

THE TOWN WELL.

By Donald K. Jones.

Did you know that we once had a town well?

In the Kansas City Kansan of May 1, 1921, Mrs. D. J. Griest, who at the time lived at 1806 Central Avenue, stated it was located on the south side of Minnesota Avenue near Sixth Street.

To be exact it was in front of the two-story building, just to the west of UMB Bank.

In 1921 she still thought it was at this location, but had been covered for some years. When it was taken out of service it was covered over, first with steel beams, then with an arch of concrete.

She said that some thirty to forty years previous to 1921, this well supplied water for drinking, as well as cooking for the "old inhabitants" of the country town known as Wyandott. A hand pump was used to bring the water up and at almost any hour someone was using the pump to get drinking water or perhaps to water a horse at the trough next to it.

In the article Mrs. Griest told that the only time the well failed was when a team of mules ran away and hit the pump breaking it off and the people were compelled to use the rather poor city water until a new pump was installed.

The Griest family lived in the 600 block of Minnesota Avenue in those early days and her husband operated the "Wyandott Lumber Co. that was located where the UMB Bank is today.

The Wyandotte Lumber Company was forced to move from Sixth and Minnesota when the First Presbyterian Church filed suit to claim that corner for their church. When the church moved to Seventh and Nebraska in 1890, the property was sold and the Portsmouth Building was built at that location, which in turn was raxed in 1924 for the Commercial National Bank, now UMB. Bank at that location. The two-story building that fronts on the location of the old town well was originally the Portsmouth Annex, which has been remodeled several times.

THE HUSTED BUILDING

By Donald K. Jones

"The Largest and Handsomest Office Building in the State Completed," were the headlines of THE KANSAS CITY DAILY GAZETTE, Vol. 4, No. 106, of 7/22/1890.

The Minnesota Avenue Building Company, were the owners of the building, a corporation made up of local as well as eastern capitalists. The idea for the building came from F. D. Mills and the corporation was organized with a capital of \$100,000.00. The corporate officers were as follows: D. R. Emmons, president; F. D. Mills, vice president; C. M. White, secretary and treasurer. The directors were D. R. Emmons, James D. Husted, F. D. Mills, W. R. Stebbens and C. M. White. Mr. Stebbens resides in New York City and is the only out of town director.

The plans for the building were completed in Chicago, a local architect was needed to see that the plans were carried out as drawn and Mr. W. F. Wood, who was recognized as one of the leading men in his profession in either Kansas City. The First Presbyterian Church and the Portsmouth Building, both of which were under construction at this period in time, were also built on designs by Mr. Wood.

The contract for construction was let in three portions. First, the excavations; second, the foundation and thirdly the superstructure. All three contracts were awarded to J. J. Hannan. He was a veteran builder of that era. While it is said that his prices were not always the lowest, his stamp of guarantee that he provided, had placed him in high demand.

James Snedden had charge of the painting, decorating and sign work. He used only the best of materials and only employed first class workmen. The sign work on the doors and windows of the building were said to be triumphs of the decorator's art.

The building was named for the "Husted Investment Co." in honor of its president, Mr. James D. Husted. **The Husted Investment Co.** occupied the entire first floor.

Other tenants were as follows:

Mills, White & Wells, attorney's, ground floor.

Ford & Troup Investment and Loan Company, real estate in rooms 206,207 and 208

American Land and Trust Company, real estate, rooms 307 and 308.

Clogston, Hamilton, Fuller & Cubbison, attorney's, rooms 201 and 203.

Anderson & Littick, attorney's, room 301 and 302.

L. H. Rose Commercial Agency, attorney, room 304. Handling mercantile claims, collects rents and debts, secures claims and forecloses mechanics' liens and mortgages.

Messrs. Reed & Reed, attorney's at law, rooms 303 and 304.

Will T. Walker, pension attorney, rooms 307 and 308 with Ford & Troup.

Charles B. Riley, attorney, room 206.

Silas Porter, attorney, room 316.

At 2:18 a. m. on May 10th, 1917, the building was destroyed by fire. It was a 2 - alarm fire and all but No. 7 company in Argentine were dispatched to that location

Mrs. T. A. Mosley.

The Kansan of 7/5/1925 reported the death of Mrs. T. A. Mosley of 846 Barnett Avenue.

Mrs. Mosley died unexpectedly on the afternoon of 7/ 4/1925, of a stroke of apoplexy.

Mrs. Mosley was a granddaughter of William Henry Harrison, ninth president of the United States. She was born September 2, 1860, in Richmond, VA. Her maiden name was Mary Harrison.

Mrs. Mosley and her husband were in the floral business at 731 Minnesota Avenue. She was a charter member of the Women's Commercial Club; Martha Conclave, Order of True Kindred; Mendias chapter, O. E. S.; the St. Paul's Guild and the Missionary Society of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Her funeral services were held on 7/ 6/1925 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 720 State Avenue, with interment in Highland Park cemetery. The pallbearers were E. R. Callender, W. T. Maunder, O. G. Maurer, M. Carter, J. N. Foster, Francis Glanville and Ed. Ellsworth.

She was survived by her husband T. A. Mosley, of the home; two daughters, Mrs. Katherine Beaman, of the home; and Mrs. Roy E. Aikmus, 834 Garfield Avenue; three granddaughters and two great grandchildren.