross and organized a social club, to be known as the “Lotus.” Details.

Mr. J. E. Caldwell, of the school board, on Tuesday gave the *Beacon* the ad for sealed bids for construction of a six room brick school building in the 4th Ward and a four room brick building in the 2nd Ward. Both are to be completed within 90 days from letting of the contract. The architect who prepared the plans and specifications is Mr. E. T. Carr, of Topeka.

The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad has put on one switch on the south side of the main track which connects with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad track at the water tank. It is the intention to put on another which will be extended south on the east side of the elevators. The grading for it is partly finished.

Wednesday, June 16, 1880
3. More letters discussing the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad bond question.

Report of marriage last Wednesday of Mr. Fred W. Israel to Miss Nettee Lewis, sister of Col. Lewis. Details.

Charles Davidson returned from the State University at Lawrence last Thursday. He has completed the sophomore year.

**Wednesday, June 23, 1880**

3. Long report from P. B. Perkins, hydraulic engineer of Generico, Illinois, on the advisability and details of a water works system for Wichita. Details. Talks in terms of locating well and pump in Chisholm Creek area at east end of 1st Street.

The late improvements in the Tremont House add to the appearance and comfort of the hotel. The veranda offers a cool and shady retreat for the guests.

**Wednesday, June 30, 1880**

3. Mr. Abe Smith, the contractor, broke ground yesterday for the two school buildings. He has sublet the four room contract to Mr. Sternberg. The 4th Ward building will be located 40 feet north of the site of the old frame building. The 2nd Ward building will be built on the southeast corner of Central Avenue and Water Street. The large building will be two stories, with three rooms on each floor, each 25 by 30 feet. The main hall entering from Emporia Avenue will be 18 by 30 feet. In the southeast angle the tower will be built 17½ feet above the main building, or 53 feet from basement to top, with open brick arches for the bell tower. Further details.

Article giving water works ordinance to be submitted to city council by Mr. D. B. Sears. Details.

The teachers’ salaries for past year amounted to $605 per month. The cost of tuition per month for each pupil was $4.00. Number of weeks taught was 28. Whole number of days was 138. Number of pupils enrolled in school was 449 male and 443 female, total 892.

Second Street has been graded from Emporia Avenue to Main Street under supervision of Mr. Thomas Bailey (sic), who is showing his capacity to fill position of city engineer. He has been a resident of Wichita for three months and held the position of surveyor of Barbour County (sic) before coming here.

**Wednesday, July 14, 1880**

3. Report of meeting of Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society, C. S. Eicholtz, president, on July 10th at Squire Mitchell’s office. Committee on grounds reported acceptance of the
association’s proposition to the manager of the Shuman Park grounds and a lease for these
grounds is to be obtained.

Foundation walls are well under way on the new 4th Ward school building. It has a front
of over 82 feet on 3rd Street with a depth of over 60 feet. The main front will be on 3rd
Street and the tower in the southwest angle, instead of the southeast, as we had it.

Wednesday, July 21, 1880

3. The Lotus Club now has 62 members.

Temple Block will be completed this week.

There will be a temperance picnic next Saturday at Menefee’s Grove, two miles west and
one mile south of this city.

Wednesday, July 28, 1880

2. Article gives report of Major Bear, ex-City Engineer, giving the metes and bounds of the
city and its various additions in detail, dated May 1st, 1880.

3. Report of meeting July 21st at office of Register of Deeds of a group of citizens to discuss
establishment of a college in Wichita. Reverend J. D. Hewitt elected to preside. Trustees
were chosen (listed). Details.

Major E. R. Powell, of Augusta, was in the city on Thursday.

M. B. Clark has let contract for his two story brick building on Douglas Avenue near 4th
Avenue. To be 25 by 80 feet and completed October 1st.

The cut stone for the new 4th Ward school building comes from Cottonwood, and the
other stone from Augusta and the Cowley County quarries.

Mr. Ong, the photographer, is taking a number of stereoscopic views of the city. Some
giving a general view of the city were taken from the roof of Temple Block. He will have
them for sale at his gallery on Douglas Avenue.

Report that the Ft. Scott and Humboldt Railroad Company have had agents as far west as
Eldorado looking over the route, and have submitted propositions for aid in Allen County.

Wednesday, August 4, 1880

1. Ad of Adams and Dale, Attorney and Councillors at Law. Office over Richards and
Rogers store, Douglas Avenue. Will practice in the Courts of the Thirteenth Judicial
District of Kansas, the Supreme Court and United States District and Circuit Courts of
Kansas.


