

## Tuesday Topics - March 1, 2022

### Summary

Tuesday Topics, March 1, 2022, featured Dr. Eric Anderson, professor at Haskell Indian Nations University, who provided league members and guests an excellent presentation, "Resettlement and Re-education of Indians in Kansas 1830-1900."

President Carole Jordan reminded everyone that March is Women's History Month. She thanked the observers for their work, reminded us to think about the Ukraine voters (Ukraine is a democracy) and suggested contacting Vicki Arnette if you want information about contributing to relief for Ukraine. The first book club meeting is scheduled for March 11. The Annual meeting will be held in-person at the library on April 5.

Following her announcements, Carole introduced Dr. Anderson who first thanked the league for the opportunity to speak and gave special thanks to several league members who facilitated the March Tuesday Topics.

Dr. Anderson explained the title of his presentation. "Resettlement" refers to Native Americans being displaced due to white demands, treaties and removal policies. They had settled the area long before white settlers arrived. A map of the first natives to settle here included Pawnee, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kansa, Kiowa, Comanche and Osage. New native groups moved in and the older groups were pushed out.

Missionaries were among the first to come. They wanted to re-educate the natives so they would become Christians, accept white ways, and forget their native culture and religious beliefs. Removing children from their homes and separating them from the traditional native culture was an important aspect of the mission schools.

Shawnee Indian Mission was established in 1839 followed in 1859 by the Kaw Indian Mission in Council Grove and the Ottawa Baptist Mission in 1867 for the Ottawa tribe. The Ottawas left Kansas for Oklahoma Territory. Many died and only 200 remained. Ottawa land in Kansas became the site of Ottawa University.

The first school in Kansas located in Fairway, Kansas, was founded by Rev. Samuel Johnson at the Shawnee Indian Mission. Johnson County bears his name.

Haskell Indian boarding school began in 1884 when the federal government opened three such schools in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The schools followed the R.H. Pratt Carlisle model. Pratt used photographs to show his success in "civilizing" the Indians whose culture whites distained. A coined saying was "Kill the Indian and Save the Man." Curriculum at the schools focused on trade and shops were organized by gender. An expanded curriculum, including shorthand, was initiated for a short time but reverted to the trades. Much of the students' work was drudgery – laundry, painting, carpentry and fencing. Students were in basic studies half the

day and in the shops the other half. Boys also worked on the school farm. Students were expected to attend church regularly. Haskell has a history of an interest in sports, especially football and basketball.

Disease, illness and death were the result of environmental factors - crowded dormitories, cold weather, and nutrition.

Dr. Anderson said, "We need to question conflicts of the past, continuity and change, and our own views."

Audience questions included one about efforts being made to get the remains of children who had died at the schools. That would be a multi-year effort and is not currently active. One person mentioned some offensive language posted at the Kaw Mission referring to "ungrateful children." When asked what the percentage of Indians today live on a reservation, Dr. Anderson said the majority are urban residents and outnumber those on a reservation. The issue came up about parents allowing their young children to go to the mission schools. Some parents volunteered to have their children miles away from home. Promises were made that parents could visit their children. In the 1890s compulsory education began and Indian police were told to round up children. Some leaders saw benefits in an education. Pratt told them if they had spoken English they would have been able to read the treaties they signed.