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Offerle History

1876 - 1976

by

Julie Riisoe Ackerman

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Offerle History
1876-1976
Centennial

MOTTO:

**"Pride in Our Past,
Faith in Our Future."**

by Velma Liebl

by

Julie Riisoe Ackerman

Cover Drawing by Everett Tasset.

Introduction

This book has been put down on paper in a relatively short period of time, considering the long period of one-hundred years that I have tried to cover. I have had tremendous cooperation from so many people. The material on the town of Offerle was gleaned from Ott Kurth, Abner Offerle, Kate Krumrey, and Marie Oliphant. I have missed some information on the family histories, but I have included what I received from people. I could not include every picture given me as there was not enough space. Each family provided their information for their article. I tried to not make too many mistakes, but perfection is hard to achieve. Two people have helped me to track information and type the information. They are Vlema Liebl and Anita Schmidt. I want to thank them for their help. Without everyone's cooperation this book would not have been ready for publication. I want to thank my family for putting up with my project. I hope everyone who reads the book will derive a sense of pride of Offerle and its surrounding area. I know I have that feeling from putting this book together for you.

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History of Offerle

In the spring of 1876, three young men: Lawrence Offerle; his brother John; and Edward P. Ott came west from Geneseo, Illinois, looking for places to settle. They stopped at a point one-half mile east of what is now the boundary line between Edwards and Ford counties, where a well had been dug by the Santa Fe Railroad to provide water for its trains. Lawrence Offerle laid out a town site, thus the name of "Offerle." The Offerle Town Company was organized in 1876.

Lumber was needed for the buildings that were to be built, so Lawrence Offerle went to Minnesota, where he bought trees, had them cut, then shipped them down the Mississippi River to St. Louis and then down the Missouri River to Kansas City. There the lumber was shipped by rail to Offerle.

A general store was built on the corner where the present day cafe now stands. Lawrence brought two of his sons, Abner and Edwin, out to the town where they operated the general store. The first post office was established around this time and it was in the Offerle store, with Lawrence Offerle as its first regular postmaster. Later postal workers were: Hazel (Ott) Rethorst, Byra Sams, Carl Eickholt, William Berry, Leona Butler and now Harry Brown.

In 1877, a hotel was built by Lawrence Offerle where the present day Offerle Store now stands. This store faced the south, facing the Santa Fe Trail. Later this building was moved north of the grocery store facing to the east. It was later operated by the Roy Gunns around 1917. It was torn down and some of the lumber was used to build the house where Bertha Lancaster lives now.



Lawrence Offerle



Mary (Ott) Offerle

Lawrence Offerle brought the rest of his family from Illinois to the town where they all grew to maturity. His wife was Mary (Ott) Offerle and his younger children were: Minerva, Oscar, Amanda, Norman and Russell.

Also in 1877, a lumber yard was built by E. P. Ott and a Mr. Robb where the new Co-op hardware store stands now. In 1907, the present lumber yard was built and still stands in good use today. Mrs. Joe Basgall said her husband, Joe, also used the same carpenters to build his store across the street. This served for awhile as a drug store, then was Basgall's store for many years. Lawrence Kregar now has a carpenter shop in the building.

Among the early day settlers to come to Offerle were: the Sidlow, Avery, Robb, Sand and Rapp families. An early day agent for the Santa Fe was Mr. A. E. Teed.

The first wheat raised in western Edwards and eastern Ford counties was in 1878. A threshing machine had been shipped here in 1877 by a Mr. Taylor. Some trouble over the freight charges arose, but with the good wheat yield, the machine was released for use by the farmers.



Offerle Main Street in 1895.

With the coming of settlers, a bank was needed and much discussion evolved on where it was to be located. Fred Ehlers of Kinsley, bought some ground from Joe Basgall and in 1908, the present day bank building was built to serve its customers.