Report of death of 18 month old child of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Stanley, their only child. Funeral is today.

Mr. Goddard, the general freight agent of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, was in Wichita last Wednesday and Thursday.

Sedgwick County has 32 miles of railroad valued as follows:
Wichita and Southwestern Railroad — 16.03 miles valued at $127,041
Cowley, Sumner, Ft. Smith Railroad — 14.96 miles valued at $79,206
(St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad not listed.)

Report of the Democratic Convention for Sedgwick County at Eagle Hall on Saturday, July 31st. Frank Dale was elected as a delegate to the state convention from the 92nd district, and David Dale was elected as a delegate to the Congressional Convention.

Wednesday, August 11, 1880

3. Mr. H. J. Hills returned last Wednesday from Cleora, Colorado, in the evening of the day of the burial of his little grandson. Mr. H. J. Hills left for Colorado again on Monday.

Report of proceedings of the City Council on August 9th, 1880.

Mr. R. C. Deem is about beginning the collection of material for the publication of a city directory for Wichita.

The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad have decided to build a depot at Lorena, Butler County, six to eight miles west of Augusta.

Mr. Charles Bitting and Miss May Deming were married yesterday.

The Douglas Avenue Hotel is under the management of W. S. Forey.

Mr. John Noble’s two brothers, who live in Illinois, are now visiting him.

The 4th Ward school building is now ready for the joists for the second floor. The timbers were ordered weeks ago from St. Louis but have not yet arrived.
Officers of the Wichita College were elected at a meeting last Wednesday night at the office of the Register of Deeds: Judge E. Hill, president, M. W. Levy, secretary and treasurer. It is hoped to open the school next September.

**Wednesday, August 18, 1880**

3. Detailed report of the marriage on August 10th of Miss May Deming, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Deming, to Mr. Charles W. Bitting, of the firm of Bitting Brothers, proprietors of the Keystone Clothing House.

Miss Ella Murdock, of Emporia, sister of our post master, is visiting in Wichita.

The joists for the two school buildings were received last Saturday, and the work goes on. Brick work on both buildings has been finished on the first story.

**Wednesday, August 25, 1880**

3. Milo B. Kellogg left for Colorado Springs last Monday to see his wife and baby.

A steamer left Arkansas City last week for Wichita. It got as far as Oxford to await a rise. Capt. Appleby is in command.

List of names of those who left last evening for Topeka to attend the Democratic State Convention. Includes Frank Dale and D. M. Dale of Wichita.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad last week put out advertisements in Harper County for 500 teams to work on the Wellington and Western extension.

Small ad announcing that the Wichita College will begin instruction on or about the 13th of September. Dr. Lewis De Lew is principal.

The Lotus Club has leased the entire second floor of the McPherson Block for club room purposes.

W. A. Richey took possession last week of the popular Richey House.

Mr. F. D. Arment, of Anthony, tells us that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad extension is graded to within 14 miles of Anthony and about 75 teams are at work. The track is laid about eight miles out of Wellington. The track of the Lawrence, Leavenworth and Galveston Railroad is within 14 miles of Harper City and the grade within two or three miles.

**Wednesday, September 1, 1880**

2. The State Democratic Convention in Topeka last week agreed on its electoral ticket,
including 13th District: Frank Dale, of Sedgwick County.

3. The opening of the public schools will be deferred until the completion of the new buildings, which will be about the first of October.

**Wednesday, September 8, 1880**

3. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad has put up a steam engine at the water tank, to supplement the wind, which is uncertain.

Mr. Sam Lowman has rented the Zimmerly brick on Douglas Avenue, lately vacated by Myers Brothers. (The name Lowman is spelled “Lohman” in the September 9, 1879 issue of the *Beacon.*)

The roof is on the 4th Ward school house and soon will be on the 2nd Ward building.

We are reliably informed that general manager Rogers, of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, went to New York last week to make final arrangements for erection of a passenger and freight depot in this city. Their contract for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad depot expires on the first of October.

**Wednesday, September 15, 1880**

3. Proceedings of city council meeting on September 13th with detailed report from water works commission.

Report of proceedings of the Board of Education on September 6th. Recommendation made for hiring of several teachers including Ella Wood, at salary of $45 a month. Details.

The law firm of Adams and Dale has been dissolved by mutual consent. Judge Adams retiring. Mr. Dale will occupy the office of the late firm. Legal notice of the dissolution is on same page (name shown as M. S. Adams).

