

FROM NEEDHAM'S TRESTLE BOARD —

KANSAS-NEBRASKA TERRITORIES

(Material compiled
by George B. Cairk, 32°)

The National Encyclopedia states: The Kansas-Nebraska Bill, an act approved May 30, 1854, for the territorial organization of the region between Missouri and the Rocky Mountains, i.e., the remainder of the Louisiana Purchase. The bill, introduced by Senator Stephen A. Douglas, Jan. 23, 1854, provided that this domain be organized into two territories—Kansas and Nebraska. Incidentally, Douglas was a member of Springfield (Ill.) Lodge #4, F. & A. M.

H. L. Haywood in his **Well-Springs of American Freemasonry**, had this to say: "According to such information as the writer possesses concerning these matters, no other large area in the world has ever had so small or so weird a group of Masons as were those who organized the first lodge in the vast Territory of Kansas. Some Wyandot Indians had been driven out of Ohio by the Christians who desired their lands, and while they were on that westward trek which Bill Nye afterwards described with terrible sarcasm, fell into the hands of other white Christians who convinced them that slavery was a Divine Institution. So these Wyandots, who had never before heard of slavery, bought some slaves and went on out to Kansas. Somehow, and mysteriously, three of them had become Masons. These three, with a white missionary and four other white men, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Missouri, Mother of Masonry west of the (Mississippi) River, for a dispensation. In August 1854, that dispensation was granted, and in the same month that most extraordinary lodge began its work. It elected the missionary, Brother John M. Chivington its first Master. By an irony that even Sucion of Samosata could not have conceived, this first lodge was not given the No. 1 listing when the Grand Lodge of Kansas was organized in 1856, but was reduced to No. 3 because 'it was an Indian Lodge!'"

The stamps mentioned were issued in May 1954 after the MP was printed and distributed. Scott No. 1061 and 1060.

Before the Grand Lodge of Kansas was formed in 1856 this same John M. Chivington was sent to Nebraska and assisted in formation of its No. 3 lodge and was its Master V. D. When the Grand Lodge of Nebraska was formed in 1857, he assisted and became Grand Chaplain. In 1860 he was sent to the Gold Region, now Colorado, to establish the Methodist church there. He assisted in setting up Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 8 (under Nebraska dispensation) which became No. 3 when the Grand Lodge of Colorado was organized Aug. 2, 1861, and he was elected its first Grand Master. Just in passing, as this writer is a resident of Ohio, John M. Chivington was raised in Butlerville Lodge #135, Butlerville, Ohio, on July 2, 1846.

An additional item is that a Richard R. Rees, a Kansas pioneer, was first Grand Master of Kansas at the organization of that Grand Lodge in 1855. He was a member of Leavenworth Lodge #2, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, of which he was Master. He was also Grand Master in 1861 when, on Jan. 29, 1861, Kansas was admitted to the union as a state.

As the Post Office Dept. has announced a new 3¢ stamp in honor of each of the centennials of both Kansas and Nebraska Territories, the writer thought it a good idea to write up some of the material Bro. Clark submitted into more acceptable form for publication in the philatelic press.

