

Bypaths of Kansas History

WHEN STEAMBOATS TRIED TO PLY THE ARKANSAS RIVER

From the *Oxford Times*, July 20, 1871.

RIVER NEWS.—Owing to low water, there have been but few arrivals or departures.

Capt. Robinson reports that on his last trip, when about halfway to this port, the steam pipe of the City of Oxford burst with a tremendous explosion. When the confusion subsided, the chambermaid was found to be a total wreck, and the first cook had lost his frying pan overboard.

He also reports as much danger in getting over bars as to stand in front of them—barrin which navigation is good.

The cable across the river is in good working order, and the dispatches come regular. All mosquitos on the line have been discharged.

A NOVEL AUCTION AT COLUMBUS

From the *Parsons Daily Sun*, July 6, 1915.

COLUMBUS, KAN., July 6.—A. E. Wellington and John Low, partners in a livery business for the past three years in Columbus felt like dissolving partnership this morning, but they didn't know the best way to consummate the deal. They sat on a bench together in the barn.

"Let's flip a dollar, winner to set his price on his share," suggested Wellington.

"Nope, you're too lucky."

"Well, then let's auction a share, we two to be the bidders, the highest bidder takes the whole thing."

"That sounds all right," replied Low. "And you can be the auctioneer."

"What am I offered?" asked Wellington.

"Twenty-five hundred."

"Twenty-six," said the auctioneer.

"Another hundred," said Low.

"Raise you a hundred," Wellington bid in.

"That makes it twenty-eight, will you make it twenty-nine?"

"Twenty-nine," was the echo and the bidding stopped a moment.

"I believe it's worth three thousand to me," came from Wellington.

"Will you make it thirty-one? Will you bid thirty-one? Going, going at"—then Low asked for a little time to think it over.

"Why, man, you've had six months to think it over. We mentioned it that long ago," argued the auctioneer and continued, "Are you all done at three thousand?"

"Yep, you've bought something," and John Low began preparing the necessary transfer papers to his partner. F. J. Jamson, a veterinarian, who has an office at the barn, was the clerk and official witness and his office was included in the sale.