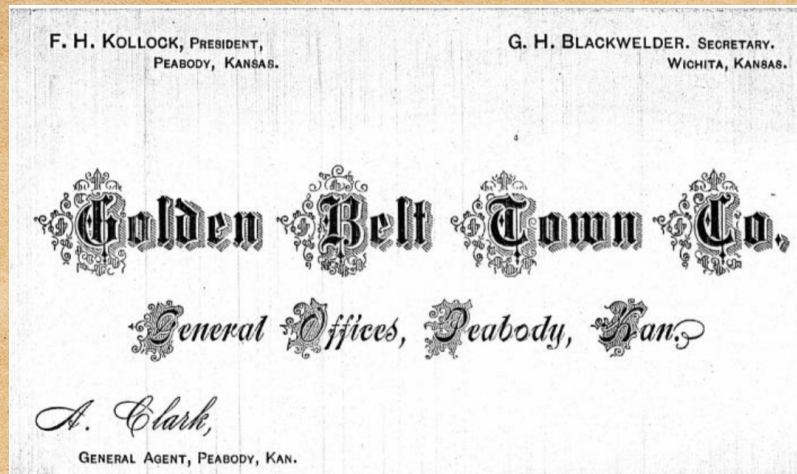


HISTORY HIGHLIGHTED

Town Companies



E.L. Neal wrote in a 1935 history of Whitewater, "The town site of Whitewater was laid out in 1887 by the Golden Belt Town Company, on land owned by G.P. Nieman."

Town companies had contributing roles in the founding of the new towns of the time. The company would speculate on land and acquire specific locations to accommodate the railroad. Those locations would be surveyed, platted for towns, and prepared for sale. The railroads were not interested in owning or organizing town sites.

We know that Mr. Nieman maintained ownership of the land platted for the town of Whitewater. In that case, the town company served as agents to warrant that records were complete, deeds were properly filed, and obligations to the County were met. They gave direction for elections of town officials and assisted in the initial town management. Their responsibilities were terminated once the official town government was recognized by the county and had sufficiently assumed their duties.