

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SODEN'S MILL

1860 - 1941

A Thesis

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by

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F. L. H.

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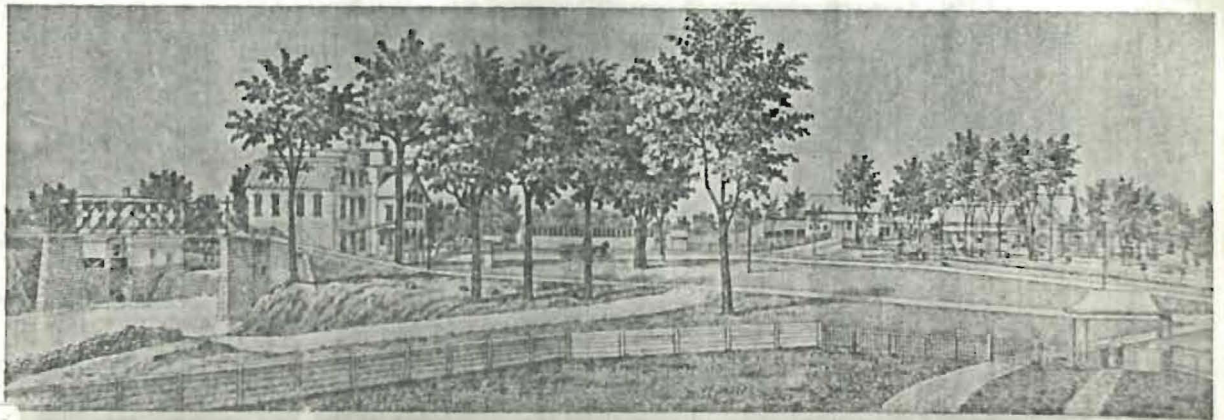
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HOME AND SURROUNDINGS OF W. T. SODEN.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Problem of the thesis . . . . .	1
Review of previous studies. . . . .	1
Method of procedure . . . . .	3
Sources of material used. . . . .	4
II. THE HISTORY OF MILLING IN KANSAS . . . . .	6
The years before 1860 . . . . .	6
1860 - 1874 . . . . .	8
Hard winter wheat . . . . .	11
Decline of the small mill . . . . .	14
The Twentieth Century . . . . .	16
Summary . . . . .	18
III. WILLIAM T. SODEN . . . . .	20
Kansas bound. . . . .	20
Haworth saw and grist mill. . . . .	21
The county seat war . . . . .	24
Emporia National Bank . . . . .	26
Arnold and Company. . . . .	27
Civic investments . . . . .	29
Family tree . . . . .	30
Justin Rosenthal Soden. . . . .	31
The death of William T. Soden . . . . .	33

CHAPTER	PAGE
IV. THE EMPORIA WATER MILLS . . . . .	35
A dam and water rights . . . . .	36
Soden versus the city of Emporia . .	38
The mill construction. . . . .	39
The fan mill . . . . .	43
Open for business. . . . .	46
Hard winter wheat. . . . .	49
Soden's Grove. . . . .	49
The Soden home . . . . .	54
Soden's Bridge . . . . .	54
1900 and Justin R. Soden . . . . .	57
The final end. . . . .	58
V. SUMMARY . . . . .	59
Restatement. . . . .	59
Contribution of this thesis. . . . .	63
BIBLIOGRAPHY. . . . .	64

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
1. Home and Surroundings of W. T. Soden . . . . .	11
2. William T. Soden . . . . .	19
3. Soden's Mill, Dam, and Arnold's Furniture Factory . . . . .	28
4. An Artists Sketch of Soden's Mill, Dam and Bridge . . . . .	34
5. Plan of the first Soden's Mill . . . . .	41
6. A Painting of Soden's Mill . . . . .	42
7. The Fan Mill . . . . .	44
8. Covered Wagons in Soden's Grove . . . . .	50
9. The First Soden's Iron and Steel Bridge . . . . .	55
10. The Present Soden's Cement Bridge . . . . .	56

## LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
1. Home and Surroundings of W. T. Soden . . . . .	ii
2. William T. Soden . . . . .	19
3. Soden's Mill, Dam, and Arnold's Furniture Factory . . . . .	28
4. An Artists Sketch of Soden's Mill, Dam and Bridge . . . . .	.34
5. Plan of the first Soden's Mill . . . . .	41
6. A Painting of Soden's Mill . . . . .	42
7. The Fan Mill . . . . .	44
8. Covered Wagons in Soden's Grove . . . . .	.50
9. The First Soden's Iron and Steel Bridge . . . . .	.55
10. The Present Soden's Cement Bridge . . . . .	.56



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Problem of the thesis. Research material relating to Soden's Mill is scarce. Flour has been the subject of careful examination of several scholars, however specialized studies of separate companies and businesses need to be done. The purpose of this study is two-fold; (1) to compile all possible information about the growth, development, and final end of Soden's Mill, into a single unit for historical preservation; (2) to show the integral part the small enterprise played in the agricultural and industrial development of the State of Kansas.

Review of previous studies. Two unpublished master's theses have explored the history and development of flour milling in Kansas and they have contributed information vital to the development of the historical background of this study. In 1926, Vernon O. Johns submitted a thesis to the University of Kansas entitled, "Development of the Flour Milling Industry in Kansas." John's study dealt with the industry's tendency toward concentration and toward increasing competition with Canadian flour. John's thesis also explained the importance in the development of the hard winter wheat in Chapter V.

The second milling thesis was written in 1939 by Paul M. Fisher and submitted to the University of Pennsylvania.<sup>1</sup> Chapter IV of Fisher's thesis briefly covered the pioneering period between 1840 and 1870. Chapter V and VI gave valuable but brief information concerning the milling industry since 1900. The railroad privilege was covered quite thoroughly in this study.

In addition to these theses several books have added to the information needed in the development of Soden's history. Anne Laughlin made a special study on Milling in Kansas for the National Youth Administration in 1940. This study provided an excellent description of the process of milling and the different types of mills. Leslie A. Fitz's "Development of Flour Milling Industry in Kansas," published in Vol. XII of The Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society was significant in pointing out the first mills in Kansas and their sources of power. Laura French's History of Emporia and Lyon County cited several instances of Soden lore around Emporia and also gave a good description of the mill. The importance of Soden's Grove to the area was also explained in Miss French's text.

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<sup>1</sup>Fisher, Paul M., "History and Development of the Flour Milling Industry in Kansas," (unpublished Master's thesis, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1939). From all existing evidence this study was based on the thesis submitted at the University of Kansas by Vernon O. Johns in 1926, except on one or two cited instances.

Numerous newspaper articles relate much of Soden's past. William Allen White devoted four full columns in the Emporia Gazette to William T. Soden, the mill, and the grove in 1906 at the time of Mr. Soden's death. Two more feature articles appeared in the Gazette on Soden's mill. The first was in 1942 when the final structure burned and the second was in June, 1957, the centennial issue. A biography of Justin R. Soden was published in the Southwestern Miller, in October, 1922. This article seemed devoted to W. T. Soden and the building of the mill instead of its purpose as a biographical sketch.

Method of procedure. The study of Soden's Mill begins with the history and development of milling in Kansas. The necessity of Chapter II is to show the conditions and circumstances of the times in which Soden had to operate his mill. This unit also shows the importance of the small mill in the development of the industry.

A biographical sketch of William T. Soden and family is the subject of Chapter III. Soden's trip to Kansas, and his experiences at Haworth's mill are retold in the chapter. His community interests and investments such as the county seat war, the first National bank in Emporia, the furniture factory which operated in conjunction with the mill, and Soden's family tree are thoroughly discussed.

Chapter IV recounts the events in the development of the Emporia Water Mills from the time of conception to the night of the fire which ended the production years of this enterprise. Soden's Grove and its importance to the city, to the county, and especially to the mill is related in this section.

The total result of these chapters is a study of the importance of a man and his business establishment to a frontier community and its years of progress.

Sources of material used. Several sources of material were used in the structure of this study. Material used includes: newspaper clippings, magazine articles, pamphlets, city directories, trade publications, Kansas and United States government reports, judicial decisions, other theses, encyclopedia material, books and personal interviews.

Books, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, encyclopedic material and pictures came from a range of sources. The William Allen White Library at the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia was found to contain books, encyclopedic material and monographs pertinent to the study. The Kansas collection in the Emporia City Library contained numerous books, city directories and Emporia newspapers on micro-film. Theses material was obtained from college libraries at the University of Kansas and the University of Pennsylvania.

The Kansas State Library and Kansas State Historical Society at Topeka aided in the efforts to find governmental reports and court reports.

Scrapbooks, pictures, historical monographs, and old newspaper clippings were secured from the Lyon County Museum.

The use of personal interviews completed the quest for information and the procurement of pictures.

Miss Margaret Soden, granddaughter of William T. Soden and daughter of Justin R. Soden, was very helpful with several personal interviews and she permitted the use of pictures which could not be replaced if damaged or lost.

## CHAPTER II

### MILLING IN KANSAS

Before 1860. Wheat production in the United States tended to be a crop of the frontier. One of the first thoughts of the settlers in establishing a new community was a means for providing themselves with bread.

Kansas was opened for settlement on May 30, 1854, and with the rush of the early pioneers, bread meant mills, therefore the milling industry in Kansas may be said to have had its beginning through necessity.

The first mills in Kansas were built before the pioneers started their settlement. The mills were few in number and were built by the government or by church missions to encourage the migration of the Indians from the eastern states.<sup>1</sup>

After the opening of the territory in 1854, the first few years of settlement into the eastern part of the territory was very rapid and between 1854 and 1860 a considerable number of pioneer grist mill establishments were located in the region. The greater number of these early establishments were operated by water power, built on the banks of small rivers and creeks, across which dams were thrown and water-wheels constructed to utilize the fall.

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<sup>1</sup>Johns, Vernon O., "Development of the Flour Milling Industry in Kansas," (unpublished Master's thesis, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, 1926), p. 13.

These early mills ground more corn than wheat. Probably the chief reason why corn was raised almost exclusively during early years was the fact that not much more labor was required to raise it than was required to raise wheat. Still another reason, perhaps, was the failure of the early settlers to perceive that the soil and climatic conditions would grow wheat more successfully than corn. And finally, corn was used because wheat grist was not as easy to prepare as corn meal.<sup>2</sup> Most of the early mills were "custom" mills; that is the miller ground the grain which the farmers brought to the mill, retaining for himself a share of the meal or flour, or charging the farmer a certain amount per bushel for grinding it.

One of the first commercial mills in the territory was a horse-powered mill built by an Indian in 1852 on the present site of Kansas City.<sup>3</sup> The first steam powered flouring mill was built in what is now Wyandotte County, by John McAlpine and James Washington in 1858.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Laughlin, Anne, Milling In Kansas, National Youth Administration, Industrial Study No. 1, (Topeka; State Administrator - New England Building, 1940), p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Johns, op. cit., p. 21

<sup>4</sup> Fitz, Leslie A., "Development of Flour Milling Industry in Kansas," Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1911-1912, XII (Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1912), p. 53.

Before 1860 several pioneer mills dotted the territorial maps. The cities of Doniphan, Leavenworth, East Leavenworth, or "slabtown" as it was called in 1854, Eudora and Blue Mound had well established grist mills providing their settlers the necessary means for obtaining flour.<sup>5</sup>

1860-1874. Between the years 1860 and 1874, three types of mills evolved, representing progressive stages of development in the industry -- custom, exchange, and merchant mills. During this fourteen year period, there was a large increase in the number of small mills, which multiplied very rapidly as the population of the state grew and settlement was pushed farther into the interior of the state. In 1860 there were 36 grist mills in Kansas with an average capital investment of about \$3,000 per mill and the value of the production had an average of about \$4,500 per mill.<sup>6</sup>

Custom mills, as was explained, ground the farmer's grain and made a charge of so much per bushel or barrel for doing the work. The charge varied from mill to mill, but generally it was exorbitantly high.

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<sup>5</sup> Johns, op. cit., pp. 22-24.

<sup>6</sup> Seiler, William H., Industry and Mining (in Kansas: The First Century, John D. Bright, ed. 4 vols; New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1956), Vol. II, p. 435.



A large number of the mills before 1874 were "exchange" mills where the farmer could trade his grain for flour or meal that had already been ground and therefore would not have to receive a quantity of flour or meal equal in value to the amount of grain he had brought, less the toll for processing, and less the bran and husks or middlings which the miller was permitted to keep. This amount also varied from mill to mill, however the farmer usually received twenty-five to thirty-five pounds of flour for each bushel of wheat.<sup>7</sup>

In the latter part of the sixties and the early part of the seventies, the "merchant" mill developed. This type of mill was different from the two previous types because the grain the farmer brought in to the mill was bought and then the flour and by-products were sold in the quantities desired by the customer.<sup>8</sup>

Progress in the milling business during these years was impeded by several events and conditions of the time. The outbreak of the war, political difficulties, and border warfare took manpower upon which the growing of grain and the milling industry depended. The lack of transportation facilities was another retarding condition. This condition was not improved until after the Civil War.

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<sup>7</sup> Laughlin, op. cit., p. 10

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

These conditions handicapped the mills because without manpower and transportation, they had to be dependent upon the local settlements for both its supply of raw materials and demand for its products.