Farmers State Bank

Basgall's Store 1915 Photo

In 1910, a Farmer's elevator was built at its present location. Jess Baxter, Dave Sturgeon and Lloyd Spivey were the men who had charge of the grain elevator while the Co-op was being built. In the first year of operation, the capacity of grain handled was 12,000 bushels. The first manager was Mr. Orr. He had two daughters: Linda (Mrs. Ray Dowley) and Mildred (Mrs. Ruben Lightcap). Others who have been managers were: Perry White, Everett Hardgrove, Ed Gall, Mr. Smith, Everett Bredfeldt and Glenn Walter. The present manager in Merlyn Phillips. Blair Hedges sold the first load of wheat to the Co-op. The first carload of grain shipped in was seed oats. Much larger elevators, a new filling station complex, a new office and a new feed mill have since been built to serve its patrons. The capacity of the present set-up at Offerle is 1½ million bushels.



Offerle Wheat Market - 1916



Offerle Wheat Market - October 16, 1916

Early Day Co-op Board



Top Row—L. to R.: Fred Weiss, Werner Jochems, Harry Tasset, Roy McKee. Bottom Row—L. to R.: Rich Speck, Emil Gall, Herman Weiss, Henry Wetzel, Tom Gleason.

Early Day Business

Where McAvoy's Welding Shop is located now, Martin Riedl's garage was located. Before this it had been a livery stable complete with hay barn in the top story. It was run by Joe Getchy. B. L. Sams bought it and kept his six-horse team in it. These horses pulled the hearse for Mr. Sams, the undertaker. Later, when he had a motor-driven hearse, the place was run by Ed Tenbrink. Mr. Riedl operated his garage there until he retired.



Early Day Offerle - 1914

An early day blacksmith shop was built and run by Andy Haines where August Kurth had a garage until a few years ago. Mr. Haines became ill and sold out to a Mr. Bieber. Bob Majorkurth had a garage there and it is now owned by Doug Brown. Mr. Bieber moved south of the railroad tracks to where Bill Konrade now has a double garage. A village blacksmith shop was run in this location for many years by

John and Fred Loibl, until the sudden accidental death of John Loibl in 1947.



Basgall's Store: Dorothy, Joe, Mary Hattrup and daughter and Ethan Rabe.

South of Joe Basgall's store was the Teed Rooming House, which was later town down. John Kimes built a feed mill there. This was later purchased by Fred Schwarz who ran the business till he retired.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schwarz and son in front of their business in Offerle.

There was a building between the feed mill and Joe Basgall's store which was a barber shop. It was run by one man and later, when another chair was added, there was a lady barber also. This store and the feed mill were torn down and the new township building was built there.

In the first block south of the tracks on the west side of the street, the Moses Elevator was run by Tom Dorsey, who also built the Grant Hedges home, now owned by the Roger Leith family. South of this elevator, Grant Kimes built a general store. The post office was run at this time by Hazel (Ott) Rethorst and was located in the front part of the Kimes store. Later he sold out to Pettijohn and Flint. Pettijohn ran the general store on the north side and Flint ran a tin shop on the south side.

B. L. Sams had a furniture store and undertaking parlor where the Speck building now stands. Dr. Cunningham had an office in the top story until he died during the 1918-1919 flu epidemic. The American Legion later removed the top story in the late 1940's. When the American Legion disbanded, the Lion's Club renovated and remodeled it and gave it to the city.

Where the post office now stands was a milk and cream shop run by Ben Hedges, who had a power-driven separator. Ben weighed the milk and bought the cream, while the farmers took their separated milk home. Later, when the farmers had their own separators, a stock holder's creamery was formed and run by Jess Baxter, then by Ben Hedges, and then by Virgil Mills. This building is still standing across the street south of where Ed Novak built a garage and runs a repair shop.



L. to R.: Ott Lumber Yard, Ben Hedges Milk Separating Shop, B. L. Sams' Furniture and Undertaking, Pettijohn and Flint, top of Moses Grain Company.

In 1913, M. W. Oliphant and his family moved to Offerle. He built a hardware store and ran an implement business. He was in business here for 44 years before he retired. The building was sold to Vincent and Ann Riggs, who ran a cafe in Offerle for thirty years. Due to

Vincent's bad health, they sold the cafe to Charles and Phyllis Speck, who run the cafe now.



Vernon Oliphant in his father's store.



Joseph and Elizabeth Burkhart in their Harness Shop - 1914.



