

DC Panel - Significance

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It is a pleasure to me to speak to you on this most interesting occasion. I feel that I am among friends, because the late Mrs. Elizabeth Hays, the wife of the founder of this fine estate, was for many years the correspondent in this neighborhood for The Journal-World, and it has been my good fortune to know other members of the family.

I knew Sam Stonebraker, who fifty years ago was one of the many Black Jack citizens interested in politics. They told it on Sam that, *at* one time when he was addressing a Republican gathering, someone in the audience asked him a very embarrassing question. Sam's friends thought that he would be floored, but quick as a wink he turned to one of his old cronies and asked, "Do you remember that pretty little filly we used to court down by Squire Blank's?" The crowd roared and everyone forgot about the unanswered question.

At another time a candidate from Lawrence was telling about the terrible time he had the night before at a rally down here, and said, "Why so and so called me a liar". "Oh that's nothing", said a friend, "That is often done in politics". "But", added the candidate, "He proved it on me."

I am glad that The Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce, are doing something for Kansas that we long ago should have been interested in doing for ourselves. And I wish to add good words for Roy Bailey, under whom the movement started; Fred Brinkerhoff, the energetic and efficient chairman of the committee; Kirke Mechem, secretary of the Historical Society, and to Governor Ratner, whose favorable consideration this summer revived the project.

We should be remiss today if ~~we~~ attention were not called to the monument erected on the site of the Battle of Black Jack in February 1916, more than 24 years ago. In the Journal-World of February 18, 1916 there appeared a picture of the monument, ~~together~~ with George Roe, W. E. Barnes and George Jones, survivors of the battle standing beside it. ~~I understand~~ This monument was erected by the ~~D.~~ A. R.

I know that we are all grateful to the Hays family for their generosity and cooperation, and to little Miss Barbara for the gracious manner in which she unveiled the marker.