At the end of the Civil War, the railroads started their building boom. By 1869, in Kansas there were over 600 miles of railroads in operation and by 1870 the figure had extended to 900 miles.<sup>9</sup> This boom continued until the panic of 1873, (which was partly caused by the over-expansion of the railroads) when Kansas had a total of 2063 miles in operation.<sup>10</sup>

According to the Ninth Census of the United States, the number of mills by 1870 had increased over 200 per cent to a total of 106. Twenty-nine counties claimed some type of grist or flouring mills.<sup>11</sup> Emporia reported four mills in the Holland Kansas-Nebraska State Directory in 1866.<sup>12</sup>

With the improvement of transportation, immigration into the state was in full swing and settlement in all parts of the state was rapid. The increased population created a large demand for mill products and the small mills proved their

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<sup>9</sup>Fisher, Paul M., "History and Development of the Flour Milling Industry in Kansas," (unpublished Master's thesis. The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1939), p.32

<sup>10</sup>Johns, op. cit., p. 31.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., p. 40.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 40a. There is an extra page inserted between pages 40 and 41, therefore the extra page is listed.

worth to the state. The small mill encouraged the growth of wheat, for the farmer who had access to a mill knew that he could trade his product for flour and feed, therefore saving cost of transportation two ways. They also encouraged settlers to make homes in the areas served by the small mills.<sup>14</sup>

As the population increased and moved farther westward, wheat growth also increased. Seventy-five per cent more wheat was grown in 1873 than in any previous year and in 1874 the increase was 100 per cent greater than that of 1873.<sup>15</sup>

The year 1874 was to Kansas wheat growers as was the invention of the gin to cotton plantations. The introduction of Red Turkey wheat revolutionized the wheat industry in Kansas.

Hard Winter Wheat. The wheat raised during the early years consisted of both soft spring and soft winter varieties, the varieties then commonly grown in the states from which the settlers had come. Big May, Little May, Fultz, Mediterranean and Canadian Club made up the grists which the pioneer millers ground in the old stone buhrs.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid., pp. 41-42.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Laughlin, op. cit., p. 2. Also spelled "burrs" and "burstone."

Mennonite immigrants who came to Kansas in 1874, settling first in Marion county were most instrumental in the introduction and spreading of the growth of the new wheat. This first party of Mennonite immigrants brought only twenty or thirty bushels of wheat but in a few years they were producing a surplus above that required for their own seeding purposes and its growth spread to adjoining counties.<sup>17</sup>

This new hard winter wheat proved its value over the spring wheat because it was adapted to the long, cool growing season, and warm dry harvest period characteristic of the central and western portion of the state, and did not have to be acclimated.

By 1900, Turkey wheat became increasingly important in Kansas. In the 1880's, Bernard Warkentin had some of the hard winter wheat brought from the Crimea. This new wheat amounted to about 15,000 bushels and was distributed to interested farmers.<sup>18</sup>

Thus began the first step in revolutionizing the whole wheat industry in Kansas. The mill had been equipped to grind soft wheat, and the millers experienced difficulty in grinding the hard winter wheat with stone buhrs. Some of the mills tried grinding the wheat by sifting it through the buhrs more than once. This method included four steps in the process:

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<sup>17</sup> Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Marketing Kansas Wheat, Kansas Wheat Commission. (Topeka: State Printing Plant 1959), pp. 40-41. Hereafter cited as K.S.B.A.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., pp. 48-49.

grinding, bolting or sifting, purifying, and regrinding the middlings. The adoption of the new process by the mills of the state was a notable advance and a development of some importance to the industry. However, a still more important development was to follow. This was the roller process of milling.

Roller equipment was introduced into some of the more progressive Kansas mills about 1881 or 1882, only a year or two after its first successful demonstration in this country.<sup>19</sup> The use of roller equipment not only improved the quality of flour, but also increased the quantity which could be milled from a bushel of wheat. With the development of the roller method came several other improvements which added to the steady climb in the importance of the industry. These developments were such things as, the dust collector, the purifier, and the new bolting machine.

An increased size of the individual mills was another direct responsibility of Turkey Red hard winter wheat. However, the coming of the large-scale mills did not have an immediate effect on the smaller mills. These smaller mills did not put in the new process, because they could satisfactorily grind the soft winter wheat that was grown in the eastern section of the state with their existing buhrs.

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<sup>19</sup>Topeka Daily Capitol, November 7, 1919, p. 11

The Decline of the Small Mill. Small mills were able to hold their position for several years because the large mills did not, at first, secure economies sufficient to offset the increased capital charges required to install new equipment.

The introduction of the roller method started the decline of the smaller mills. Most of them were faced with either installing new machinery or closing down. Also, if the mill was not large enough the financial expense of installing the new equipment was not a good investment. The installation of rolls practically involved the construction of a new mill and the cost was in many cases prohibitive.

Another item is the fact that the success of all millers is determined by the prosperity or adversity of wheat. Between the years 1885 and 1897 wheat crops were, on the average, very poor.<sup>20</sup> These crop failures had a bad effect on the Kansas miller. The price of wheat became so high that it was difficult for the Kansas miller to profitably mill and grind it for market. The small mills were affected most, since they were dependent upon their local area for wheat and many of them were forced to close down.

The railroads also had a part in the decline of the small mills and at the same time helped the industry and the larger mills. To help the larger mills, the railroads offered

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<sup>20</sup> Johns, op. cit., p. 85

the milling-in-transit privilege. The granting of the privilege of milling in transit permitted a miller to ship wheat to his mill, mill it and ship the flour on to market at the rate charged for wheat, if the mill was in "line of transit" from the point of origin of the wheat shipment to the destination of the flour. Shipments which were not in a more or less direct line, were charged, in addition to the milling-in-transit rate, an "out of line haul" charge also.<sup>21</sup> This privilege also allowed the large mills in the central and western portion of the state to compete on an equal footing with those in Kansas City and for the first time with those in the eastern part of the United States. The effect of this was to put still more pressure on the small mills located in the central part of the state.

Progress practically eliminated the small frontier mill. By 1900, flour and grist mills in the state numbered 357 establishments and had taken second place in the value of their product to the rapidly developing slaughtering and meat packing industry. Capital investment per mill had risen, on the average, to more than \$22,400.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>Fisher, op. cit., p. 54

<sup>22</sup>K.S.B.A., op. cit., p. 47

The Twentieth Century. Kansas has led all the states in the production of wheat since 1900. In 1890, Kansas raised only 28,801,214 bushels. Because of the natural advantages favoring the growth of wheat in Kansas, the introduction of hard winter wheat, the recognition of this wheat, and the increased settlement, Kansas increased her production to 82,488,655 bushels by 1921.<sup>23</sup>

The total number of mills had decreased since 1900 while the flour production increased until 1921. Since then the decline in flour production has been much less than the decline in the number of mills. This condition can only be explained by the fact that the capacity of the mills increased.

Since 1900 there have been several other factors which have increased large scale production. Probably the most important of these factors was the demand for a uniform flour. This could be done only if the mill had an ample area from which to draw its wheat. The crop of Kansas naturally varies from year to year and if a mill were to put out a uniform flour it must have a large enough area from which to get the wheat so that the wheat will be of varied protein and gluten content. The second factor was the economies of large-scale merchandising, which only large mills could accomplish.

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<sup>23</sup> Johns, op. cit., p. 107



They were able to maintain large selling organizations and also they could conduct large advertising campaigns. Another reason for the large-scale mill was the development of the large-scale bakeries. The bakeries consumed large amounts of flour and since they require uniform flour, the large mills are the only ones who could supply the large volume of uniform mill mix. The fourth and final factor to consider was the larger mills ability to save an overhead by the use of storage. This advantage had really twofold aspect. The mills have built up large storage capacities and thus are able to make an initial saving in the purchase of wheat and, secondly, they have the grain on hand when it is needed. The storage capacity in the elevators assured the mills of a supply of wheat during the time between crops.

With the supplies of wheat available it was to the advantage of the Kansas millers to increase their production. This condition was greatly aided by the fact that the millers outside of Kansas were beginning to use Kansas wheat for flour. The Kansas millers undoubtedly used many unfair practices to gain recognition for their flour, but at any rate the flour was good and Kansas won her place in the eyes of the consumer.

The flour milling industry has steadily increased since 1900 and to this day shows no sign of declining. The reasons for this are numerous. There is no scarcity of the better grades of wheat to drive the price too high. Kansas has a large animal

industry and there is a large demand for the waste products in the form of mill feeds. Newer mills in Kansas can produce the flour at a lower cost, because of the more efficient machinery. The last reason is that Kansas flour became acceptable to the public.

The impact of the wars have strongly influenced the development of the wheat and milling industries. Acreage expansion and mechanization during World War I helped and better crop years resulted in expanding production. There was another added emphasis in the industry during World War II.

Summary. Only the most important points have been considered in this chapter. There is enough material available to warrant another individual study based on the history and development of the milling industry in Kansas, especially since 1900.

The basic developments in the milling industry have been mentioned and discussed, however in an industry such as this, improvements are ever present and new ideas and developments make it practically impossible to include all information.

The basis for this chapter has been to show the importance of the small mill and the decline of that era, out of which developed the large-scale flour milling industries.

Milling of flour is second only to meat packing as the largest industry in the state of Kansas.

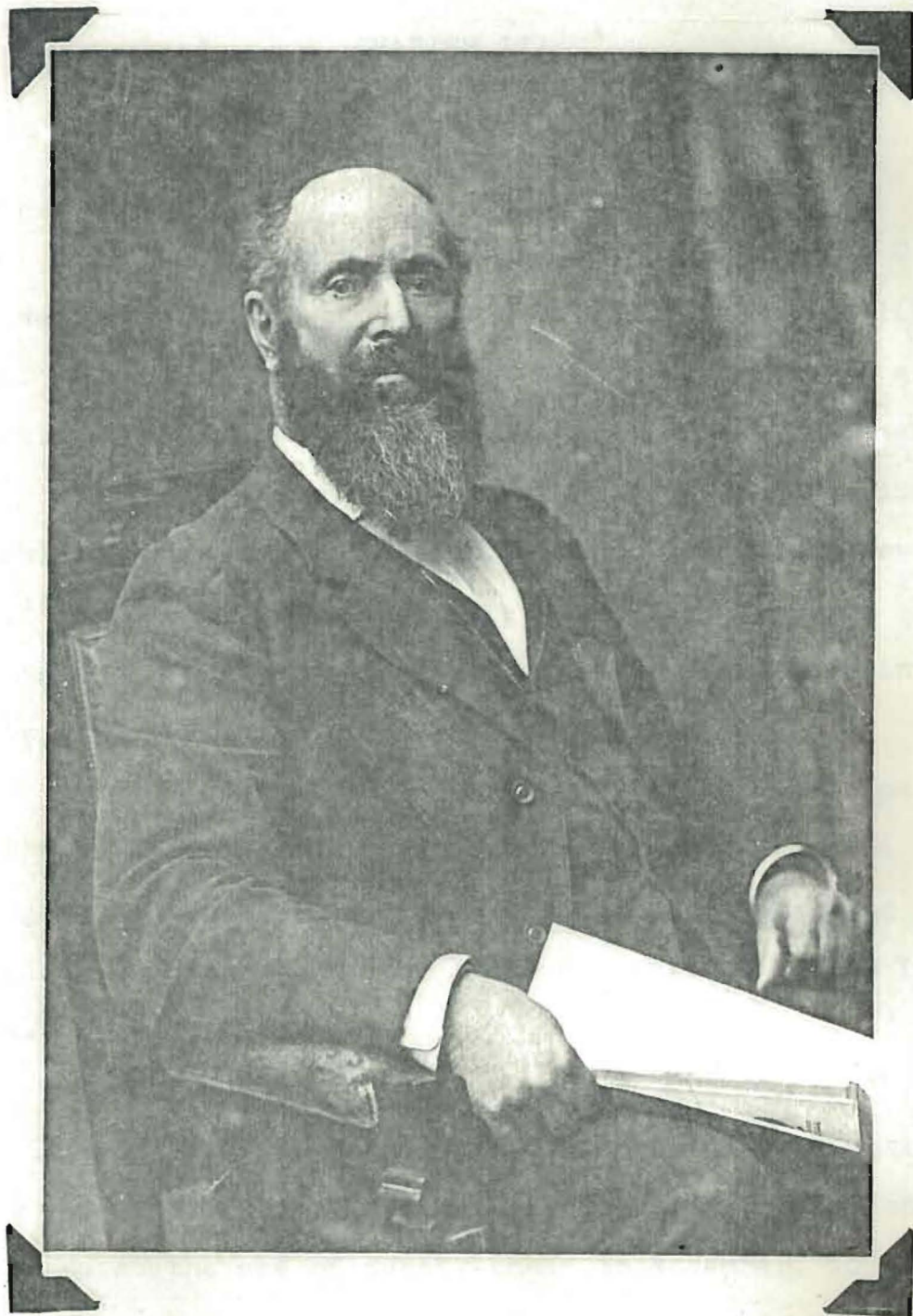


FIGURE 2

William T. Soden

## CHAPTER III

### WILLIAM T. SODEN

Between the years 1860 and 1906, Emporia, Lyon County, and the State of Kansas, were the benefactors in the life of a man. He was often called, "the town's most liberal giver," or jokingly a "thief" and sometimes a "stubborn Irishman."