Ad for the Leland Hotel, opposite Union Depot, under management of J. G. Hope, former mayor of Wichita.

The 8th Annual Sedgwick County Agricultural Society’s Fair opened yesterday at the fair grounds north of the city. Details.

The Lotus Club will have their club rooms finished some time this week. The entire second story of the McPherson Block has been undergoing repairs. The portion known as Russell Hall will by used for dancing, theatrical entertainments, and general receptions. It has been repainted and the walls papered with a delicate tinted paper. The stage and scenery of Russell Hall have been purchased and will by used by the club. The halls and stairway have been repainted. The large room on the front which were used for offices by
Dr. Croskey and Dr. Smith, have been thoroughly renovated and will be furnished for reception and reading rooms and offices of the club. Members of the club number about 70.

The bell was put up in the tower of the 4th Ward school house on Saturday last. It is a large one, weighing 300 or 400 pounds, and will do duty for all the schools.

Mr. T. W. Fuller has purchased the lots on the northeast corner of Lawrence Avenue and 1st Street, and will begin in a few days the erection of a handsome and substantial residence. These lots have always been considered the most desirable in the city, and have been talked of for both churches and school houses. They were for a long time the property of Mr. Al Packer, and were sold by him to a gentleman living in Texas. Mr. Fuller paid $900 for them.

Wednesday, September 22, 1880

3. The principal of Wichita College gives notice hereby that instruction in said college will positively commence on Monday, the 4th of October, at 9:00 a.m., at the school building in the 1st Ward.

We are glad to know that the Occidental Hotel is soon to be opened. Although not favorably located, it is one of the best hotel buildings in the state. It was that even before the late improvements. Mr. Williams, of Winfield, we understand, will take charge of it. He is also interested in the building.

Report on the 8th annual Sedgwick County Agricultural Association Fair, which closed last Friday. Details.

Mr. F. G. Smyth has purchased the handsome residence property of Mr. Amos Houck, on corner of 2nd Street and Waco Street.

Wednesday, September 29, 1880

2. Report of proceedings of the City Council on September 27th.

3. The German English school has a lady teacher.

The Wichita College will open temporarily in the frame school building in the 1st Ward on Monday next.

Mr. and Mrs. Oak Davidson left Thursday on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad for an extended eastern trip, as far as Boston.

Judge M. S. Adams took the evening train Thursday for the West. We understand that Santa Fe, New Mexico, is his destination.
A petition now is in circulation asking the county board to build a court room on the rear of the county building, the addition to be one story, with 20 foot ceiling, and to be 50 by 70 feet. Details.

Col. M. M. Murdock accompanied by his wife and mother will start the latter part of this week for the old homestead in West Virginia. They will remain in Morgantown, West Virginia, until the first of November.

Article says Gen. Winslow, president, Captain Rogers, general manager, and Mr. Toms, supt. of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad visited Wichita on a special train last Wednesday, supposedly to select a location for a passenger depot, for the joint use of the two roads. The present depot will be used by both, for freight exclusively. Says the men were informed of the action of the Sedgwick County board in agreeing to submit a case to the Supreme Court to settle the question whether the board is required to issue the bonds for only partial fulfillment of the contract by the railroad, i.e., building the road only to Wichita and not on to the west line of the county as required by the contract.

The Clark brick building on Douglas Avenue, near the depot, is rapidly approaching completion.

The Ark Valley Fair Association fair opened on Tuesday.

Wednesday, October 6, 1880

3. Detailed report of the first Annual Fair of the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society this past week. It was held in Shuman’s Park, which was rented for the occasion, and which has a good half mile track. “Although the grounds would bear much improvement, they answered every purpose of the society this year.” An amphitheater on the north side seats 2000 people. Two good buildings were erected for floral and agricultural halls, and stalls for cattle and horses were erected on the south side and pens built for sheep and hogs. A large circus tent was also stretched in the west part of the grounds in which stalls were built for the accommodation of cattle. Details.

A petition has been presented to the school board to have the frame school building in the 1st Ward moved to a point east of the railroad, where the census shows there are 96 children between the age of six to 16 years.

The Occidental Hotel will be opened to the traveling public on the first of November under the management of Messrs. W. S. Forey, of this city, and A. W. Davis, of Winfield. Mr. Williams left on Monday to purchase furniture, etc., for the house.

