

## SUMMARY OF HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF WELLSVILLE

The following extract from Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas* summarizes the history of Wellsville from 1870 through 1882:

"This town is located on the Kansas City, Lawrence & Southern Kansas Railroad, near the northeast corner of the county, and is surrounded by gently rolling, fertile prairie, now converted into excellent farms. The town site was purchased in 1870, of J. Emerson, by P. P. Elder, of this county, and J. B. Shute, of Chicago, the latter of whom platted the town site. In August of that year J. C. Sinclair and C. C. Cox built the first dwelling house, and in the fall, H. N. Brockway opened the first store. About the same time Aaron Brown started the first blacksmith shop. Mr. Brown, as also J. N. Bell, completed a dwelling house in the spring of 1871. The second store was opened in 1872 by Parker & Ray. A hotel was built in 1875, designed when built for a residence, but afterward remodeled. A drug store was started in 1876 by Paul Laberrier. In 1877, an elevator was built, at a cost of \$5,000, with a capacity of 1,200 bushels. In 1878, Nathaniel Steen started a wagon shop. In 1879, E. E. Wilkins purchased the town site, and by pursuing a liberal policy towards men who desired to locate for business or residence purposes, has done much towards building up a thriving village.

The first school was taught by Miss Ella Brown in 1871. The present schoolhouse was erected in 1881. It is a two-story frame building, 32X56 feet, twenty-four feet high, will seat 260 pupils, and cost \$3,500.

The postoffice was established in 1872, W. S. Brockway being appointed first Postmaster. With the exception of about six months, he has held the position ever since.

The first birth in Wellsville was that of Catharine Kennedy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kennedy, in 1870; the first marriage that of John C. Heffley to Miss Della Tinny, December 25, 1878; and the first death that of a daughter of Aaron Brown in May, 1871.

Wellsville contains at present four general stores, two drug stores, two hardware stores, two blacksmith shops, one furniture store, one lumber yard, one wagon shop, one newspaper, and about 300 inhabitants.

The Congregational Church was organized in 1873 by Rev. T. C. Kinney, and a church edifice erected the same year, at a cost of \$1,400. The membership upon organization was eight; at present there are fifty members on the roll.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1875. The first minister was Rev. J. P. Stevens. Their church was erected in 1877, at a cost of about \$2,000. The present membership of the church is sixty.

The Methodist Church was organized in 1881 by Rev. J. W. Stewart. In June of the same year they dedicated their church, which had just been completed, and cost about \$2,500. The present membership of this church is sixty.

The United Presbyterians organized a society in 1882, but as yet have no church building erected.

Wellsville Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 135, was organized in 1876, with seven members, and the following officers: John Widney, N. G.; F. P. Wellman, Sec.; and L. W. Hostetter, Treas. The present membership is forty-five.

Wellsville Lodge, I. O. G. T., was organized in the fall of 1881, with the following officers: J. A. Laing, W. C.; Miss M. E. Brockway, V. T.; H. N. Brockway, P. W. C.; Frank Colwell, Sec.; and C. F. Johnson, Treas. The lodge now numbers fifty members.

The Wellsville News was started by Dr. H. M. Bennett April 20, 1882. It is a five-column folio, and is devoted to local news, and the interests of Wellsville and vicinity. It attained a circulation of 300 copies within three months from its establishment."

### **INCORPORATION OF CITY OF WELLSVILLE**

The previous extract from Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas* was published the year before Wellsville was incorporated as the City of Wellsville:

"This day came before me. Judge of the Fourth Judicial District, which includes Franklin county, the petition praying that the village of Wellsville, in said county and state, be incorporated as a city of the third class, these petitioners being present by their representative, A. W. Bishop.

"The said Judge having heard the petition and being well advised in the premises, doth find that the said petition is signed by the majority of the electors of the village of Wellsville, in said county and state, and that said petition has been published in full, once each week, for three consecutive weeks in the Wellsville News, a paper printed in said village, and that said petition sets out the metes and bounds and number of inhabitants of said village, and the Judge aforesaid, finding that a majority of the taxable inhabitants are in favor of the incorporation, and that the prayer of said petitioners is reasonable, and that the number of inhabitants exceed two hundred and fifty and does not exceed two thousand. It is, therefore, by the said Judge as aforesaid, declared that the said village of Wellsville be and is incorporated as a city of the third class, under the name and style of the city of Wellsville, with metes and bounds as follows:

"The city of Wellsville occupies all of that tract or parcel of land situated in Franklin county, state of Kansas, described as follows, to-wit:

"The north-east quarter of section twenty-eight, (28), of township number fifteen (15), in range number twenty-one (21), excepting the part of said section which is occupied as a farm by J. W. Stoner, and in his deed described as follows, to-wit:

"Beginning at the north-east corner of the north-east quarter of section twenty-eight, (28), of township number fifteen, (15), in range number twenty-one, (21), east, thence west seventy-nine and one half, (79 1/2), rods to the center of Maple street in the town of Wellsville thence south in the center of said street one hundred, (100) rods, thence east three hundred and fifty, (350) feet, thence south one hundred and forty-nine (149) feet, thence north eighty-seven and one-half, (87 1/2) degrees, east fifty-seven, (57) rods to the east line of said section twenty-eight, (28), thence north one hundred and forty-seven and forty-two one-hundredths, (147 42-100) rods to the place of beginning.

"And it is further ordered that the first election in said city of Wellsville, be held July 8th, 1884 at the Wilkins House, in said city, for the purpose of electing a Mayor, Police Judge and five City Councilmen, who shall hold office until the next regular election, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

"Frank Cramer, Jno. Hartung and J. T. Pindell are designated as judges of election; David Cope and W. D. Little are designated as clerks of said election; H. M. Bennett, S. L. Brooking and E. E. Wilkins are designated as a board of canvassers.

"Done at Lawrence, this 19th day of June 1884.

N. T. Stephens, District Judge.

### **THE FIRST ELECTION**

"On the eighth day of July, 1884, the voters of Wellsville held their first municipal election. A Board of Canvassers, consisting of E. E. Wilkins, S. L. Brooking and H. M. Bennett met on the ninth day of July, 1884, and canvassed the vote with the following result:

A. W. Bishop, Mayor.  
Jno. W. Smith, Police Judge.

Councilmen.

J. C. Simmons, John Hartung, W. D. Little, W. S. Brockway, Jno. Wilkins.

At the first meeting the following officers were appointed:

J. C. Sinclair, City Treasurer.  
J. L. Truex, City Clerk.  
Henry Zoller, City Marshall.