William T. Soden was born to William and Angeline (Smith) Soden somewhere in County Cork, Ireland, on November 22, 1835.<sup>1</sup> Before he had reached the age of one year, he and his parents came to America and settled in Mooresfork, Clinton County, New York.<sup>2</sup>

Little information is recorded or can be obtained on Soden's boyhood days except from the fact that when he was a teenager, he worked in some of the logging camps along Lake Champlain and in some of the flour mills there in New York State.

Kansas bound. According to the custom of his time, which was carried over from the old countries, Bill Soden left home at the age of twenty-one. In November, 1856, he

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<sup>1</sup> Andreas, A. T., History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: A. J. Cox and Company, Binders, 1883) p. 851.

<sup>2</sup> Kansas, A Cyclopedic of State History, Embracing Events, Institutions, Counties, Cities, Towns, Prominent Persons, Etc. (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912), Vol. II, p. 1384.

started west with \$3,000 which he had earned and saved, sewed in a belt around his waist.<sup>3</sup>

The winter of 1856 and 1857 was spent in Iowa working in a grocery store.<sup>4</sup> In March, 1857, he joined with three other men and started further westward still in possession of the three thousand dollars and looking for a millsite.

Catching rides on prairie schooners, he went through Emporia, Kansas, when the booming town was only two weeks old, continuing on to Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.<sup>5</sup> One night at Cottonwood Falls, he was awakened by one of the three men, who had accompanied him, trying to remove his money belt.<sup>6</sup>

Haworth Saw and Grist Mill. Soden left the party and turned back, stopping southwest of Emporia, taking a job in a combination grist and sawmill. This mill owned by Joel Haworth was located two miles south of Plymouth on the Cottonwood River.<sup>7</sup> Mr. Haworth, at the time of Soden's

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<sup>3</sup>Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906

<sup>4</sup>William T. Soden Notebook, Entries in this book show the amounts of different supplies needed to replenish the stock for the store in which he was working. This notebook is not paged and is in the possession of Miss Margaret Soden.

<sup>5</sup>Emporia Gazette, loc. cit.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>French, Laura, History of Emporia & Lyon County, (Emporia: Emporia Gazette Print, 1929), p. 17. Miss French lists some of the other mills which were located in the Emporia area in this particular section of her book. Also the different saw mills and furniture factories are listed.

employment, was in poor financial condition and Soden therefore lent him the three thousand dollars, finally taking a half interest in the mill.<sup>8</sup> Working at the Haworth mill for two years W. T. or Bill, as he was called by his friends, had saved enough money to buy a valuable farm in Pike township, which was a part of the estate after his death, and to purchase the other half of the mill when Haworth decided to leave the business to take up farming.<sup>9</sup>

Bill Soden always enjoyed a good joke, especially on himself. He used to tell the story that while he was working for "Uncle Joel," the farmers used to accuse him of stealing from their grist. Whenever he told the story he said that it was impossible to get rich and be honest in the milling business.<sup>10</sup>

After Soden came to Emporia, in 1860, the reputation of the Haworth mill still stuck with him. One day, John Moon, a local minister, was asking him to give up his evil ways. He said, "William, is it true, as everyone says that thee is dishonest with the farmers' grist."

"Uncle John," asked Mr. Soden, "if you had your way would you have every man in the county to be truthful or untruthful?"

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<sup>8</sup> Emporia Gazette, loc. cit.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

"Thee knows, William, without asking that I would have every man in the county tell the truth if I could choose," said Uncle John.

"So would I, Uncle John, and since they all say that I am a thief, I have to cheat them to keep them from being liars," said Bill Soden.<sup>11</sup>

In 1859, while Soden was running the Haworth mill, a man, his son and their two wives came from Iowa to settle in or near Emporia. Camping just south of Emporia on the bank of the Cottonwood River, they decided that it was a good place to build a mill and decided to dam the river. The dam was scarcely three feet high when the father of the family was stricken with typhoid fever, and died within a few weeks. Discouraged, the family deserted their dam and moved back to Iowa.<sup>12</sup>

In 1860, Soden saw an opportunity in the possession of the unfinished dam and mill site. After acquiring the site, he began finishing the dam and building the Emporia Water Mills, later to be known, statewide, as "Soden's Mill." The history, development, trials and tribulations of this mill will be the subject of the following chapter.

In 1862, Soden lost his investment in the Haworth mill because of a fire which burned it to the ground.<sup>13</sup> This mill was never rebuilt.

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

The County Seat War. Americus was established as a town in the autumn of 1857 and at the same time became a candidate for the county seat of Breckinridge County which had been detached from Madison County.<sup>14</sup> Americus was officially made the county seat by a large majority of votes in an election of 1858.<sup>15</sup> The first term of court for the county was held in Americus.

Because of some changes in county boundaries, Emporia was geographically placed more toward the center of the county than Americus and therefore had aspirations of becoming the county seat.<sup>16</sup> In the November election of 1860, Emporia was chosen as the county seat of Breckinridge county by a total of 155 votes over Americus.<sup>17</sup> Emporia, claiming to be the legal county seat, demanded the county records only to be refused by Americus.

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<sup>14</sup>French, op. cit., p. 12

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., p. 24. Lyon County originally was twenty-four miles square, its south line being the present Logan Avenue. Emporia wanted three miles off the north end of Madison County added to Breckinridge, and got it, by act of the territorial legislature of 1859 (see Session Laws, 1859, Chap. 43, Section #1). The north twelve miles of Madison County in 1861 were attached to Breckinridge, and the south half to Greenwood, eliminating Madison County. (see Session Laws, 1861, Chap. 19, Section #1). The Legislature of 1864 authorized the attachment to Morris County and Chase County of a two-mile strip off the west side of Lyon, (see Session Laws, 1864, Chap. 25, Section #2). Lyon County is 22 miles wide and 39 miles in length, containing 858 square miles or 549,978 acres.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 12.



The following account of how Emporia finally acquired the county records was told to William Allen White by George Simons, a citizen of Americus.

One dark night in the fall of the year, (presumably 1862) a band of men set out from Emporia on horseback. Three of the horses carried double and those extra riders were C. V. Eskridge, John Watson and Bill Soden.

At Americus the doors of the courthouse were quickly battered in and the records taken. Eskridge, Watson and Soden took the records along with a jug of "forty rod mule" which the bunch had brought along, and hid in the tall grass and weeds, while the mounted bunch lit out west for Chase County "Hell bent for election," as Eskridge expressed it later.

The Americus crowd gathered, mounted horses and took out after them, while Eskridge, Watson, and Soden started on foot for Emporia carrying the records and the "mule."

When across the Chase County line the Emporia bunch halted and the Americus bunch came back after satisfying themselves that the records were not there. The Emporia gang told them that the books had been thrown in the weeds on leaving Americus, and several days were spent looking for them.

While all this was going on the three arch conspirators were "hot-footing it" for Emporia. At about where the pumping station now is, a tree had fallen across the Neosho, and, as the river was up two or three feet, they started across on the tree. Whether the "mule" had kicked too hard, or Soden had just slipped, will never be known, but he fell in. Watson instantly jumped in after him, calling to Eskridge who was in the lead to "help me save Soden." Eskridge yelled back, "to hell with Soden. He can take care of himself. I'm saving the records." Soden waded out and so did Watson, and it is said that the record book Soden had is waterstained yet.

Americus went to court about it, but the court held it could not rule against the law-making body of the State and the matter was ended there.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>Emporia Centennial Celebration, Historical Booklet, June, 1957, pp. 36-37.

Mr. Simons stated that, "the story was told to him by Mr. C. V. Eskridge himself."<sup>19</sup>

Mr. Soden served as one of the county commissioners for several years after the "bloodless" county seat war.

The Emporia National Bank. In the first decade after the Emporia Town Company founded the town, the frontier village grew with pioneers and businessmen coming from North, South, East and West to settle. Yet, there were businesses that Emporia needed, to continue providing services to its citizens.

In March, 1867, the first bank in Lyon County was established under the name of the Emporia Banking and Savings Association. This was another business adventure of William T. Soden in co-operation with Captain Lemuel T. Heritage and J. R. Swallow.<sup>20</sup>

Under the National Bank Act of 1863 and 1864, which created the National Banking System, these three men secured a federal charter and the Association became "The Emporia National Bank," in 1872.<sup>21</sup> Preston B. Plumb assisted in securing the charter by making a special trip to Washington to visit Senator Pomeroy.<sup>22</sup> After the bank became fully chartered and recognized, Preston B. Plumb became the first

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<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Emporia Gazette, June 26, 1957

<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

president and William T. Soden served as the vice president. Mr. Soden served in that capacity until his death, except for ten years between 1878 and 1888 when Major Calvin Hood held the position.<sup>23</sup>

Arnold and Company. Many of the Kansas mills during the early days were usually combination grist and saw mills. The reasons for this can clearly be seen in these facts. (1) Kansas was common to most all frontier areas and there was an emphasis placed on local establishments furnishing local needs. (2) There was an abundance of good wood to be processed and the streams provided easy access to the mills. (3) Water power provided natural and inexpensive power to operate the mills. (4) The sawing of lumber also provided the miller with a steady income during the off season of grist milling. An indirect development of these saw mills were the furniture factories which also used native lumber and water power.

In 1873, W. T. Soden helped a Mr. Arnold purchase an old saw mill located directly across the river on the other side of the dam for a price of \$386.65.<sup>24</sup> This mill was remodeled in 1874 to a single one story frame building and covered an area of fifty by seventy feet. The power for

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<sup>23</sup>The Emporia National Bank later joined forces with the Commercial National Bank and in 1920 the Citizens National Bank purchased both charters.

<sup>24</sup>W. T. Soden Notebook, op. cit.

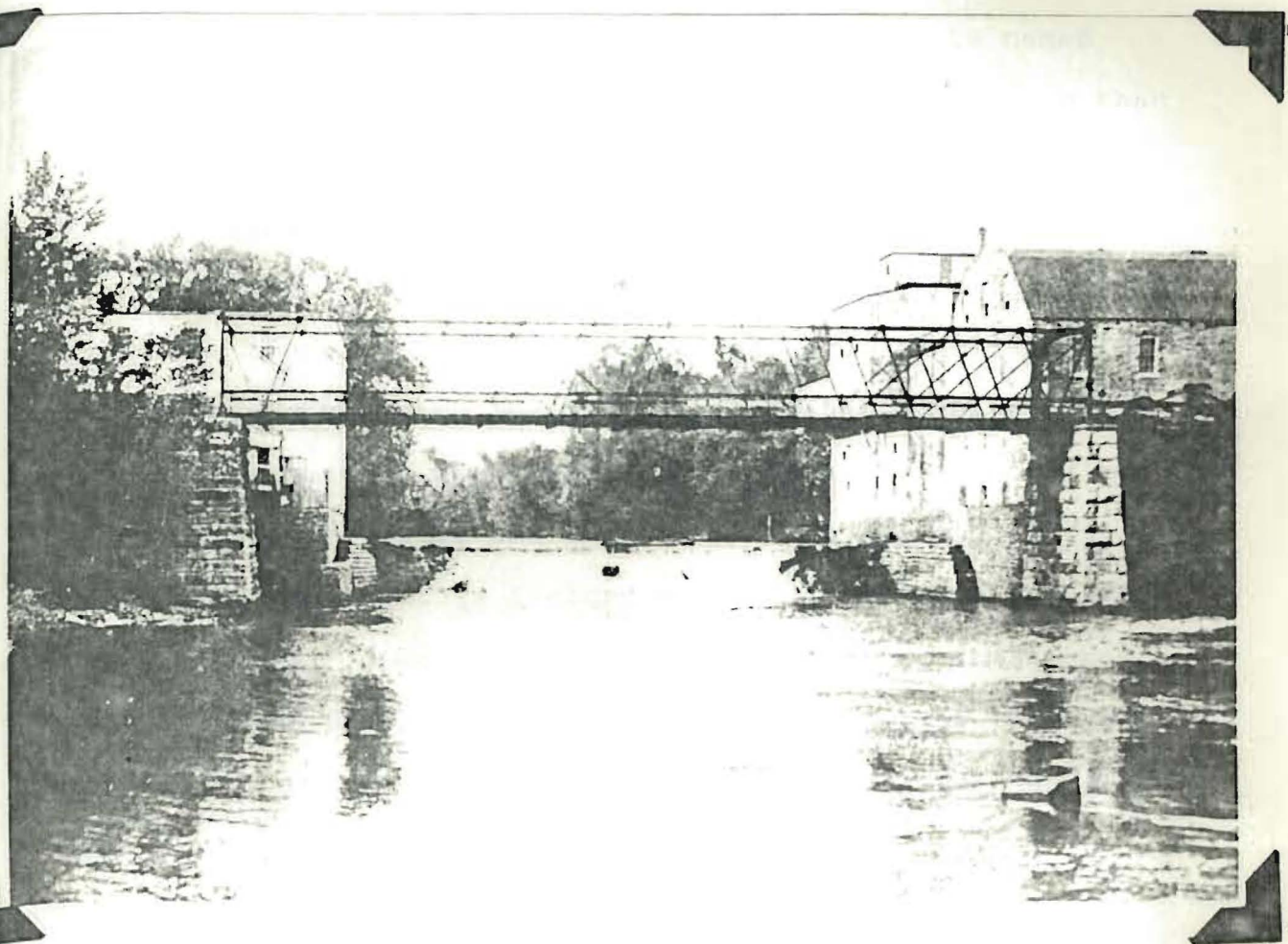


FIGURE 3

This picture taken before 1878 shows Soden's Mill, dam, steel bridge and Arnold & Company Furniture Factory.

this mill was two water wheels which were equal to about 300 horsepower. Mr. Arnold, a furniture manufacturer, had moved to Emporia from Kansas City to take possession of the mill to start his furniture factory that was to be named "Arnold and Company". The "and Company" was none other than W. T. Soden.<sup>25</sup>

The Cottonwood and the Neosho river valleys provided plenty of fine native timber, such as, walnut, oak, ash, and sycamore for productive use in the factory. Arnold and Company was a thriving institution for several years and in 1877, the structure was enlarged to a three story building. As late as June, 1957, the Emporia Gazette reported that, "Furniture made in this factory may still be found in some Emporia homes."<sup>26</sup> In 1878, a tornado completely demolished the furniture factory and Mr. Arnold was not able to recoup his losses, especially after his building program the preceding year. The building was never replaced.<sup>27</sup>

Civic Investments. In his role as a leader in the progressive movements in the city of Emporia, W. T. Soden gave himself, his time, his business ingenuity, and last but not least, his money. Soden's interests in the Emporia

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<sup>25</sup>Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906

<sup>26</sup>Interview, Miss Margaret Soden, June 30, 1960. Miss Soden was glad to show her family heirlooms which came from the furniture factory that her grandfather helped finance.