Joseph Burkhart's residence and Harness Shop - Nov. 19, 1922.

In 1913, Joseph Burkhart, a country resident for many years, built

a harness and shoe shop, north of the Oliphant Hardware Store. He ran this business until he retired. They lived in the house to the north. Since that time a succession of businesses have been in this same building. Raymond Torline brought it and put in a locker plant until he sold the building. Harry Owston and Kenneth Marshall ran a meat market there. Walter Vogelgesang ran a barber shop there for eleven years. When Walt died in February of 1970, Betty McAvoy ran a liquor store until her sudden death in 1973. After that time, Mike McAvoy had a Spraying and Welding office located there, which he shared with Glenn Herrmann's Electrical business. Glenn has since moved two blocks south to a building behind his house.

Not many people knew of Offerle's newspapers. The Offerle Promoter was started by J. C. Rice on Oct. 7, 1910, and quit after seven issues. The Offerle News was established by J. L. Thompson on Feb. 10, 1916. On May 14, 1916, Ben F. Hedges became the editor and publisher. He was succeeded by W. F. Howell on Sept. 7, 1916, and on Oct. 19, 1916, Ben took over control again. The last issue was published on June 21, 1919.

THE OFFERLE NEWS

"Justice is our creed. A greater Offerle our ambition."

Vol. 3

OFFERLE, EDWARDS COUNTY, KANSAS, DECEMBER 27 1918

No. 45.

UNITED IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY.

(Here is a very interesting letter from Raymond Stegman)

Dada Xmas Letter,

On active Service with the A. S. in France.

November 28, 1918.

Dear ones at home,

As we just got notice that we could write a letter home and tell about our experience, and where we have been and what we have done since coming over here, I will give you a brief outline.

Well I suppose you are all glad that the big war is over, but I know that no one over there could be more glad than our fellows were when we ceased firing at the Germans.

I am feeling O. K. and hope this will find you all the same. Hope all things are O. K. and everybody is O. K. there. I have good hopes of seeing you all soon.

Well I guess will now start and tell you where I have been and what I have done since I left the U. S. We left New York on the 21st of September, and we were there where something like 9,000 or 10,000 soldiers on it, believe me it was sure some boat. We landed at Southampton, England, there we stayed for a

kilometers from Mulhausen, Germany, when we were relieved. From here we rested a few days and were then called to the big front at Verdun and Metz where we were in the rear or reserve lines when the big guns stopped firing at 11 o'clock November 11.

We are still here in the neighborhood of Metz. This is just a brief outline of where I have been and the full details of what happened I will tell you when I see you again, which from what our General told us in a speech he made to us yesterday will be soon.

We might start back to the U. S. in a week and it might be two months, but not later.

We see and I have talked to British and all Allied army prisoners that the Germans took and let loose. They sure were treated bad, but they are all sure glad that it is over with now though. I sure wish some of those fellows out there could have been out in No Man's Land with me while at the front. Sure was shaky business, but I didn't mind it as long as the boys did not peek at us.

Answer soon and tell me all the news. I remain as ever, Your son, Pat Raymond Stegman

Herman Weiss, President; C. E. Way, Vice-President
A. E. Buxton, Cashier; A. J. Jucker, Assistant Cashier

Farmers State Bank
Capital \$15,000 Surplus \$15,000.

All Deposits with this Bank are guaranteed by the Depositors Guaranty Fund of the State of Kansas.

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We Sell K. N. & K. Travelers Checks (Cashied anywhere without identification.)

Directors: Herman Weiss, D. W. Sturgeon, C. E. Way, Lawrence Burke and A. J. Jucker.

TO OUR FRIENDS, CUSTOMERS AND THE TRADE

To enable us to give you more efficient service, eliminate errors and possible misunderstandings, we have decided to sell Kerosene, gasoline and lubricants, tank wag on order and deliveries for cash only, on and after January the first 1919.

be furnished by our representatives to assist the trade in becoming accustomed to this method of handling the business.

Yours truly,
The Puritan Oil Co.

OLD IRON WANTED \$10.00 Per Ton.

