

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.

Subject(s): Gifford

Wichita Eagle

Wednesday, April 27, 1910

page

5. Another long article discussing the Munger house and the log cabin in Riverside park -- the latter claimed by Fred Sowers to have been Wichita's first saloon, operated by John Gifford.

Wichita Eagle

Sunday, May 1, 1910

page

8. Letter to *Eagle* from A. W. Yale saying he came to Wichita in November 1868 and the only house and store here then was that of a Charles Gifford, and that Munger was just then building his house and was boarding at Gifford's.

Wichita Beacon

Sunday, March 13, 1927

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- B-1. J. E. Watts, now living at Parshall, Colorado, is a patient at St. Francis Hospital and tells his reminiscences of his first visit to Wichita in 1868. ¶ There was then only a struggling group of shacks and stockades along the east bank of the Little River a few blocks above Central Avenue. The only hotel was the Vigus Hotel, a house built of slabs standing on end and covered with dirt. There were three small stores, one on the Durfee ranch, another run by L. D. Lewellen, and the third by a squaw man named Greenway. This was all the town there was when I came to Wichita as a boy of 12 with my uncle, M. A. Sayles, and my grandmother, in 1868. My grandmother took up a claim on the east side of the little river and my uncle took another between the two rivers. ¶ Says he saw a statement a few years ago to the effect that William Finn of Sedgwick taught the first school in Wichita. Says this is a mistake. The first person to teach school in Wichita was Nora Yale, who taught a school in Charles Gifford's house, just south of the Munger home on the east bank of the Little River. "That was in the spring of 1869, and I went to school to her." William Finn taught school the next fall in a house farther north, that had been built by an army officer and abandoned when the soldiers left here. ¶ Further details.