<sup>27</sup>Emporia News, April 15, 1878

Banking and Savings Association, and Arnold's furniture factory were only part of his civic investments. Another of his business activities was the Emporia Gas Works, which was built under his supervision. For five years following the completion of the institution in 1880, he served as the company's president.<sup>28</sup> In 1881, he erected a hotel at a cost of \$22,000 and it later became the Kynaston Hotel.<sup>29</sup> Another \$20,000 was invested by Mr. Soden in different buildings along Commercial street, some of which were in the estate at the time of his death.<sup>30</sup>

The Family Tree. William T. Soden was not an idle person. His many business undertakings and financial investments seem to prove this point. Neither did he like to be alone or without companionship. Three marriages are evidence of this fact.

On May 18, 1860, W. T. Soden and Miss Frances Jean McCormick were united in marriage.<sup>31</sup> This union, though very short, gave Mr. Soden his first son. The new Mrs. Soden died on March 30, 1861, just a few days short of their first anniversary.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

<sup>31</sup>Emporia News, May 19, 1860

<sup>32</sup>Emporia News, March 30, 1861. The cause of Frances Jean Soden's death was not stated, however the birth of a son has been discussed in several instances and the possible cause of death may have been from childbirth.

The son died three or four months later.<sup>33</sup>

Seven years later in February of 1868, Mr. Soden married Jennie Weaver. Jennie Soden died on December 10, 1875 survived by three children; Mrs. Hallie B. Soden Laws, Justin R. and Harry Norman Soden.<sup>34</sup> Harry Norman Soden died at the age of eleven on November 29, 1884.<sup>35</sup>

His third marriage was to Mrs. Sara Lockerman, the widow of Nicholas Lockerman, a wealthy farmer, who left a valuable estate in Pike township west of Emporia. Mr. Soden and Mrs. Lockerman were married June 10, 1885 and she survived him in death in 1906.<sup>36</sup> Mrs. Sara Soden died on November 25, 1924, at the age of seventy-six.<sup>37</sup>

Justin Rosenthal Soden. It might be said that Justin Soden was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His path for life had already been set. On August 4, 1870, Justin Rosenthal Soden was born to William T. and Jennie (Weaver) Soden in one of the most beautiful, most spacious and comfortable

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<sup>33</sup>Ibid., Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906, November 5, 1942, June 27, 1957. The exact date of the son's death cannot be found nor can the name be found. All these newspaper clippings report the facts of a birth and death, however omitting the name and dates of both.

<sup>34</sup>Emporia News, December 10, 1875

<sup>35</sup>Gravestone, Maplewood Cemetery, Emporia, Kansas. This stone is in the family plot with seven other head stones. They were helpful in securing dates of birth and death.

<sup>36</sup>Emporia, Gazette, August 16, 1906

<sup>37</sup>Gravestone, Maplewood Cemetery, Emporia, Kansas.

homes in the Emporia area.<sup>38</sup>

As a boy, young Soden's job was to help carry wheat to the second floor of his fathers mill to start it on the grinding process. At the age of fifteen, he went to Alton, Illinois, where he attended Western Military Academy for two years.<sup>39</sup> The next year was spent in the Emporia National Bank which his father helped to organize. In 1888 and 1889, he was a student at Poughkeepsie Military Academy, Poughkeepsie, New York.<sup>40</sup>

William T. Soden made his decision to retire in 1899 and in 1900 Justin R. Soden followed in the footsteps of his father as head of the Emporia Water Mills.<sup>41</sup> He had been a steady employee at the mill since returning from New York in 1889.

On January 16, 1901, Justin Soden married Jennie Perley who survived him in death.<sup>42</sup> This marriage was blessed by two children (a son and a daughter), both of whom are still residing in Emporia. They are William and Margaret Soden. Jennie (Perley) Soden passed away on June 27, 1959.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>38</sup>"Who's Who in Milling." The Southwestern Miller, October, 1922, Vol. 1, No. 35, pp. 21 and 29. This article is a biographical sketch of Justin R. Soden.

<sup>39</sup>Ibid.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid.

<sup>42</sup>Emporia Gazette, January 17, 1901

<sup>43</sup>Emporia Gazette, June 27, 1959



One of Justin Soden's civic interests was the Emporia Country Club which he helped to organize. He served as one of the club's first directors.<sup>44</sup>

Justin Rosenthal Soden died on November 28, 1924, after an illness and paralysis of about two months.<sup>45</sup> Like his father, his life was dedicated to the care and running of the Emporia Water Mills.

The Death of William T. Soden. Six weeks before his death Mr. Soden had gone to Boulder, Colorado to spend the summer resting in a sanitarium. He was never to see his Emporia home and enterprise again. The end came on Tuesday, August 14, 1906.<sup>46</sup>

William Allen White in four full columns of his paper expressed his devotion to Mr. Soden when he said, "Tuesday the one man living who typified most exactly the growth of Emporia was W. T. Soden. And today he is dead."<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>45</sup>Emporia Gazette, November 29, 1924

<sup>46</sup>Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906

<sup>47</sup>Ibid.

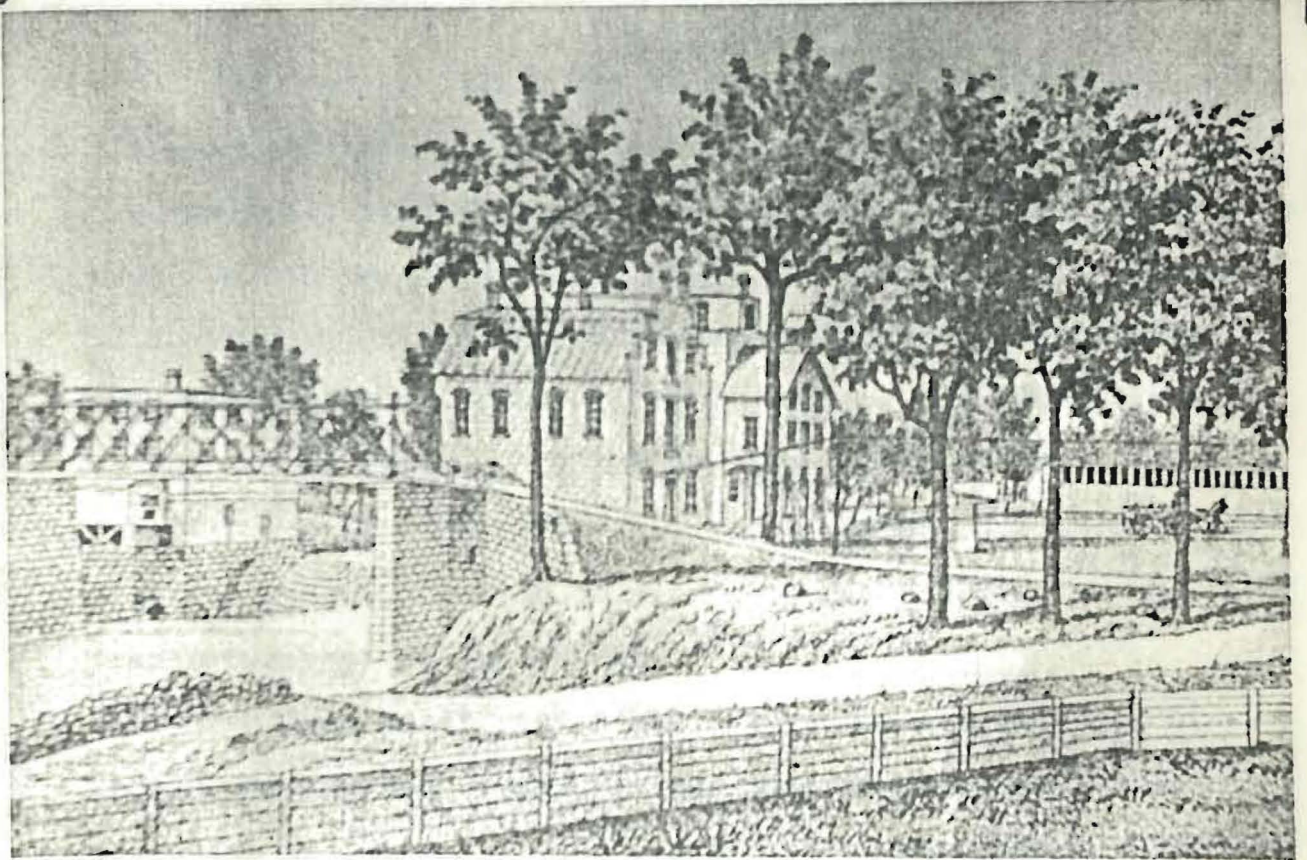


FIGURE 4

This figure is a reproduction of an artist sketch of Soden's Mill, dam, and Bridge.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE EMPORIA WATER MILLS

The Kansas famine was the term given to the drouth which all but drove out the early pioneers from Kansas. It was reported that the earth was never wet more than two inches deep from the nineteenth of June, 1859, to the middle of November, 1860. Two slight snows, which never concealed the ground, occurred during the intervening winter.<sup>1</sup> Crops during this period were a failure. Wheat was planted in the fall, and the frost of spring along with the slight winter snow induced the wheat to sprout, however it soon withered and died in the tremendous heat of the drouth.<sup>2</sup>

Another hazard which was always present at times of drouth was typhoid fever. It was this disease that caused the death in the family who first started the dam across the Cottonwood River. Late in the year of 1860, the surviving members of the discouraged family returned to their Iowa homeland and left the unfinished dam to the next opportunist.

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<sup>1</sup> Holloway, J.N., "The Drouth of 1860," Heritage of Kansas, Neil Byer, ed. (Department of English at Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, 1957), Vol. 1, pp. 7-11.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

The bed of the Cottonwood River was practically dry and a dam had been partially constructed across the river, however there was a great amount of work to be done before the dam could be completed.

A Dam and Water Rights. The foresight of William T. Soden cannot be overlooked at this point. Especially at a time when people were picking up their worldly goods and leaving Kansas. Soden seized the opportunity before him, started steps toward the purchasing of property which would enable him to finish the dam and purchased properties necessary for the control of the water rights. The right to build a dam and the land on which the mill was to be built, was recorded in three different deeds. His first step was to acquire the right to build a dam extending to the south side of the river. This right and easement was purchased from Mr. Curtis Hiatt and his wife on November 9, 1860.<sup>3</sup> The dam was limited to a height of eight feet in the deed secured from Mr. and Mrs. Hiatt. The purchase of two pieces of property was necessary on the north side of the river. The first deed was recorded on November 24, 1860,<sup>4</sup> entitling

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<sup>3</sup>Deed Record, Lyon County Courthouse, Vol. C, p. 343. This deed does not show the amount that Soden had to pay to acquire this privilege. Mr. & Mrs. Hiatt acquired the deed on a patent deed from the United States Government.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 367. Mr. & Mrs. Southerland secured this piece of property on a warranty deed.

Soden to four and five hundredths acres. The purchase price was one hundred dollars paid to Mr. and Mrs. O.M. Southerland who were early Emporia pioneers. This deed had a boundary line on the south side which extended to the middle of the bed of the river, thus giving Mr. Soden riparian rights.<sup>5</sup> It also limited the height of the dam, however to nine feet. Bill Soden built a very lovely home on this same piece of property several years later.

After securing the necessary rights, easements, and properties, Soden began to enlarge and finish the dam. The river bottom settlers frequently ridiculed William Soden for building a dam in a dry river and one of the many questions facetiously put to him was; "why don't you build a dam on a hill?"<sup>6</sup> Others at Emporia and along the Cottonwood River thought Mr. Soden had gone crazy as they observed the zest that marked his work on the dam. Leaving his camp only to procure food and other supplies, Soden worked steadily on his project. Some of the skeptics were of assistance to him, either selling their water rights to him or aiding him in acquiring other water rights which he foresaw as being absolutely essential to the success of the project.<sup>7</sup> Soden finished the dam in

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<sup>5</sup>Riparian rights entitles the owner to control and possession of the river bed.