Wednesday, October 13, 1880

3. Report of meeting of the County Commissioners on October 4th.
Dr. De Lew opened his school on the 3rd instant with three scholars. Miss Harrie Smith, Miss Jessie Hill, and Miss Kirkpatrick were the first matriculates, and when the Wichita College becomes a great university like Oxford, or Harvard, the names of these three young ladies will be among the most cherished memories of the past.

The Conservatory of Music is about completing its first year in this city, and the director, Signore Campanari, proposes in a few weeks to give a concert in the nature of an annual review.

Mr. John Exton has leased his coal and lime business to the New Pittsburgh Coal Mining Company, of Oswego.

Proceedings of city council meeting September 27th. Report of water works commission adopted, recommending all wells in the city used for domestic purposes be driven down to 30 or 35 feet to get pure water, but not believing it advisable to build a water works at this time. Contract for re-publishing the city ordinances was awarded to George W. Crane and Company.

Captain J. M. Steele has sold his real estate business, with office and fixtures, to Messrs. L. B. Bunnell and R. H. Roys.

The bridge across the Chisholm Creek, on the Central Avenue Road, is reported to be in a dilapidated condition.

Mr. Morris Kohn is getting ready to lay about 140 feet of flagging around the New York Store building. He gets the stone from Cowley County.

By working all day last Sunday, the school buildings were got ready for the opening of the school year on Monday. There are a few finishing touches yet to be put on.

The Farmers and Merchants mill, on Douglas Avenue is one of the busiest places in the city. Messrs. Goodyear and Hawn put in machinery for a first rate custom mill.

**Wednesday, October 20, 1880**

2. Editorial supporting D. M. Dale, Democratic candidate for County Attorney. Text on following page.

3. The frame work of Mr. T. W. Fuller’s residence, on the corner of Lawrence Avenue and 1st Street, is up. It is going to be a well built and commodious house.

Bunnell and Roys take possession of Captain Steele’s business on the first of November. We learn the Captain will go either to Oklahoma or the Pacific slope, probably Guaymas on the Gulf of California.
Laudatory report of an inspection of the renovated Occidental Hotel. Details.

**Wednesday, October 27, 1880**


The Adams residence on the corner of Lawrence Avenue and 2nd Street has been bought by Mr. L. Jackson for $2700.

Long editorial criticizing J. M. Balderston for his rigid Republican politics and saying he is unfit to be County Attorney. Details.

**Wednesday, November 3, 1880**


Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bitting returned Sunday from their wedding tour to New York and Pennsylvania.

Mr. M. W. Levy has purchased the Richardson stock of groceries.

The telegraph company has moved their poles and wires from 2nd Street to the alley between 1st Street and Douglas Avenue. This runs directly from the depot to the telegraph office. The wires enter the office from the rear.

M. Kohn and Company finished laying their substantial stone side walk last Saturday (around the New York Store building).

Col. M. Stewart will open the packing season at his old stand on Douglas Avenue next Thursday.

**Wednesday, November 10, 1880**

2. Report of some results of the election on November 2nd. Despite Republican victories for most offices, Mr. Dale, Democratic candidate for County Attorney, defeated his Republican opponent, Mr. Balderston, by 2067 votes to 1839.

3. Report of a fire at 4:00 a.m. Tuesday last, which destroyed J. C. Fraker’s steam flour mill, Col. M. Stewart’s pork packery, the Elephant Livery Stable, and Martin Hellar’s office at his stone yard on Douglas Avenue. Details.

Detailed returns from election on November 2nd.

Col. and Mrs. M. M. Murdock returned home Monday last after a sojourn among friends in West Virginia and southern Ohio. The Colonel left his mother in Ironton, Ohio, very
much improved in health.

The newly remodeled Occidental Hotel was opened to the public last Sunday, after an open house and public inspection on Saturday evening. Proprietors are Messrs. Forey and Davis. Details.

“The election of Dale tempers the wind to the shorn lambs.”

Wednesday, November 17, 1880

Report of death of Judge and Mrs. Lauck’s 14 year old son. Funeral was yesterday.

Col. M. Stewart will rent a warehouse to pack his pork (i.e., since fire destroyed his plant). He expects to pack 1500 to 2000 hogs this winter.

Report of first concert given by the Conservatory of Music. Details.

The Lotus Club will give a Thanksgiving night production of the humorous comedy, “A Widow Hunt.” Cast listed, including Mr. David Dale as Felix Featherly.