Mixed Country Scrap Iron, to consist of iron and steel coming from agricultural machinery, and to be free from light sheets, tin cans, hoops, corrugated iron, bicycle frames, bed frames, buggy wheels, engine parts, cast iron pipes, stoves, old bar iron, and light trashy or worthless material. No sheet iron or steel unless three sixteenths thick or heavier.

M. W. Oliphant

Just east of the old hardware building, Dr. Detar built a drug store. It was run by Fred Mosier, who was the first pharmacist in Offerle. His sister, Ida, who had taught school here, ran the drug store. Later Edwin Neville Carper bought the store in Sept. 1921. A Jack Keller ran it for a short time in 1944. Harry Owston ran the drug store until the

Cafe and drug store burned in a fire in 1961. In earlier years, a Dr. Stinson practiced out of this drug store.

Dr. Stinson later moved to the doctor's building north of the hotel. There was a Dr. Newton practicing there also. This building was later moved to the Ben Hedges home as sleeping quarters for the family. There was a Doctor Nevins from Iowa, who had his office over the Offerle Grocery. This made four practicing doctors in Offerle.

Noblet's furniture store was just east of the drug store. For a short while there was a grocery store in the building. Cafe operators in this location were: Susie Stinson, the Howards, Maude Israel, Edith Wetzel, Elliot Bailey, and the Riggs, who were operating the cafe when the building was destroyed by fire in 1961.

East of this cafe was a pool hall that served as a theatre in 1917. Ben Hedges operated a theatre there in 1918-1919. William Berry ran a pool hall and a barber shop was run by a Mr. Woodruff. Herman Stroh-witz ran a pool hall, then August Kurth who sold out to Tom Coie. This building was destroyed by fire in the 1950's.

The building on the east corner of this same block was built by Tom Dorsey as a real-estate office. Ben Hedges put a print shop in the east half where he edited and printed the Offerle News, which was a weekly newspaper. C. E. Brumfield had the post office in the west half during President Wilson's administration. Then Dolie Woodruff ran a bath and barber shop there, followed by Ed Woodruff and then Art Libhart. Edith Wetzel ran a cafe there for awhile. Ben Hattrup bought the building and ran a pool hall there. Delveta Offerle had a teen-recreation center there for a short time before Ben rented it to Robert Weischman, who ran a dog kennel in the building. All of the buildings on this block are torn down except the Cafe on the west corner.

John Kisner built a garage east of the alley next to the above mentioned building. Josh Owens ran it for awhile. Herman Sanko then bought it and in 1948, when the new highway came through, the garage had to be torn down. Mobil Oil Company moved their building onto this corner and Jack Stroh-witz ran it for a number of years. Mobil's station was across the street south of where Doug Brown's building is now.

South of the tracks, John Corley had a butcher shop and an ice house, where the liquor store run by Arlene Brown is now located. When Wilma Cash (Roepka) first came to town, she ran a restaurant where Harry Brown ran a laundromat in the past few years. A beauty shop was run by Kay Schmitt where the liquor store now operates. Andy Burghart and his wife, Fronie, ran a pool hall and a grocery for many years in this building.

The Erickson building was built about 1913. This was located south of the lumber yard. It served as a dry-goods store run by a Jewish man named Rockefeller for Mr. Ehlers from Kinsley. C. E. Brumfield ran a grocery store there and then the store was burned inside and the second story was removed because it was so weakened. Lloyd Erickson ran a grocery-general merchandise store for years and later had a picture show there. Elsie Gard and Pearl Erickson played the

piano for the silent movies. Ben Hedges ran the projector. The Catholic Church later purchased the building for a Parish Hall, the scene of many St. Joseph's Day picnics. Morris Coover of Kinsley owns the building now.



The Erickson building when it was a two-story building.



Lloyd Erickson, Charley Roepka, Nick Snider and Ed Brecheisen.

Before the highway was moved in 1948, there was a Home Oil Company across the trail south of the fire station. White Eagle had a filling station just west of that. M. W. Oliphant built cottage courts across from where Earl Lightcap, Sr. lives. These were sold to K. G. Israel and moved south of the water tower. They were torn down when the highway was moved south to its present position. M. W. Oliphant donated the land to the city for its park which has had many improvements added over the years.