<sup>6</sup>"Who's Who in Milling." The Southwestern Miller, October 1922, Vol. 1, No. 35, pp. 21 and 29. This article is a biographical sketch of Justin R. Soden

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

April, 1861.<sup>8</sup> The second piece of property on the north side of the river was not purchased until November 25, 1864. This deed entitled Soden to seven acres along the river, adding to his water rights. The purchase price amounted to two hundred and fifty dollars paid to Mr. George H. Wlaker.<sup>9</sup>

Soden Versus the City of Emporia. Nineteen years later, in 1881, Soden's water rights became the subject of litigation between the city of Emporia and himself. In 1880 the city of Emporia constructed a system of water works for the purpose of supplying the citizens with water for domestic use, for extinguishing fires, and for manufacturing purposes. In so doing, the city purchased a tract of land, adjacent to Soden's on the banks of the mill pond above the dam, dug a well twenty feet in diameter, and twenty-six feet in depth, on the city's land, and approximately eighty feet from the bank of the pond.<sup>10</sup> The city also sank one pipe into the well and another pipe extended directly into the mill pond. Mr. Soden filed for an injunction against the city which was finally appealed to the Kansas State Supreme Court for final decision.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Emporia News, May 14, 1861.

<sup>9</sup>Deed Record, Lyon County Courthouse, Vol. F, p. 225. Mr. Walker first secured his deed from Mr. & Mrs. O. M. Southerland at the same time Soden secured his deed from the Southerlands. This was another warranty deed.

<sup>10</sup>Kansas Supreme Court, Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas, January Term, 1881, (Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1887) Vol. XXV, p. 410.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

The reasons for this injunction were based on Soden's riparian rights and the fact that his mill was powered strictly by water. At times during the year the water in the mill pond became so low that any water taken from the pond by the City would cause Soden to suspend operations.

The district court passed judgement in favor of Soden, however the city of Emporia appealed the decision to the Kansas Supreme Court. During the January term of 1881, the State Supreme Court sustained the District Court's decision and concluded that before the city could destroy or diminish the water power of Soden, it (the city) must make compensation.<sup>12</sup> The city therefore paid Mr. Soden a compensation of one hundred dollars a month until 1887 when the water plant was moved from the Cottonwood to the Neosho River.<sup>13</sup> During the July term of 1881, the city petitioned for a rehearing in the Kansas Supreme Court. The motion for the rehearing was overruled.<sup>14</sup>

The Mill Construction. After the dam was finished, early in the year of 1861, Soden began fulfilling his plans for the building of the Emporia enterprise. The original

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<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942.

<sup>14</sup>Kansas Supreme Court, Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas, July Term, 1881, (Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1887), Vol. XXVI, p. 492.

plans for the first building were designed by Mr. Soden anticipating a two and one-half story building with three different storage areas.<sup>15</sup> The finished building was constructed with three types of construction method. A stone foundation nineteen feet high and two and one-half feet thick was the first building process, started in May, 1861.<sup>16</sup> This stone foundation was built high enough to serve as walls for the first floor level. The second construction method was the use of brick around the central part of the building.<sup>17</sup> Native walnut lumber comprised most of the timbers on the third level, fastened together with wooden pegs which were later supplemented with square shaped iron nails.<sup>18</sup> In addition to walnut, some other native lumbers were used such as, elm and sycamore. Many of these native timbers had signs and marks from the axe of the woodsman who trimmed the walnut girders.<sup>19</sup> Weather boarding of the original building was one-half inch thick walnut and when the building was finally torn down, the weather boarding still looked new after the surface was planed off.<sup>20</sup> One anecdote on the early construction of the Soden Water Mills is that W. T. Soden had no cash to buy glass for the windows.

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<sup>15</sup> William T. Soden Notebook, op. cit.

<sup>16</sup> Andreas, A. T., History of the State of Kansas. (Chicago: A. J. Cox and Company, Binders, 1883), p. 651.

<sup>17</sup> Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.



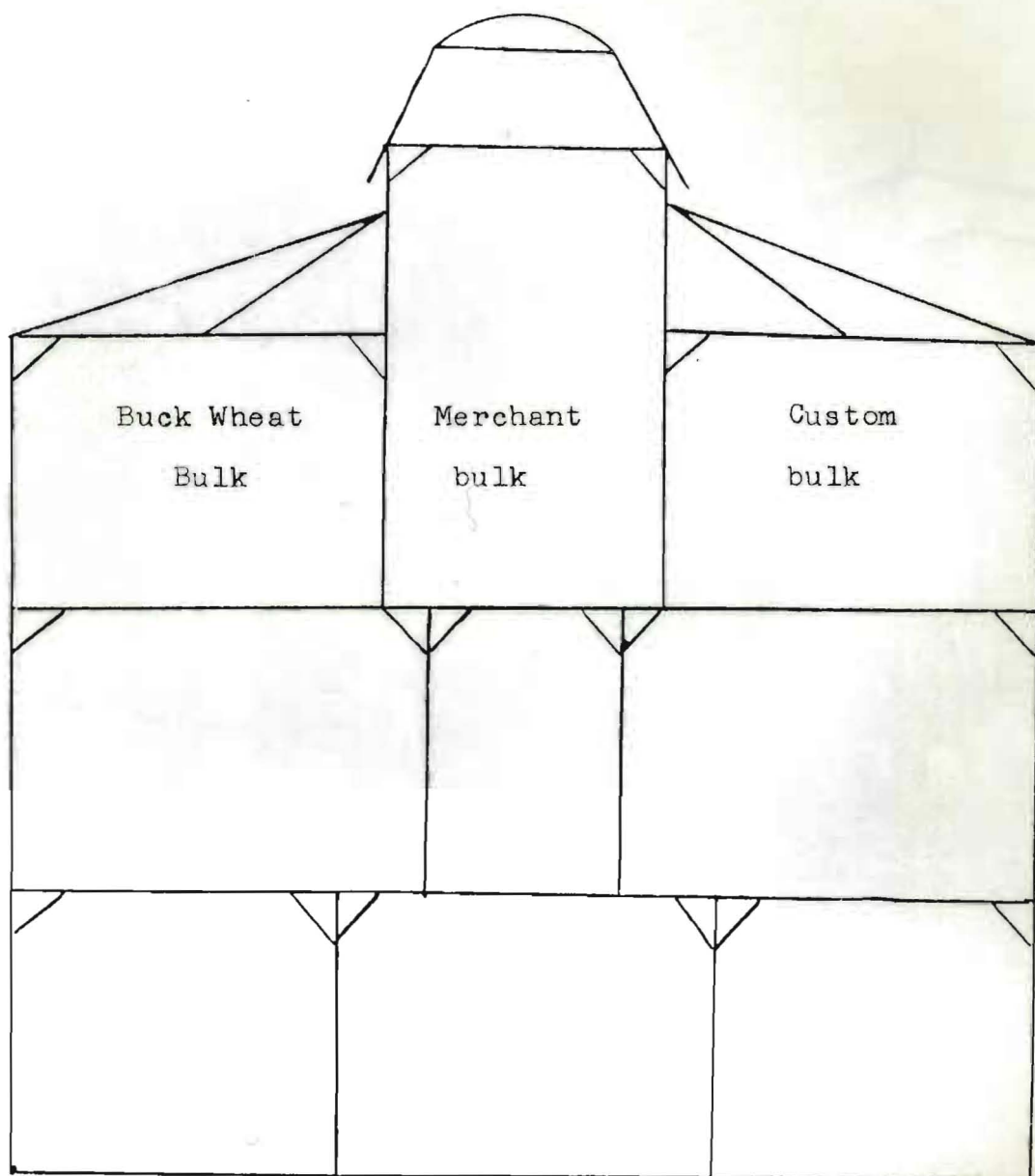


FIGURE 5

This figure represents the plan for the original mill found in the W. T. Soden Notebook.

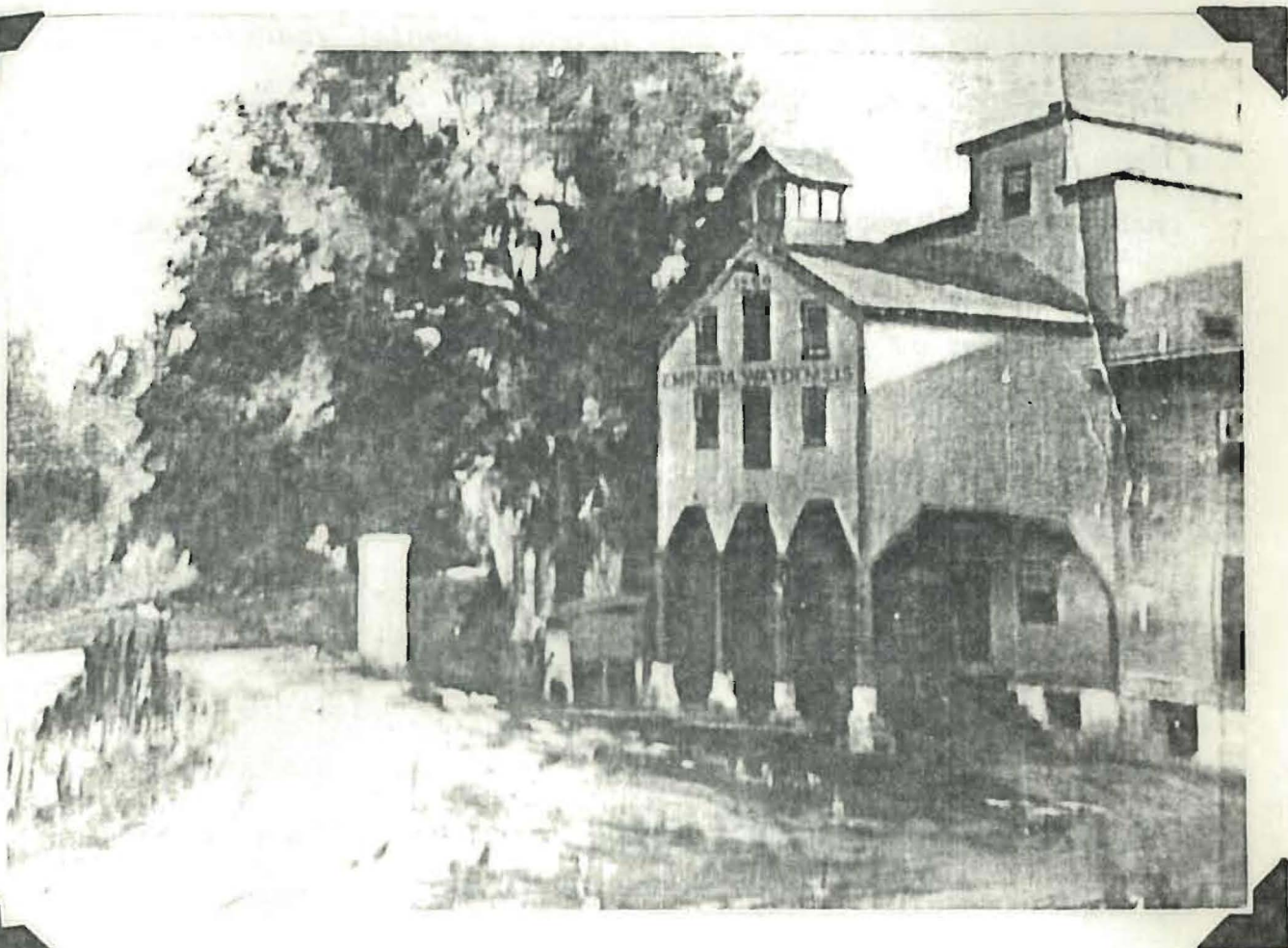


FIGURE 6

This figure is a reproduction of a painting showing the front of Soden's Mill.

An Emporia pioneer merchant refused to sell him a single pane without "money on the barrel head." Years later the distrust-  
ing merchant joined a church and asked to be baptized in the  
mill pond. Soden remembering the glass deal, and his "water  
rights" declined to permit the baptizing in the mill pond and  
the service took place in the shallow water below the dam.<sup>21</sup>

The Fan Mill. The second building to be constructed  
was a two story brick structure housing a fan mill. This  
building was completed in May, 1865, and was built adjacently  
east of the first building.<sup>22</sup> The fan mill was a convenience  
provided by Mr. Soden to his early patrons who cleaned their  
wheat with the fan thereby hastening the final delivery of the  
farmer's grist.

After the tornado in 1878, part of the mill had to be  
rebuilt and Soden therefore took advantage of the situation  
to increase the size of the mill. The fan mill and the  
original building which housed the Emporia Water Mills were  
combined and the height of the new building was increased  
to five floor levels which included an elevator.<sup>23</sup> Until the  
mill was torn down and the remainder burned in a fire, there  
were reminders of the fact that the mill was erected when

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<sup>21</sup>  
Ibid.

<sup>22</sup>  
Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>23</sup>  
Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942.