Mr. Fraker had put in $1500 worth of machinery before his mill was destroyed. The mill was an excellent property, and since it started had paid a profit of over $4000. This is the third mill that has succumbed to the destroying flames in this city. The first was a small grist and feed mill in the 1st Ward near the railroad, which was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1872-1873. The second was the water mill on Chisholm Creek, which was burned down a year ago last Christmas. Mr. Fraker had at one time a large interest in that mill.

Wednesday, November 24, 1880

A telephone circuit is about to be established in this city. We believe the wires are up and the members of the circuit are Hacker and Jackson, Root Brothers, the Occidental, and the Douglas Avenue hotels. The instruments were ordered on Monday. Anybody can get into the circuit on payment of $20 and purchasing an instrument. The subsequent cost will be about ten dollars a year.

Large drawing and ad for the Keystone Clothing House.

Report of proceeding of the City Council on November 22nd.

Mr. M. A. Sayles, the company member of the old and reliable firm of A. J. Cook and Company, agricultural implement dealers, has purchased the interest of Mr. Cook and will carry on the business at the old stand. Mr. Sayles being a practical farmer knows what that class needs, and he has long experience in the handling of goods in his line. He can be found at the old stand on Douglas Avenue with a full supply of implements needed on the
Wednesday, December 1, 1880

3.

Mr. Deming has leased the Tremont House to Messrs. Kelly and Young, of Lafayette, Indiana, who take possession today. Mr. Kelly was proprietor of the old Topeka House, in Topeka, before it was burned down.

Mr. T. W. Fuller will soon have his new house ready to occupy.

Review of the Lotus Club performances of the comedy, “A Widow Hunt.” Says “Mr. David Dale made his first appearance; no doubt all who saw him will be happy to greet his reappearance. He seems familiar with the ‘boards.’”

The carpet for the Presbyterian Church arrived in time to be put down for the Thanksgiving service. Details.

Wednesday, December 8, 1880

3.

Ad with drawing of Bitting Brothers Clothing Store.

Workmen were busy last week putting up the wire for the circuit telephone.

Finlay Ross has broken ground for a 40 foot extension on the rear of his furniture store.

Charley Smyth left on Monday for a visit to relatives at his old house, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Announcement of a meeting of ex-Illinoisans to be held at Eagle Hall on Saturday, December 18th, at 1:00 pm. Signers included D. M. Dale, Frank Dale, and C. R. Miller.

A brick block, 100 feet on Douglas Avenue, and 70 feet on Lawrence Avenue, opposite Smyth and Keatings, is in contemplation. Mr. L. B. Bunnell is the gentleman talking of putting up the block.

4.

Richey House ad with list of distances to nearby towns.

Wednesday, December 15, 1880

2.

Proceedings of City Council meeting on December 13th. Mr. Thomas A. Bayley was appointed to position of City Engineer.

3.

First term of the Wichita College will close on Wednesday, December 15th.

The foundation was begun last week for Mr. Shelton’s new residence, corner of 2nd Street
and Market Street.

Mr. L. B. Ferrell has purchased the Ainsworth residence on north Emporia Avenue.

Messrs. Bunnell and Roys have purchased the Hope home property on Market Street.

Mr. William Mathewson has opened a house on Douglas Avenue a few doors west of Main, on the south side on the avenue (Douglas Avenue). He deals in flour, feed, game, poultry, hides and furs.

Report of marriage on December 9th of Charles Schnitzler and Annie Youngmeyer, both of Wichita.

The west room of the Greiffenstein brick on Douglas Avenue is being fitted up for the Kansas State Bank. Mr. L. D. Skinner has his goods here, and the bank will open in a few days. The Lombard Mortgage Company will occupy the same building.

Our cracker factory has not yet got to work. Mr. Weisner is waiting the arrival of skilled hands from Kansas City and St. Louis to begin operations.

Wednesday, December 22, 1880

The examination of the students of the Wichita College was held at the residence of the Principal, Dr. De Lew, on Thursday and Friday last week. The College roll contains four names, a modest number, yet a beginning. Details. The second term of the College will begin after the holidays.

An organization has been perfected in this city to make a thorough search in this vicinity for coal and oil. They are now negotiating for machinery to work to the depth of 1000 feet. The company now has about 50 members. Stock is valued at $25 a share.

Wednesday, December 29, 1880

The second term of the Wichita College will begin on January 10th.

Report of proceedings of City Council on December 27th. Ordinance 242 passed, providing for a record of deaths in the city of Wichita. City Engineer T. A. Bayley was paid $17.50.

Mr. Crow, proprietor of the Wichita soap factory, says that he manufactures an average of 400 cases of soap, each weighing 75 pounds, per month. Details.