Offerle was incorporated as a city of third class on Feb. 9, 1917. The first election was held in April of 1917. M. W. Oliphant was elected mayor. Council members were: John Loibl, Fred Schwarz, John Brown, B. L. Sams, and H. A. Offerle, who served as president of the council. Appointed positions were: C. S. Mairs, city clerk, A. E. Buxton, treasurer; Grant Hedges, police judge; and John Corley, street commissioner.

Mayors of Offerle City:

April 1917 - April 1919: M. W. Oliphant; April 1919 - April 1923: B. F. Hedges; April 1923 - April 1925: H. A. Offerle; April 1925 - October 1927: John Brown (died in Oct. 1927 before term expired); Oct. 1927 - April 1937: G. C. Fields; April 1937 - March 1938: E. N. Carper (resigned in March 1938 before term expired); April 1938 - April 1939: Joseph Basgall (was President of Council — finished E. N. Carper's unexpired term); April 1939 - April 1945: A. B. Offerle; April 1945 - April 1947: G. C. Fields; April 1947 - April 1957: Vernon Oliphant; April 1957 - April 1967: A. B. Offerle; April 1967 - June 1969: Edward E. Kregar (died in 1969 before term expired); July 1969 - to present date: James P. Liebl (president of Council - finished Edward Kregar's term of office then reelected and is still serving as Mayor of Offerle.

City Clerks of Offerle:

C. S. Mairs - April 1917 to Aug. 21, 1918; W. O. Sands - Aug. 21, 1918 to Jan. 6, 1920; C. E. Brumfield - Jan. 6, 1920 to March 1923; L. H. Erickson - March 1923 to May 7, 1929; Dewey Renfro - May 7, 1929 to Jan. 1969; Glenn Walter - Feb. 1969 to Sept. 1970; Judy Miller - Oct. 1970 and is still serving at present time.

The city council as of this present 1976 date consists of:

James P. Liebl - Mayor

W. H. Benish - Councilman and President of Council

Vincent Riggs - Councilman

Walter Kurth - Councilman

Donald Strong - Treasurer and Councilman

Ronald Miller - Councilman

Judy Miller - City Clerk

W. J. Konrade is employed by the City as Street, Gas, Water, and Sewer Supervisor and Maintenance Man.

In the *This Week* magazine of the July 31, 1966 issue of the *Kansas City Star*, there was an article on treasure hunting. In it Offerle was the source of a place to look for gold. A band of 49ers returning from California was attacked by Indians, and hid at least \$50,000 in gold dust by a creek. A survivor later sought it, unsuccessfully.

Although this gold was never found, Offerle is the source of many people's search and they have found their rewards here many times over the years.

Schools

The first grade school in Offerle was called Joint One, so named at a district meeting held in August, 1877. Ed Offerle was named director. Later the same year he moved to California and A. F. Teed was named director. E. P. Ott was named treasurer. Sixty-seven pupils were enrolled. The teacher's salary for the year was \$249.

The school was a white wooden building built across from the Fred Schwarz home. The school faced south and was enclosed by a four board fence with a flat-board across the top. A row of locust trees was planted inside the fence. The present locust trees you see on the spot are the result of the first trees planted.



First School Building in Offerle

Earl Lightcap, Sr., in reminiscing on his early school days here said, "I was in the first grade for three years, because the teacher was so busy with the older kids that she didn't have much time to fool with

us little ones. She was getting the older ones ready to teach.”

Many children only went to school two or three months out of the year, when there was no work at home to be done.

Some of the students in the first school were: Earl Lightcap, Sr., Ott and Joe Kurth, Frank Roepka, Lloyd Erickson, Bernice Sams, Ernest & Nellie Hedges, Dan Brown, Clare Penrod, Luella Lightcap, etc.

On April 14, 1897, District Joint One was disorganized by an act of legislature. The school was then named Good Hope, later District 43.

In 1913, a new two room grade school was built at the present location. Mary Kent, Harry Brown's mother, taught at this school. The salary for the lady teacher was \$10 a month.

