

The Winding Valley and the Craggy Hillside

**A History of the City of Rosedale, Kansas by Margaret Landis.
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Chapter XI ANNEXATION

The Townsite of Rosedale, Kansas	- 1872
"The Town of Rosedale, Shawnee Township"	
The City of Rosedale, Kansas	- 1877
Kansas City, Kansas - Rosedale District	- 1922

Two years after the Kansas Rolling Mill moved to Rosedale (1875) there was the required population of 600 persons to become a City of the Third Class.

A petition was presented to the hon. Hiram Stevens, Judge of the Tenth Judicial District (Wyandotte, Johnson and Miami counties). He issued an order for incorporating the village as a city. The election of officers was held August 28, 1877.

In 1886 there was the consolidation of five communities that made-up Kansas City, Kansas. The new city was composed of Wyandotte, Kansas City, Kansas, Armourdale, Riverview and Armstrong.

By 1897 Rosedale had a population of over 2,000 inhabitants. Many additions had been added to Rosedale and the City Limits were extended. Meeting the required provisions of population and description of all lands in the City Limits, Rosedale became a City of the Second Class, December 24, 1897. Rosedale had voted bonds for their water system and it was the opinion that the bonds would sell better if the city was of Second Class status.

Argentine was annexed in 1909. Following the annexation of Argentine, the Kansas City, Kansas Council passed a resolution inviting Rosedale to become a part of Kansas City, Kansas.

The Rosedale election of 1911 had three parties in the field: The Progressive, The citizens and The Socialist. The ballot expressed the voice of the people: "We are in favor of the new City Hall and of the Mill Street Tunnel, but against Annexation." Samuel Clasen was elected mayor. Being Mayor at the age of 25, he was given the title as "The Boy Mayor."

After four years of contention, a petition was presented to mayor J.R. Wimmer and the 8 Council Members calling for a vote on the consolidation issue. The election was held July 15, 1913 and a majority of the citizens voted to join Kansas City, Kansas. The vote was not certified at this time.

The controversy continued for another eight years. The ordinance of consolidation contained some unreasonable demands from the Rosedale council that could not be accepted by Kansas City, Kansas.

The opinion of the majority of Rosedaliens regarding the fusion question had remained steadfast. Among the proponents were the Good Government League of Rosedale headed by L.H. Rose; others included Dr. O.M. Longnecker, Dr. B.M. Barnett, George Rushton, Frank Rushton, J.A. Haner and George Gerner.

The State Legislature passed an Act (1921 Kansas Laws, Senate Bill No. 127) providing for the consolidation of cities. The Act, in substance, provided that when a Second Class City had an election on the question of consolidation and the vote was in favor, the City clerk was to certify under the seal of the city and send the results of such election to the Governor. The Governor should within 15 days issue his "proclamation proclaiming the consolidation of said first and second class cities as one city."

In 1921 the legal fight for consolidation was carried to the Supreme Court of Kansas. Rosedale City Attorney L.R. Gates and former City Attorney S.R. Williamson prepared the papers. The object of the law suit was for the certification of the vote of the election of 1913 that the council had not authorized the clerk to certify.

The election of 1922 brought a Council favorable to Consolidation. The Rosedale City council instructed city clerk A.H. Smedinghoff to certify the election of July 15, 1913 so that the merger could be completed.

April 7, 1922, Governor H.J. Allen issued a proclamation for the consolidation of Kansas City, Kansas and the City of Rosedale, Kansas. In the history of the State of Kansas, it is reported to be the first instance of two cities being merged by proclamation of the governor.

The preliminary business was taken care of .. including an audit of Rosedale's financial condition and other details pertaining to bond issues and public property.

After over-coming many legal obstacles and much political opposition, at midnight, April 25, 1922, the City of Rosedale, Kansas was merged with Kansas City, Kansas. Rosedale had been an autonomous city for 45 years.

HOW ANNEXATION AFFECTED ROSEDALE

Upon Annexation, Rosedale became the Eighth Ward of Kansas City, Kansas and the "Rosedale District." Rosedale became a "part of a First Class" City. Harry Burton was the mayor of Kansas City, Kansas.

The Rosedale Branch Post Office became Rosedale Station, Kansas City, Kansas.

A.P. Vaughn was Superintendent of Rosedale, Kansas Schools from 1914 to 1922. In Kansas city, Kansas, he became Supervisor of the Rosedale District Schools.

There were 7 public schools in Rosedale and fifty-six teachers. About 2,000 enrollment. Public Schools: Whitmore, Attucks, Columbian, Maccochaque, Snow, Noble Prentis and Rosedale High School. Parochial School: Holy Name School.

Edward Powers, Chief of Police in Rosedale, continued as a Kansas City, Kansas Sergeant and divided police supervision of the new 8th Ward with Sgt. Walter W. Lacy and Sgt. Joseph Cigich. Rosedale's Water supply was purchased from Kansas City, Missouri. Rosedale owned its mains. After annexation, the water came from the K.C. Kansas Municipal Plant.

Rosedale's Electric Service was furnished by the Standard Electric Light Company. After consolidation, electricity came from the K.C. Kansas Municipal Light Plant.

Many of the Streets of Rosedale were renamed to correspond with Kansas City, Kansas and eliminate duplicate names of streets. Accordingly, the names of many churches of Rosedale were changed. The churches that had the word "First" in their title became "Rosedale." (Example: The First Baptist Church of Rosedale became the Rosedale Baptist Church.)

The Rosedale Pool and Bath House opening ceremony was held July 4, 1924. The pool was 90 feet by 125 feet and had a capacity of 250,000 gallons of water. The swimming pool was close to 36th and Springfield near the south end of the present Rosedale Middle School parking lot.

One of the agreements of annexation was that a fire Station would be built "on top of the hill." Station No. 12 was built at 43rd and Rainbow boulevard and put in service November 1924.

Annexation made possible the building of a connecting route between Rosedale and Kansas city, Kansas. The Seventh Street Trafficway was completed to Southwest Boulevard in 1935.

The City of Rosedale, Kansas – MAYORS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERVED</u>
D.S. Mathias	1877 - 1878
William Rankin	1879
David Mathias	1880 - (Father of D.S. Mathias)
John Haddock	1881 - (Resigned)
L.A. Wohlforth	1881 - (Acting Mayor)
D.E. Jones	1881 - 1882
W.C. Boyer	1883
D.E. Jones	1884
W.H. Spencer	1885
D.E. Jones	1886 - 1887 - 1888
B.M. Barnett	1889
James M. Killmer	1890 - 1891
D.E. Jones	1892 - 1893
W.D. Mathias	1894 - 1895
John Robinson	1896 - 1897
James M. Killmer	1898 - 1899 - 1900
Newell E. Smith	1901 - 1902
B.M. Barnett	1903 - 1904

Henry E. Kiefer	1905 - 1906
E.F. Bryant	1907
Edward J. Eicholtz	1908 - 1909 - 1910
Samuel Clasen	1911 - 1912
J.R. Wimmer	1913 - 1914
S.H. Rennick	1915 - 1916
John Fezler	1917 - 1918
S.H. Rennick	1919 - 1920 - 1921 - 1922

The Last Mayor of Rosedale S.H. Rennick.

Mr. Rennick served six terms as Mayor.