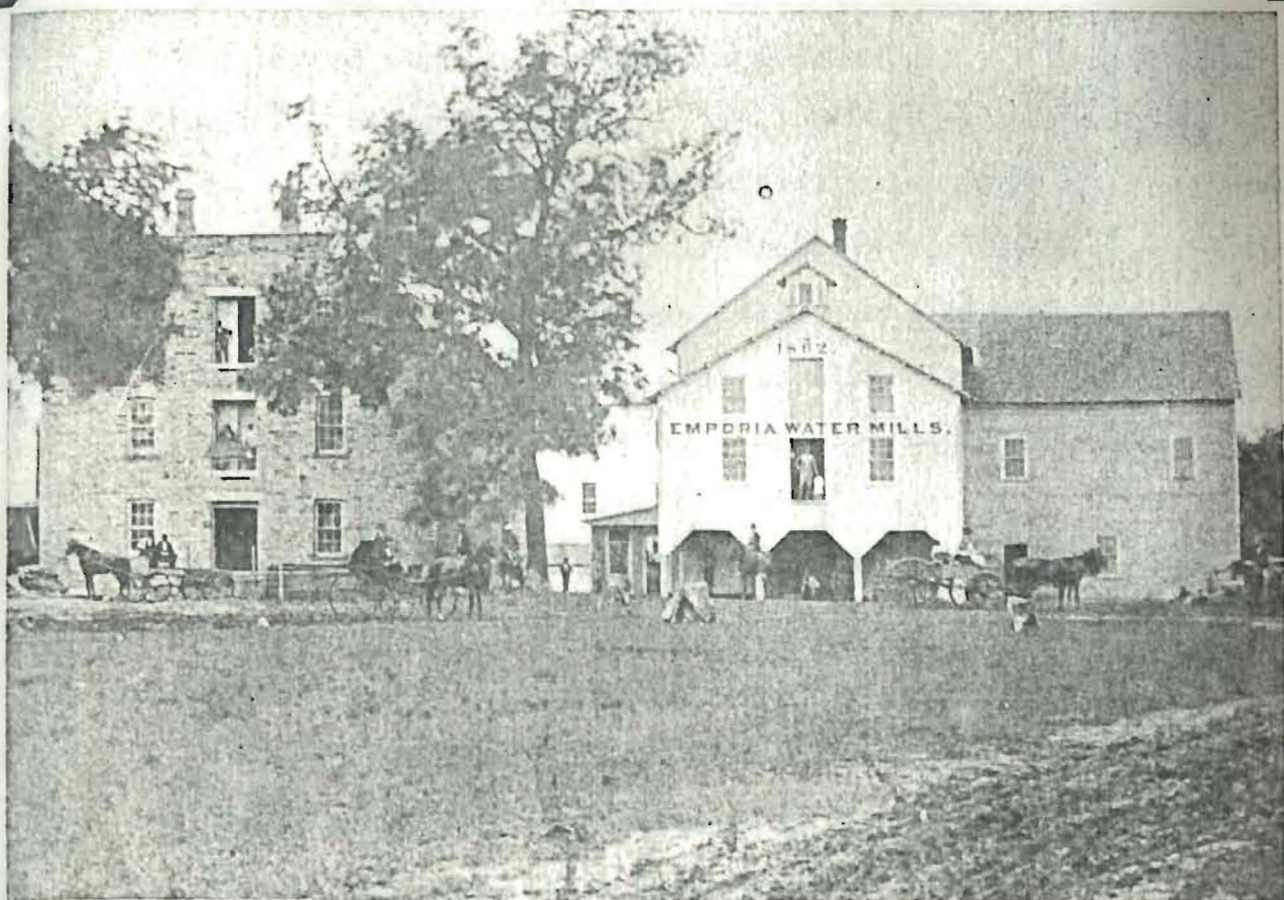


FIGURE 7

This photograph shows the separate building which housed the fan mill. The furniture factory can be seen in the background between the two buildings.

Lyon County was sparsely settled and when horses and not trucks and motor cars were used for transportation. These reminders were two injunctions which read, "no shooting here" and "no hitching to trees."<sup>24</sup>

The milling machinery that was placed in the original building was ordered and transported to Emporia by covered wagon from the Western Manufacturing Company at Leavenworth, Kansas.<sup>25</sup> This company also furnished the roller equipment and replacement parts when Justin R. Soden had the mill completely reconditioned in 1900.<sup>26</sup>

In 1879, the number of water wheels was increased to seven, to power six buhrstones, with a daily capacity of approximately 1200 bushels.<sup>27</sup> Each one of the wheels were rated at one hundred horsepower and at the peak of business four wheels were used to operate the buhrstones and two wheels were used to operate the elevator.<sup>28</sup> One wheel was used only as auxiliary power.

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<sup>24</sup> Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>25</sup> Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942

<sup>26</sup> Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>27</sup> Andreas, A. T., loc. cit.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

Open for Business. William T. Soden officially advertised and opened for business in June, 1862, operating only on a daylight basis.<sup>29</sup> The mill ran on the daylight basis until Justin R. Soden took the helm in 1900. With only one run of buhrs and one wheel rated at one hundred horsepower, the capacity output of the mill was approximately two hundred bushels per day.<sup>30</sup> The first money that Mr. Soden received was a fifty cent coin dated 1858, which he took in exchange for one hundred pounds of bran.<sup>31</sup> Mr. Soden put away this coin in a wallet made from the skin of a deer shot in the vicinity of Emporia, along with other coins, including half dimes, that represented the initial income of the mill. Justin R. Soden would often display this wallet and coins with great pride.<sup>32</sup>

The purpose of Soden's Water Mills was to serve the pioneers in the surrounding area as a "custom" mill.<sup>33</sup> Advertising for W. T. Soden amounted to a few ads placed in the local Emporia newspapers and kind words passed along by his early customers.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>29</sup>Emporia News, June 21, 1862. An ad in this paper states that the Emporia Water Mills have been completed and are ready to conduct business.

<sup>30</sup>Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

<sup>33</sup>Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906, November 5, 1942, June 27, 1959. See Chapter II, page 7, herein.

<sup>34</sup>Emporia News, February 14, 1868, Emporia Republican, May 7, 1863, Emporia Democrat, August 24, 1887, Emporia Gazette, August 8, 1893, Emporia Times, April 23, 1895. All these papers carry an ad which was characteristic of the type of Soden's advertising policy.

The surrounding area provided Soden with enough business for the capacity of his mill and advertising was carried on at a minimum. One of Justin R. Soden's first changes, when he took over in 1900, was to advertise on a larger scale, placing ads in several magazines and papers of the trade.<sup>35</sup>

During the Civil War when the Emporia and Lyon County men left to join the army, Mr. Soden told the men to send their wives to the mill for flour which he furnished them without charge.<sup>36</sup> During the years to come the original small mill was greatly enlarged and remodeled and new installations increased its capacity.

Characteristic of the early millers, William Soden kept very few records and those that he did keep were lacking in signs of good bookkeeping. In the pages of a small five inch by seven inch notebook, W. T. Soden logged in, very briefly, the business of the mill for four years; 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877. On the page marked 1874, Mr. Soden recorded that he purchased a total amount of grain representing \$17,672.65.<sup>37</sup> On the same page the figure \$23,228.87 was entered as the amount sold, making a total profit \$5,556.22 for the year.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup>Southwestern Miller, op. cit., p. 36, October 31, 1922 p. 33, The Millers Almanac, (published by The Northwestern Miller, 1924), p. 241. The ads in these periodicals are samples of Justin Soden's type of advertising.

<sup>36</sup>Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906, November 5, 1942, June 27, 1959.

<sup>37</sup>William T. Soden Notebook, op. cit.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid.

For the year 1875 the figure of \$14,998.03 was logged as the amount bought and \$15,592.98 represented the amount sold.<sup>39</sup> The amount of grain bought in 1876 was entered as \$9,497.88 with \$16,243.70 as the amount of grain sold. A profit for 1876 was logged as \$8,045.82.<sup>40</sup> A balance on hand of \$25,000 was also listed on this page. Mr. Soden listed a net profit of \$7,396.81 for the year 1877. The money, exchanges, or credits for the year 1877 represented \$19,974.18. The debits for the same year amounted to \$17,977.37 and Soden entered a balance on hand of \$45,000.<sup>41</sup>

As the exclusive grist business of the mill gradually changed, Bill Soden adopted "XXXX" and "Eagle" brands for the flour that he sold at the mill.<sup>42</sup> The brand "Five Roses" was later copyrighted by J. R. Soden after becoming the head of the mill.<sup>43</sup>

Although William T. Soden had a meager and poor start in the business of milling, he proved his ability as a businessman. At the time of his death in 1906, W. T. Soden had one of the best credit ratings in Lyon County which was said to be well over \$350,000.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>39</sup>Ibid. No profit was noted on this page.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid. No way of knowing the way these figures were derived

<sup>42</sup>Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid., pp. 29 and 36. An ad is located on page 36.

<sup>44</sup>Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906



Hard Winter Wheat. When Bernhard Warkentin began to introduce Turkey wheat into Kansas, Bill Soden received some of the original two hundred and twenty pound sacks of seed imported from the Crimea.<sup>45</sup> Mr. Soden and the others who received the seed encouraged the farmers to plant this new wheat because it was adapted to the long, cool growing season, and warm dry harvest period characteristic of the central and western portion of the state. Also this new wheat could stand extremes of heat and cold and could grow with less rainfall than the soft wheat that the early settlers first raised. When farmers began to sell wheat commercially, Soden made two-bushel sacks in the mill and purchased some that cost sixty cents each.<sup>46</sup> The sacks were dated and numbered and loaned to farmers for them to bring their grain to the mill in an easy to handle size.

Soden's Grove. When the mill was erected, the territory around Emporia was populated largely by Indians and Quakers.<sup>47</sup> This population was the clientele served by Soden's mill.

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<sup>45</sup> Southwestern Miller, loc. cit., Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942. There was no amount given as to how much Soden received.

<sup>46</sup> Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., Emporia Centennial Booklet, op. cit., pp. 46-47. Interview, Mr. Orville Mosher, Lyon County Museum, August 4, 195 When the Town Company founded Emporia in 1857, there were two Indian tribes in the county; the Sac and Fox who moved from the County in 1868, and the Kaw tribe which left the county in 1873



FIGURE 8

This photograph depicts the covered wagons in Soden's Grove waiting for grist to be ground.

Many of the people came with ox teams from points as distant as one hundred miles to patronize the mill.<sup>48</sup> A great number of the patrons believed that September and March were the only months in the year in which to grind their grain and when the moon was "right" to keep the flour and meal from spoiling.<sup>49</sup>

To provide travelers awaiting turns for grist products of the mill, a camping ground was necessary. Early in 1865, Mr. Soden started plans for purchasing two tracts of land directly east of the first mill property. These tracts of land were separated from the original property by a road extending southward from Commercial Street to the mill and to the Cottonwood River. On April 10, 1865, Soden made his first purchase leading to his purpose of providing a camp ground. Mr. Soden, on that day, recorded a deed entitling him to ten acres of land for which he paid two hundred dollars.<sup>50</sup> This land was purchased from Mr. Leigh McClung. A second deed for twenty acres of land for a price of four hundred dollars was purchased from Solomon G. Brown and his wife on April 28, 1865.<sup>51</sup> This thirty acres of land was to be known, as it is today, as Soden's Grove. After acquiring the grove Mr. Soden

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<sup>48</sup>Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942

<sup>49</sup>Ibid.

<sup>50</sup>Deed Record, Lyon County Courthouse, Vol. F, p. 455.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid., p. 603

took great pains to make the life of the camper more comfortable. One of his first projects was to plant and transplant more walnut trees.<sup>52</sup> The second project in the grove was the building of three log cabins for the campers in times of bad weather. Many of the Indians who came for grist slept in tepees and often sheltered their animals in the three log cabins in the grove.<sup>53</sup> On many occasions Mr. Soden allowed the city of Emporia to use the grove as a park and without charge. There were times when he asked the city council to provide the park with a policeman to prevent rowdyism and the council would often fail to answer his request, therefore he had to hire the policeman himself.<sup>54</sup>

On July 5, 1880, General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, on a tour of the West a few years after his two terms as President, visited Emporia, and made an address at Soden's Grove.<sup>55</sup> Grant was only one of many who have been attractions in the grove.

At the spring election in 1890, the city voted to install a sewer system.<sup>56</sup> The matter of planning the system

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<sup>52</sup> Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.; Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> French, Laura, History of Emporia & Lyon County, (Emporia: Emporia Gazette Print, 1929), p. 47.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., p. 63.

was put into the hands of the city council. The council planned that the system of sewerage would be conducted into and carried off by one large sewer extending southward from the corporate limits of the city through the property immediately east of Soden's Grove. The dumping ground for the system was the north edge of the Cottonwood River bed.

