

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE KANSAS  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
EMBRACING RECOLLECTIONS  
OF EARLY DAYS IN KANSAS**

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Publications of the Kansas State Historical Society Embracing Recollections of Early Days in  
Kansas by Shalor Winchell Eldridge

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**SHALOR WINCHELL ELDRIDGE**

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OF THE  
KANSAS STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



EMBRACING  
RECOLLECTIONS OF  
EARLY DAYS IN KANSAS

BY  
SHALOR WINCHELL ELDRIDGE

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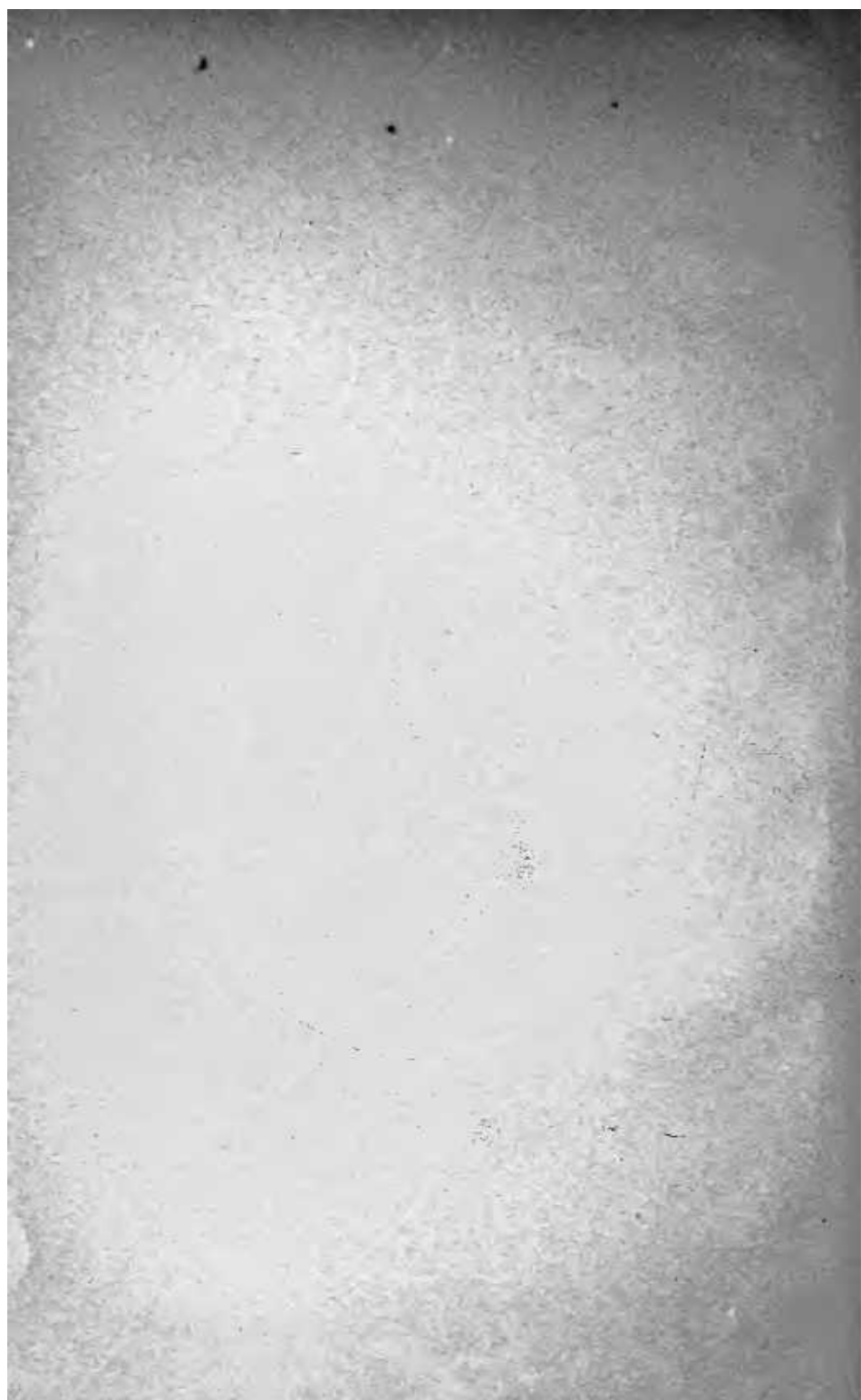


AS A TRIBUTE OF A FATHER'S LOVE TO THREE  
AFFECTIONATE DAUGHTERS,  
MARY ELDRIDGE LEARNARD, ALICE ELDRIDGE LEARNARD,  
AND EVANGELINE ELDRIDGE MATTHEWS,  
WHOSE LOVING ATTENTIONS HAVE BEEN THE JOY OF MY LIFE AND THE COMFORT OF  
AGE, AND TO THE MEMORY OF A COMPANION GONE BEFORE,  
MARY B. NORTON ELDRIDGE,  
TO WHOSE ABUNDING VIRTUES AND NOBLE GUIDANCE I OWE THE HIGHEST AIMS OF  
MY LIFE, THESE RECORDS ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

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*S. W. Eldridge*





## STATEMENT.

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THE interest which will always attach to the great struggle for freedom in the territorial days of Kansas is ample cause for the publication of this volume. The testimony of an eye-witness is always the best evidence, and Colonel Eldridge not only saw the events he describes, but was an actor in most of them. He was a man of sterling character, deliberate and conservative by nature. It was for these qualities that he was best known to his associates in the great work of making Kansas a free state. And this knowledge was the fundamental cause of the desire of the Kansas pioneers that he write and preserve an account of his part in the conflict here for human liberty. When the business affairs of a life practically spent in Kansas had been to some extent laid aside, Colonel Eldridge found time to comply with the known and often expressed wish of his neighbors.

This work was prepared by Colonel Eldridge in the period of that golden autumn when time for mature reflection on his strenuous and useful career could be given. It was his intention to complete it by publication. But opportunity for this never came. After his death the manuscript was covered under by attention to other matters, and was in a sense lost for a number of years. It came to light during the present year and was brought to the attention of the Kansas State Historical Society. Its merit and value were at once recognized, and the Society arranged with the surviving members of Colonel Eldridge's family to publish it. It is brought out as the second volume of *Publications*, a series designed for precisely this purpose. The Society presents it with every confidence that it will be received with that hearty welcome accorded all its publications. As an authority on the transactions of the pioneer days of this incomparable state it is worthy of such a welcome.

WILLIAM E. CONNELLEY; *Secretary.*

AUGUST 11, 1920.

WORCESTER, MASS., 23 Sept., 1897.

*Col. S. W. Eldridge:*

MY DEAR SIR—I was very glad to receive your kind letter yesterday, and still more pleased to learn that you intend to write your reminiscences of your early Kansas life. The Eldridges were very important factors in securing the freedom of our territories, and it is only just that they, and especially yourself, should be held in grateful remembrance. Especially the story of the movement of the armed emigration from the North, through Iowa, for the relief of Kansas, can be told best by yourself, who had the matter in charge.

Sincerely yours,      ELI THAYER.

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