

# The Daily Times

THE TIMES TELLS THE TRUTH

SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 22, 1907.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* FIFTY-TWO YEARS EASTON \*  
 \* POSTOFFICE HAS LASTED \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Special to The Times.

Fifty-two years ago Saturday (December 21) the postoffice at Easton, in Leavenworth county, was established with Armistead Dawson as postmaster. This is the third oldest postoffice in the county, outside of Fort Leavenworth, that at Kickapoo having been established January 24, and that at Leavenworth, March 6, 1855.

Armistead Dawson, the first postmaster at Easton, was also the first white settler of what is now Easton township. As early as 1852, before Kansas was open for settlement, he established a trading house at what was known as Dawson's Ford, on Stranger Creek, on the old Fort Riley road, at the present site of Easton. In 1855 Dawson sold out to Stephen Minard, who opened the first hotel at the place, S. F. Rhea having laid out and platted the town in March of that year. Those at the head of this pioneer municipal project were Armistead Dawson, Gen. Lucien J. Eastin, at that time editor of the Leavenworth Herald, and Col. Wm. G. Mathias. The town was originally named "Eastin," after Gen. Eastin, but later, in deference to Governor Reeder's liking for his native town, Easton (Pa.), the "i" was dropped from the name and "o" substituted.

In the early '50s Armistead Dawson married a daughter of Paschal Penseau, a Frenchman, who had settled among the Kickapoo Indians, in what is now Leavenworth county, as early as 1833, as trader and interpreter. Penseau had married a Kickapoo Indian woman. The Indian name of his daughter, whom Dawson married, was Pa-pa-ne-ah, or Peponies, as she is generally called. She lived with Dawson only about three years when she left him and went back to her tribe, taking her baby with her. Dawson induced another son-in-law of Penseau's, named Whipple, to steal the child from its mother when it was three or four years old, and he (Dawson) kept it until his death. This child, whose name was John Dawson, was raised and educated by George

Storch, a well known citizen of Atchison. John Dawson died in Colorado several years ago. His mother, Peponie Penseau-Dawson, afterwards married a Kickapoo Indian named Mas-quat, and she is still living on the Indian reservation in Brown county, at an advanced age. Armistead Dawson was a Kentucky-Missourian. How H. Miles Moore says he frequently saw him at Weston before Kansas was open for settlement. Dawson bought most of his goods for his Easton store at Weston. He was a cousin of "Uncle Tommy" and "Uncle Jimmy" Daniels, now living near Kickapoo.

Among the other early settlers of Easton township were S. F. Rhea, H. B. Gale, Joshua Turner, Jackson Crane, A. K. Adamson, Joshua Hall, Stephen Sparks, L. Gwartney, Thomas Snoddy, Charles Foster, J. F. Colyer, Giles Henderson, A. E. Cleavinger and the Ollivants and Thornburgs.

George Remsburg: "Who remembers when Sam Twombly was a policeman in Atchison some 35 years or more ago? I was a newspaper reporter there then, and followed Sam around on his beat many a time, trying to coax an item out of him. I now have a good item about him. He is now Rev. Samuel Twombly, and has been pastor of the Latter Day Saints church at Fanning, in Doniphan county, for a number of years. I have just learned that he has been assigned to the state of Oklahoma as evangelist for the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints. In connection with his evangelical work in years past, since leaving Atchison, he has found time to make archaeological investigations in the ancient cliff and pueblo ruins of the Southwest, and has given some instructive illustrated lectures along those lines. So it will be seen Sam is quite versatile. The last time I saw him was shortly before moving to California, about fifteen years ago. I accompanied Dr. Dinsmore of Troy on an exploration of the ancient Pawnee Indian village site on Wolf river, near Fanning, and we called on Rev. Twombly, who lived near the site. He entertained us very hospitably and agreeably."

MAY 10, 1930.

See also  
 v2,  
 p. 204