After the sewerage system was completed, Mr. Soden brought suit against the city to restrain from dumping into the river-bed. Soden's case stated that the area for dumping was a place of low water, particularly when the mill was shut down at night or for repairs and at many times there was no current to carry the waste away. This caused the sewerage to accumulate, fester, poison the air and breed disease, rendering the entire premises noxious, unwholesome and unhealthy, therefore a nuisance to Soden and his property.<sup>57</sup>

On March 14, 1898, the Lyon County District Court passed an opinion in favor of the city stating that Soden's case did not present a cause of action.<sup>58</sup> The decision of the court was appealed and the Kansas Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court's decision in July, 1898.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> Kansas Court of Appeals, Reports of Cases Decided in the Courts of Appeals of the State of Kansas, 1898, (Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1899), Vol. VII, pp. 583-594.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

Soden's Grove remained in the possession of the family until Mrs. Justin R. Soden sold the entire property to the city on May 25, 1943, for a total price of \$13,000.<sup>60</sup>

The Soden Home. At the foot of Commercial Street on the west side, there is a two story Victorian mansion, built in 1870 and 1871 by William T. Soden.<sup>61</sup> Built with brick walls broken by bay-windows and an irregular out-thrust cornice, the house was one of the most modern homes in Lyon County.<sup>62</sup> This home was later the residence of Justin R. Soden.

Soden's Bridge. In the general election of 1867, the people of Lyon County voted on the erection of three bridges. One of these bridges was to be built across the Cottonwood River just below the Soden dam.<sup>63</sup> After the site had been finally chosen, Mr. Soden let the county commissioners build the bridge and open the roadway through his land without charge.<sup>64</sup> The first structure was an iron and steel frame

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<sup>60</sup>Kansas City Times, May 25, 1943, Kansas City Star, December 4, 1944.

<sup>61</sup>Federal Writer's Project, Kansas: A Guide to the Sunflower State, (New York: Hastings House, 1939), p. 188.

<sup>62</sup>Ibid.

<sup>63</sup>French, op. cit., p. 267.

<sup>64</sup>Ibid.; Emporia Gazette, June 27, 1957

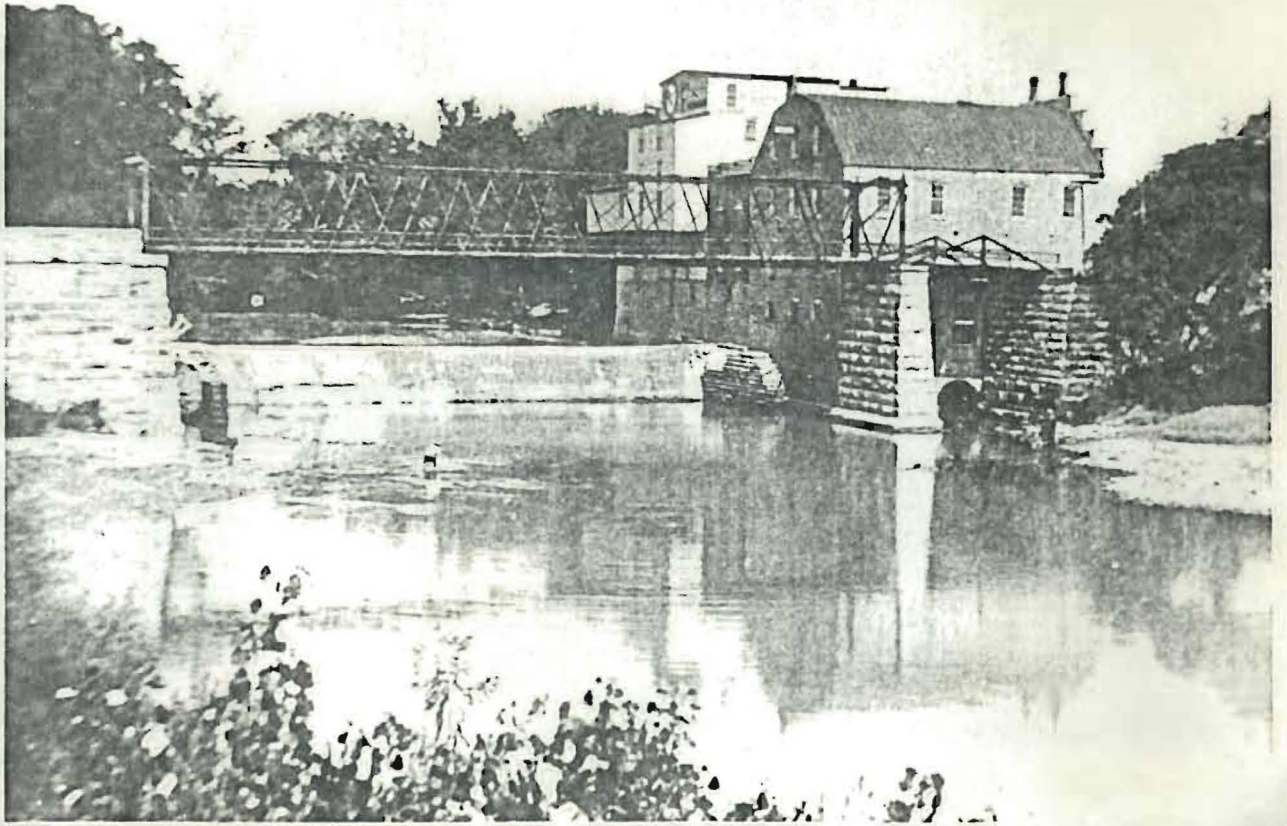
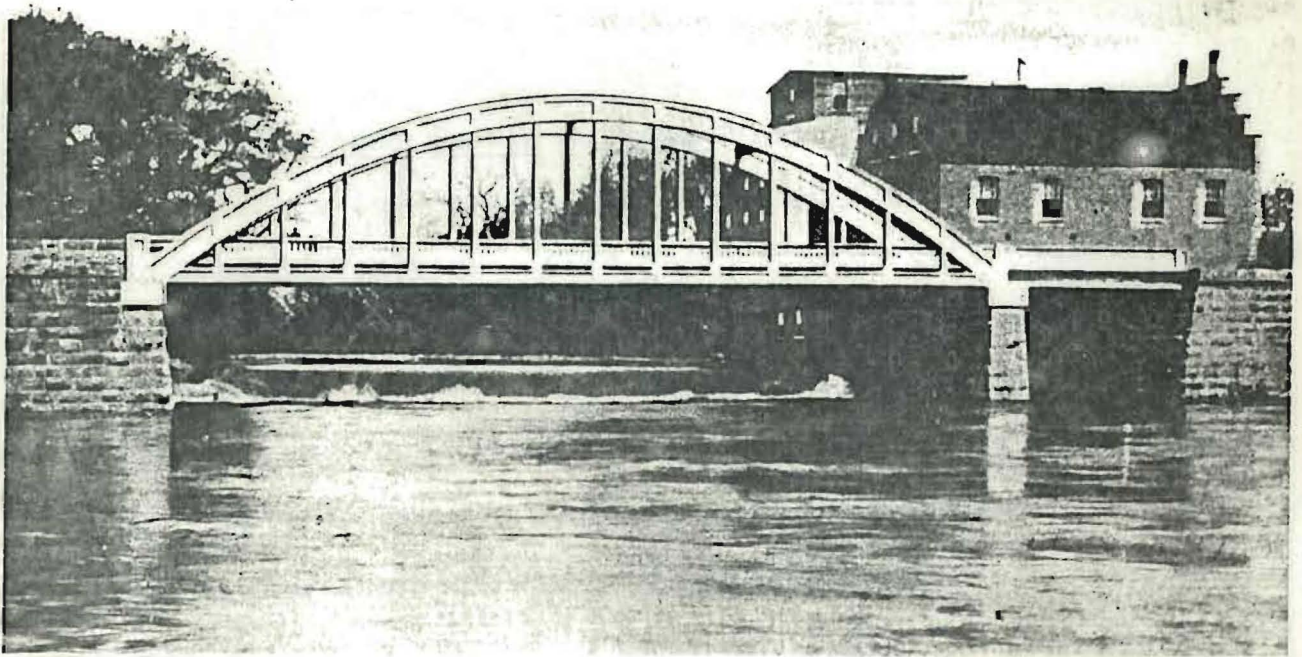


FIGURE 9

This photograph taken after 1878 and before 1923 shows the iron and steel bridge built in 1867.



NEW CEMENT BRIDGE, SODEN'S MILL & DAM, EMPORIA, KANSAS.

FIGURE 10

The photograph shows the cement bridge built in 1923 replacing the iron and steel structure.



bridge which was later moved to span the Neosho near the present Emporia Water Works. This bridge is still in existence and is now known as the water-works bridge. The present Soden's bridge, a cement structure, was built in 1923 to replace the iron and steel crossing.<sup>65</sup>

1900 and Justin R. Soden. William T. Soden retired in November 1899 and his son, trained from boyhood, was the logical and only qualified Soden to step into command. Justin R. Soden ran the mill for a brief twenty four years, however during that span of years, Soden's mill took on a new face. In the first year after J. R. Soden relieved his father of the mill duties, three distinct changes took place. For the first time since the mill was built, the operation of the establishment went on a round the clock schedule. The next change was a complete renovation of the roller machinery which W. T. Soden installed in 1878. The replacement machinery was also purchased from the Western Manufacturing at Leavenworth, Kansas.<sup>66</sup> The third and last change made by young Soden was a change of brands. The "XXXX" and "Eagle" brands were discarded and replaced by the "Five Roses" brand.<sup>67</sup> The exchange basis

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<sup>65</sup>French, op. cit., p. 119.

<sup>66</sup>Southwestern Miller, loc. cit.

<sup>67</sup>Ibid.

for the new flour was thirty two pounds of the "Five Roses" brand for each bushel of sixty pound, number one wheat.<sup>68</sup> Soden's mill shut down after the September business of 1924 because of the illness of Justin Soden and it was never to operate again under Soden direction.<sup>69</sup>

The Final End. In 1941, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Alderson leased the old Soden mill and associated themselves with Mr. Lloyd F. Anderson to manufacture a flour known as "A & A" brand. Their association was short lived and unsuccessful in the production of flour. Mr. & Mrs. Alderson abandoned the mill later in the same year and moved to Topeka, Kansas.<sup>70</sup>

On November 4, 1942, workmen started razing much of the old mill.<sup>71</sup> The job was never fully completed. On December 3, 1944 a fire destroyed the remaining elements of the Soden Mill.<sup>72</sup>

Soden's Grove and the Soden dam, now owned by the city of Emporia, are all that remain of the enterprise developed a century ago, however Soden lore and the Soden name will live many years.

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<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY

Restatement. Irish born William T. Soden came to America with his parents at the age of one. His early years were spent in New York state, working in the logging camps, and flouring and grist mills. Leaving home at the age of twenty-one, W. T. Soden headed west with his total savings of \$3,000 sewed in a belt which he wore around his waist. The winter of 1856 and 1857 was spent in Iowa before he decided to travel further west. Joining with three companions he traveled as far as Cottonwood Falls where he suspected that one of his companions was trying to rob him. Soden turned back towards Emporia and proceeded as far as the Haworth Mill, two miles south of Plymouth on the Cottonwood River. W. T. Soden spent three years at the Haworth Mill, invested his \$3,000 in a partnership with Joel Haworth and finally purchased the entire mill when Haworth decided to try farming. The Haworth Mill burned in 1862 and Soden lost his investment.

In the year 1859, a family from Iowa settled on the banks of the Cottonwood River directly south of Emporia. Soon afterward the family started a dam across the river but before its completion, the father of the family became ill and died with typhoid fever.

Seeing the opportunity of having a dam across the river at Emporia Soden purchased the properties necessary to finish the dam and to control the water rights. Withstanding the "Kansas famine" and ridicule from his skeptic friends, he completed the dam in 1861 and immediately started building the Emporia Water Mills.

The years of 1860, 1861, and 1862 were filled with happiness, excitement, and sadness for William T. Soden. In 1860, he married for the first time only to be saddened by the death of his wife and a son less than a year later. In 1862, W. T. Soden had a major part in the county seat war in which the records were taken from Americus and brought to Emporia. The year 1862 also marked the beginning of Soden's Mill which operated for sixty two years under Soden management.

In that sixty two years, very few changes were made in the operation of the mill, however several additions were made to improve the conditions for the customer and to hasten the delivery of the mill products. In 1865 Mr. Soden built a fan mill for the convenience of his customers and after the tornado of 1878, the fan mill and the original Emporia Water Mills were combined into one building. At the peak of the business years the mill structure reached a height of five stories. Some of Soden's customers had to take as much as one month to come to the mill and have their grist ground. They often had to come a distance of one hundred miles to the mill

and there was a place needed for the farmers and Indians to camp. Another addition for the customer's convenience therefore was the purchase of thirty acres of land which became the Soden's Grove of today.

William T. Soden retired from the milling business in 1900, however before his retirement, he played an important role as a civic leader in the building and growth of Emporia. Probably his most important contribution to the city of Emporia was the founding of the Emporia Banking and Savings Association which was later chartered as the Emporia National Bank, the first bank in the city. Several of W. T. Soden's other activities included the designing of the Emporia Gas Works, the building of a hotel, the investment in several business buildings, and a partnership in the Arnold Furniture Factory.

In 1868, Mr. Soden married for the second time and this marriage was blessed with three children: Mrs. Hallie B. Soden-Laws, Justin R. and Harry Norman Soden. W. T. Soden's second wife died in December, 1875.

William Soden was married for a third time in June, 1885, and his third wife survived him in death in August, 1906.

Justin Rosenthal Soden relieved his father of his mill duties in 1900 managing the mill until his death in 1924. Like his father, J.R. Soden dedicated his life to the progressive city and the operation of his Emporia Water Mills.

