

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Townsend Sibley purchased the farm owned by Henry & Marth Saunders on June 16, 1856 and the hamlet of Sibley was built on the northwest corner of the Sibley farm. In 1866-67, the Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Galveston Railroad built its line south from Lawrence along the west boundary line of the Sibley farm. The hamlet was established by the early 1870s. After a bankruptcy, the LL&G was acquired by the Santa Fe Railroad in December 1880.

As early as 1865, there were at least three coal mining operations along the banks of Coal Creek just west of Blue Mound. The Sibley coal mine was located along the west side of the creek south of the Sibley home. The railroad depot later was renamed Sibleyville because there was already a station at Sibley, Missouri. The post office, however, remained simply Sibley. According to "Our Community Memoirs: History of Sibley (Sibleyville) Kansas," May Cowles who grew up in the Sibley area recalled that in the 1890s, Sibley had a grain elevator and mill, rail station, post office, Wells Fargo express, a creamery, cider mill, sorghum mill, general store, blacksmith shop, and a few homes. In the 1894 "Kansas State Gazeteer," the hamlet was described as located on the Southern Kansas branch of the ATSF RR six miles south of Lawrence. The hamlet had 30 residents. J.C. Baker was postmaster and operated a general store and corn mill. J.A. McNees was the railroad agent and sold farm implements. By the 1922 "Kansas State Gazeteer," the population was 15. Mrs. E. H. Tuttle was postmaster; O.E. Karnes operated a grocery and grain business.

According to the "History of Sibley," in 1882 the Reynolds Brothers operated the Sibley store. John C. Baker operated the store from 1885-1896. Oliver Karnes followed as storekeeper, then his son Eugene and his wife Lizzie until 1915. Other storekeepers were Charles Yandle, Elmer Hunter, Wm. Cox, Midge Deshields, Harold and Beech Marshall, Robert Elston, Gleen Carter, and Harold Hutton, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Warrington purchased the store for a home in 1946. In 1885 Oliver Karnes operated the cider mill and in the 1890s he built a small elevator and enlarged it in 1904 adding a stock yard. Fred Woods and Ben Piper operated the creamery until cream separators became widely used.

Compiled by Dale Nimz, 2014.