

## CHAPTER XVII.

*Topeka's Educational Facilities—Public Schools, Colleges and Other Institutions—High School and Manual Training Departments—The City's Churches and Their History—Early Pastors and Those of the Present Time—Religious Societies, Fraternal Orders and Club Organizations.*

If any one thing more than another can be said to have made Topeka famous, it is her magnificent school system, which is hardly surpassed by that of any city in the United States. The founders of Topeka were educated men, some of them coming here directly from college, and after organizing the Topeka Town Association, and reducing the territory to lots, almost their first thought was to provide educational facilities in keeping with the plans they had formed for establishing a large and important city. Early in the month of February, 1856, the association took up a collection for building a school house, and levied an assessment upon its shares for the same purpose, a suitable site having been donated near the corner of Harrison street and Sixth avenue, where the Harrison School now stands. Before the school house could be erected, private schools were opened in convenient locations, so that the school system was practically inaugurated in 1856, before the new city was three months old. In 1857 the New England Emigrant Aid Company erected the first school building. The first direct tax for school purposes was levied in 1862, providing for the running expenses of the schools and for a building fund. The old Harrison street school was the first school building erected at public expense. The first of the school buildings erected in North Topeka was at No. 128 Kansas avenue north, the cost being \$1,350. Beginning with the year 1868, the city made liberal appropriations for educational purposes and for additional buildings, the amount for that year being \$10,000. In 1869 the sum of \$40,000 was appropriated, and buildings commenced at Nos. 50, 52 and 54 Monroe street, and at the southeast corner of Monroe and Fifth—the latter being known as the Lincoln School. The Lincoln School, when completed, cost \$55,000. Another school building was erected in 1871 on the southeast corner of Quincy and Gordon streets, North Topeka, at a cost of \$28,000. The building occupied by Washburn College, at the northeast corner of 10th avenue and

Jackson street, was also purchased by the city, for \$15,000, and a small building for school use erected on the corner of Quincy and 13th streets. From 1861 to 1871 the sum of \$155,000 was spent for buildings and equipment, providing facilities for 2,000 pupils and 28 teachers. During the ensuing 10 years several new buildings were constructed and most of the old ones enlarged, the value of the public school property at the close of 1880 being over \$200,000, and the school population, 4,728.

#### GROWTH OF SCHOOLS.

The school idea which possessed the founders of the city has retained its hold upon their successors, and at the close of the year 1904 Topeka had 23 first-class public school buildings, valued at \$700,000, a school population of 10,665, an enrollment of 6,437, and employed 211 teachers. The annual cost of conducting the city schools is \$150,000. A model High School building was constructed in 1893 on the northwest corner of Harrison street and Eighth avenue, at a cost of \$85,000, and in 1904 a Manual Training School was completed on the southwest corner of the same streets, at a cost of \$100,000. These institutions are the culmination of the hopes and efforts of Topeka's progressive and far-seeing Board of Education, which is composed of the following members: First Ward,—C. C. Nicholson and E. E. Miller; Second Ward,—F. E. Mallory and W. H. Wilson; Third Ward,—J. W. Gleed and Edward Wilder; Fourth Ward,—Jonathan D. Norton and T. F. Garver; Fifth Ward,—C. F. Hardy and D. L. Hoatson; Sixth Ward,—E. E. Roudebush and L. C. Bailey. F. E. Mallory is president of the board, and T. F. Garver vice-president, and J. E. Stewart, clerk.

L. D. Whittemore is the present superintendent of the city schools. His predecessors in the office have been: W. H. Butterfield, 1867-69; J. A. Banfield, 1869-71; A. W. Haines, 1871-72; W. H. Butterfield, 1872-81; D. C. Tillotson, 1881-86; John M. Bloss, 1886-92; William M. Davidson, 1892-1904; L. D. Whittemore, 1904—. The Board of Education has had the following clerks: L. C. Wilmarth, 1867-69; J. A. Banfield, 1869-71; E. B. Fowler, 1871-72; R. H. C. Searle, 1872-75; T. H. Church, 1875-76; Hiram W. Farnsworth, 1876-99; J. E. Stewart, 1899-1905.

The following table shows the designation of the several schools, names of principals and enrollment of pupils:

SCHOOL.	PRINCIPAL.	ENROLLMENT.
High School .....	H. L. Miller .....	897
Grant .....	E. A. Simmerwell .....	455
Quincy .....	E. F. Stanley .....	482
Lincoln .....	W. H. Wright .....	478

*History of Shawnee Co.*  
AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

191

*James L. King,  
Richmond & Arnold,  
pub., Chicago  
1905*

SCHOOL.	PRINCIPAL.	ENROLLMENT.
Branner .....	H. W. Jones .....	452
Lafayette .....	E. H. Roudebush .....	350
Garfield .....	Carrie Goddard .....	340
Van Buren .....	Elizabeth Guy .....	61
Jackson .....	Fenella H. Dana .....	61
Polk .....	Elizabeth Tharp .....	412
Euclid .....	Madge E. Moore .....	290
Lowman Hill .....	Lola A. Graham .....	190
Clay .....	O. P. M. McClintock .....	350
Potwin .....	Eliza Nagle .....	220
Summer .....	G. H. Mays .....	352
Harrison .....	Eli G. Foster .....	324
Lane .....	S. G. Watkins .....	131
Madison .....	R. H. Wade .....	123
Washington .....	J. L. Harrison .....	145
Monroe .....	Fred Roundtree .....	139
Douglas .....	Mary E. Langston .....	51
Buchanan .....	C. F. Clinkscale .....	134
Manual Training .....	H. L. Miller .....	—
Total .....		6,437

WASHBURN COLLEGE.

In 1858 John Ritchie donated 160 acres of land directly southwest from the city as the site for a college, which was proposed to be established by the Congregational churches of Kansas. The college was located in Topeka in 1858, changed to Lawrence in 1859, and relocated at Topeka in 1860, under the name of Topeka Institute. When the incorporation was effected in 1865, at the close of the war, the name of Lincoln College was substituted. The first building was erected in that year on the northeast corner of 10th avenue and Jackson street, at a cost of \$8,000, and in the month of January, 1866, the institution was opened with Rev. Samuel D. Bowker as principal, and Professors E. D. Hobart and George H. Collier as assistants. The first president was Rev. H. Q. Butterfield, who was succeeded in 1871 by Rev. Peter MacVicar. The catalogue issued in 1867 gave the number of students as 92, and contained the following names of trustees: Lewis Bodwell, S. D. Storrs, J. D. Liggett, Ira H. Smith, Richard Cordley, Harrison Hannahs, John Ritchie, Harvey D. Rice, William E. Bowker, J. W. Fox and Hiram W. Farnsworth.

The name of the institution was changed to Washburn College in 1868, in honor of one of the benefactors, Ichabod Washburn, of Worcester, Massachusetts, who contributed \$25,000 to the endowment fund. A new building was erected on the permanent site in 1870, at a cost of \$60,000, and since that date 10 other large and substantial buildings have been erected, the last