Justin Soden was one of the founders of the Emporia Country Club and served as one of its first directors. Justin R. Soden married Jennie Perley in January, 1901 and their marriage was blessed with two children: William and Margaret Soden. The death of Justin Rosenthal Soden marked the end of operations for the Soden Mill under Soden management.

Two different families co-operated in the operation of the mill in 1941, producing "A & A" brand flour, however the partnership was unsuccessful and the mill was closed for the last time.

In 1943, Mrs. Justin R. Soden sold the Mill, dam, and Soden's Grove to the city for \$13,000.

In 1946, the city of Emporia sold the dam to a man who intended to remove it from the bed of the river. Under a protest from the county who claimed that the removal of the dam would weaken the abutments of the bridge which crossed the river at that point, the man failed to remove the dam. It should be noted that the gentleman paid the city a price of \$300 for the dam. Later in 1946, the city was suffering from a lack of water because of a drouth and Emporia again bought the Soden dam for a price of \$6,000.

Soden lore will live for many years in the Emporia area. Many cameras have been pointed towards the mill, towards the dam, and in all directions around Soden's Grove.

Soden's dam is still one of the best fishing spots around the Emporia area. Today in Soden's Grove, many children enjoy themselves riding a train provided by the city or playing baseball on the ball diamond. The name of Soden is as familiar as it was a century ago.

Contribution of this thesis. Material relevant to Soden's Emporia Water Mills is scattered and the quantity is limited. The contributions of William T. Soden and his mill should not be forgotten. This pioneer mill played an important part in the development of a town, a county, and a state, therefore it is equally important that the history of this man and his mill be preserved. Integrating the materials available into this history has been the contribution of this thesis.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### A. BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

Andreas, A. T., History of the State of Kansas, Chicago: A. J. Cox and Company, Binders, 1883. 1616 pp.

This history gives a good account of the growth of Kansas from a territory to the settlement leading to statehood. Included therein is a description of Soden's Mill and a biographical sketch of W. T. Soden. This book is available in the Kansas section of the Emporia City Library.

Federal Writer's Project. Kansas: A Guide to the Sunflower State. New York: Hastings House, 1939. 538 pp.

An excellent description of the Soden home is contained herein. This book may be found in the Kansas section of the Emporia City Library.

French, Laura, History of Emporia & Lyon County. Emporia: Emporia Gazette Print, 1929. 292 pp.

This book, which was written by a resident of Emporia, gives a good description of the settlement of the county and the founding of Emporia. Herein are mentioned some of the prominent people of the area and the leading enterprises are also listed. Pictures are included. This book is available in the Kansas section of the Emporia City Library and in the William Allen White Library, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas.

Historical Booklet, A publication of the Emporia Centennial Celebration Committee, June, 1957.

June, 1957, marked the centennial year for the city of Emporia and this publication gives a history of the early day events which took place in Emporia and Lyon County. The "county seat war" is given herein. This booklet was borrowed from Miss Margaret Soden, Emporia, Kansas.

Laughlin, Anne. Milling in Kansas. Industrial Study Number 1 by the National Youth Administration, State Administrator. Topeka: New England Building, 1940.

Miss Laughlin's study reveals the types of milling in Kansas, the methods used, the different types of seed, the different methods of transportation for wheat and flour, and the many uses of flour and its by-products. This publication may be found in the William Allen White Library at Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas.

#### B. BOOKS: PARTS OF SERIES

Fitz, Leslie A. "Development of Flour Milling Industry in Kansas." Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1911-1912. Vol. XII. Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1912.

Fitz gives a complete history of the development of the flour milling industry up to 1900. Contained in this volume are the different types of milling and the locations of the early pioneer mills. This volume is located in the Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka, Kansas.

Kansas, A Cyclopedic of State History, Embracing Events, Institutions, Counties, Cities, Towns, Prominent Persons, Etc. Vol. II. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912.

This volume contains a biographical sketch of William T. Soden and a slight history of the development of his Emporia Water Mills. There is also a fine listing of the family tree. This volume may be found in the Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka, Kansas.

Seiler, William H. Industry and Mining in Kansas: The First Century. John D. Bright, ed. Vol. II. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1956.

This chapter gives information concerning the number of mills in the state around 1860 and gives the average capital investments of the mills. This volume may be found in the Kansas section of the Emporia City Library.

### C. RECORDS

Deed Record, Lyon County Courthouse, Vol. C. p. 343.

Soden's first deed for obtaining water rights is filed herein. This deed is filed in the office Register of Deeds, Lyon County Courthouse, Emporia, Kansas.

Deed Record, Lyon County Courthouse, Vol. C. p. 367.

On this page a deed is recorded entitling Soden to four and five hundredths acres on the north side of the river. This deed is filed in the office Register of Deeds, Lyon County Courthouse, Emporia, Kansas.

Deed Record, Lyon County Courthouse, Vol. F. p. 225.

This is a recording of Soden's second purchase of land on the north side of the Cottonwood River. This deed is filed in the office Register of Deeds, Lyon County Courthouse, Emporia, Kansas

Deed Record, Lyon County Courthouse, Vol. F. p. 455.

This deed entitles Soden to ten acres of land, the first purchase of Soden's grove. This deed is filed in the office Register of Deeds, Lyon County Courthouse, Emporia, Kansas.

Deed Record, Lyon County Courthouse, Vol. F. p. 603.

On this page is recorded a deed to twenty acres of land, the second purchase of Soden's grove. This deed is filed in the office Register of Deeds, Lyon County Courthouse, Emporia, Kansas.

#### D. PUBLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT

Kansas Court of Appeals, Reports of Cases Decided in the Courts of Appeals of the State of Kansas, 1898, VII. Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1899.

In this volume is an account of the litigation in which William Soden attempted to place an injunction against the city of Emporia to stop the dumping of sewerage in the Cottonwood River. This volume is located in the Kansas State Library, Topeka.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Marketing Kansas Wheat. Kansas Wheat Commission. Topeka: State Printing Plant, 1959.

This booklet given an excellent account of the Mennonite settlement and of the wheat they brought to Kansas. The importation of the Turkey wheat by Warkentin is also covered. This booklet was borrowed from Dr. William H. Seiler, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas.

Kansas Supreme Court. Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas, January Term, 1881. XXV. Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1887.

This volume contains an account of litigation in which Soden obtained an injunction against the city of Emporia restraining the city from taking water from the mill pond. The court declared that the city must also pay Soden some compensation for water taken from the mill pond. This volume is located in the Kansas State Library, Topeka.

Kansas Supreme Court. Reports of Cases Argued and Determined In the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas, July Term, 1881. XXVI. Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1887.

This volume contains a request by the city of Emporia for a rehearing on the case against W. T. Soden and his water rights. This volume is located in the Kansas State Library, Topeka.

#### E. PUBLICATIONS OF COLLEGES

Holloway, J. N., "The Drouth of 1860". Heritage of Kansas. Neil Byer, ed. Vol. I. Department of English at Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, 1957.

This publication gives an excellent description of the drouth which dried up the river beds, cracked the earth, and drove many of the early settlers away from Kansas. This publication may be found in the William Allen White Library at Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas.

#### F. PERIODICALS

Millers Almanac, A publication of the Northwestern Miller, 1925.

This book contains a sample of the type of advertising used by Justin R. Soden. This book may be found in the Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka, Kansas.

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\_\_\_\_\_. "Who's Who in Milling." (a biographical sketch), The Southwestern Miller, I, October, 1922. pp. 21 and 29.

This article is a biographical sketch of Justin R. Soden which also gives a good history of the mill and William T. Soden. Included in the article are the different brands used by J. R. Soden and his father. On page 36 is a sample ad used for the "Five Roses" flour. This book was borrowed from Miss Margaret Soden, Emporia, Kansas

## G. UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

Fisher, Paul M. "History and Development of the Flour Milling Industry in Kansas," Unpublished Master's thesis, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1939.

Chapter V contains a fine discussion of the milling-in-transit privilege offered to the Kansas millers by the different railroads. This thesis is located in the University of Pennsylvania Library at Philadelphia.

Johns, Vernon O. "Development of the Flour Milling Industry in Kansas," Unpublished Master's thesis, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 1926.

Johns' study gives a complete description of the early mills before 1860 and the growth of milling between 1860 and 1874. Chapter VIII is a study of the industry since 1900. This thesis is located in the University of Kansas Library, Lawrence, Kansas.

William T. Soden Notebook.

This notebook is now the treasured possession of Miss Margaret Soden. Herein are found four pages containing figures representing four years of business at the mill. A good example of the way in which W. T. Soden kept records. Within this notebook was a plan that Mr. Soden made of the first Emporia Water Mills. This notebook also gives evidence that William Soden at one time had to buy supplies for a grocery store that he either owned or operated.

## H. NEWSPAPERS

Emporia Democrat, August 24, 1887

This paper carries an ad which was typical of W. T. Soden's policy of advertising. This clipping is on micro-film and may be found at the Emporia City Library.

Emporia Gazette, August 8, 1893.

This paper carries an ad which was typical of W. T. Soden's policy of advertising. This clipping is on micro-film and may be found at the Emporia City Library.

Emporia Gazette, January 17, 1901.

This clipping reports the marriage of Justin R. Soden to Jennie Perley on January 16, 1901. This clipping is on micro-film and may be found at the Emporia City Library.

Emporia Gazette, August 16, 1906.

This article, written by William Allen White, was a complete history of William T. Soden and Soden's Mill. Four full columns were written as a memorative feature to W. T. Soden and his importance to the city of Emporia. This article tells of Soden's many civic activities and his experiences encountered when coming to Kansas and Emporia. His investment and interest in the Haworth Mill is also related. This entire paper was borrowed from Miss Margaret Soden.

Emporia Gazette, November 29, 1924.

This clipping announces the death of Justin R. Soden. This paper may be found in the Emporia City Library.

Emporia Gazette, November 5, 1942.

The Gazette reports that an Emporia landmark is being torn down and the history of Soden's Mill is repeated. This paper is located in the Emporia City Library.

Emporia Gazette, June 26, 1957

This issue of the Gazette was written as part of the centennial celebration for the city of Emporia. A feature story was again printed on Soden's Mill as a pioneer enterprise. This story was based on the article written by Mr. White on August 16, 1906. This paper is located in the Emporia City Library and the writer borrowed a copy from Dr. C. Stewart Boertman, Social Science Department, Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia.

Emporia Gazette, June 26, 1959.

This clipping reports the death of Jennie (Perley) Soden, mother of Miss Margaret Soden and William (Billie) Soden. This paper is located in the Emporia City Library.

Emporia News, May 19, 1860

This clipping reports the marriage of William T. Soden to Miss Francis Jean McCormick on May 18, 1860. This clipping is on micro-film and is located in the Emporia City Library.

Emporia News, March 30, 1861

This clipping reports the death of Mrs. Francis Jean (McCormick) Soden. Cause of death not given, however the article reports that she is survived by a son. No name was given for the son. This clipping is on micro-film at the Emporia City Library.

Emporia News, May 14, 1861.

This clipping states that Bill Soden has finished his dam on the Cottonwood and has started laying the foundation for the Emporia Water Mills. This clipping is on micro-film located in the Emporia City Library.

Emporia News, June 21, 1862.

An ad in this paper states that the Emporia Water Mills have been completed and are ready to conduct business. This ad is on micro-film at the Emporia City Library.

Emporia News, February 14, 1868.

This paper carries an ad which was typical of William Soden's policy of advertising. This clipping is on micro-film and may be found at the Emporia City Library.



Emporia News, December 10, 1875.

This clipping reports the death of Jennie (Weaver) Soden and is survived by three children: Mrs. Hallie B. Soden-Laws, Justin Rosenthal, and Harry Norman Soden. This clipping is on micro-film at the Emporia City Library.

Emporia News, April 15, 1878.

The tornado that destroyed the Arnold Furniture Factory and damaged Soden's Mill is reported in this clipping. This clipping is on micro-film at the Emporia City Library.

Emporia Republican, May 7, 1883.

This paper carries an ad which was typical of William Soden's policy of advertising. This clipping is on micro-film and may be found at the Emporia City Library.

Emporia Times, April 23, 1895.

This paper carries an ad which was typical of William Soden's policy of advertising. This clipping is on micro-film and may be found at the Emporia City Library.

Kansas City Star, December 4, 1944.

This clipping reports the fire which destroyed the remains of the Soden mill and also states that the city bought the property in 1942 from Mrs. Justin R. Soden. This clipping is located in the Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka, Kansas.

Kansas City Times, May 25, 1943

This clipping reports the sale of the Soden Mill, dam and grove to the city for a total price of \$13,000. This clipping is located in the Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka, Kansas.

Topeka Daily Capitol, November 7, 1919.

This is a feature story of the development of the milling industry in Kansas. The introduction of roller equipment and its first successful demonstration is included herein. This article may be located in the Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka, Kansas.

## I. PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Mosher, Orville, August 4, 1959

Mr. Mosher is director of the Lyon County Museum and he was very helpful in explaining about the Indian tribes in Lyon County.

Raynolds, Leroy W., June 27, 1960

Mr. Raynolds, a prominent lawyer in Emporia, was very helpful in directing the writer of this study to answers relating to W. T. Soden's problems of litigation.

Soden, Margaret, June 14, 1960

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