

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF PLAINS, KANSAS, INCLUDING  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION AND THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF THE KANSAS STATE  
TEACHERS COLLEGE OF EMPORIA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF SCIENCE

By

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July, 1953

Rec'd 3-16-54. Gift from author.

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I GRATEFULLY DEDICATE THIS  
SURVEY TO MY WIFE, WHO HAS BEEN  
A GREAT HELP AND INSPIRATION

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A survey of this kind cannot be made without the assistance of many persons who had both materials and knowledge of the topics covered in this thesis.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the help given him by various residents of the Plains community. Special acknowledgments are due to Miss Ola Granger, County Superintendent of Meade, Kansas, for her help in locating historical documents in her office; to Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Novinger, who supplied much firsthand information on certain incidents; and to the officers of the various churches for information offered for the section concerning the church histories.

The author wishes to especially acknowledge the help of Dr. Don Davis, Head of the Department of Education, Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, for his help and inspiration.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

On the open plains of western Kansas is a small town which has stood stalwartly despite droughts, dust storms, and depressions. This particular town is West Plains, or Plains, as it is more commonly known.

This historical survey was made by the author because of the interest in the community in which he has been employed. The main purpose of the survey is to show the remarkable development of this town with particular stress on the development of the town's public school. After reading these accounts it is hoped that the reader will come to have a deeper appreciation for the present public school as a result of the labors of the pioneer fathers.

Data for the survey were secured from a variety of sources. Some of these sources were interviews with pioneers, short histories of various sorts, records from the county courthouse, and newspaper clippings. Since no authentic records have been kept of many items of historic interest it is difficult to insure that all of the accounts are absolutely accurate and true. In all accounts the materials used were checked, one against another, to secure as true a picture as possible.

Plains is typical of the development of most western Kansas communities. The cycles of success and failure that are recorded in the history of Plains are also present in the histories of her sister communities. The occupations, the interests, and the needs of the people have remained the same down through the pages of history. This survey typifies the struggles and hardships of the early pioneers to build a better life.

These early people are to be commended for the courage and adventurous spirit which they exhibited. May these writings serve as a tribute to the people who had a part in the building of Plains.

It is the hope of the writer that many people will secure some measure of enjoyment and profit from reading the events as they are recorded here.