In 1916, the first rural high school in the state of Kansas was built at Offerle. M. W. Oliphant was director and Harry Offerle was clerk. Pauline Parkhurst was the only teacher and her salary for the year was \$120. The enrollment was fourteen pupils, nine girls and fourteen boys. Civics, algebra, bookkeeping and commercial languages were the subjects taught. The first class graduated in 1918, with Bernice Sams, Lucille Oliphant, Blanche Brumfield and Edna Brecheisen as the graduates. All are alive today.



**Offerle
Public
School
1912**

In 1920 or 1921, two more rooms were added to the grade school making four rooms total. In 1930, a gymnasium was built on the north side of the high school and attached to the high school.

In 1956, the present school building was built. This continued as District 43 until 1966, when it became unified with Kinsley and became District 347. The last class to be graduated from the Offerle High School was in 1966 with five members of this class: Rosanna Herrmann, Sharolyn Lancaster, Connie Burkhart, Dennis Konrade and Kenneth Regnier. This brought the total of graduates to 306.

List of Offerle School Alumni

1918	Vincent Riggs	Erna Kregar
Lucile Oliphant	Edwin Dempster	1933
Bernice Renfro	Estella Salmons	Wynona Black
Edna Brecheisen	Eugene Quisenberry	Earl Field
Blanche Brumfield	1927	Esther Quasebarth
1919	Alice Miller	Elmer Boehme
Hazel Dawley	Bill Strohwitz	John Landis
Lloyd Erickson	Eva Showers	George Sims
Gladys Oliphant	Louise Bates	John Liebl
1920	Forrest Erickson	Edward Kregar
Reuben Miller	Russell Erickson	1934
1921	1928	Evelyn Miller
Marion Speck	Thelma Boehme	Harvey Krenzin
Mildred Russell	Mabel Frolich	Margaret Snider
Leslie Frey	1929	Mervin Kurth
Beulah Steinmelz	Ruth Anton	Ludwina Schwarz
Louis Lancaster	Grace Cain	Dora Froetschner
1922	Dorothy Meeder	Lyle W. Hilbert
Lawrence Miller	Bill Kisner	Josephine Katz
Nadine Brumfield	John Lightcap	Olive Hedges
Arthur Miller	1930	Winona Brechiesen
Nellie Hedges Brumfield	Cora Oliphant	1935
1923	Margaret Kilmer	Margaret Brown
Elsie Gard	Alma Froetschner	Melvin Lightcap
Edward Brecheisen	1931	Thelma Kleysteuber
1924	Mozelle Quisenberry	Orville Brehm
Percy Burt	Marie Schwarz	George Arnholt
Minnie Kurth	Edith Walters	Philip Russell
Marie Rabe	Ethel Speck	Jean Wiley
Bertha Hedges	Raymond Atwood	Eva Krenzin
1925	Fern Atwood	Josephine Sire
Charles Higgins	Dole Atwood	Charles Schwarz
Grant Miller	Irene Field	James P. Liebl
Abner Offerle	Esther Liebl	1936
Pearl Kurth	Avery Gard	Ramona Boehme
Hulda Lancaster	Wilda Davis	Harry Brown
Vernon Oliphant	Helen Landis	Elsie D. Moss
Carl Brecheisen	1932	Marie Katz
Carl Brecheisen	Leander Lightcap	Virgil Mills
Fred Demain	James Hardgrove	Gunilda Gall
1926	Clifford Boehme	Reinhart Kurth
Opal Dempster	Walter Herrmann	Verna Jane Block
Ena Wheaton	Martha Katz	Hilda Kregar
Cecil Offerle		Clinton Hardgrove

Elsie Sire	1941	Beatrice Basgall
Junior Lightcap	Louis Herrmann	Thomas Hedges
1937	Guendolyn Atwood	Minneta Berry
Lewis Roepka	Mary Kurth	Izola Quasebarth
Clara Mae Brown	Frances Simmons	Ellen Popp
William E. Berry, Jr.	Warren G. Popp	1947
Cleo Katz	Melvin M. Stegman	Wilma Kurth
Mildred Kleysteuber	Ada Mae Boehme	Arbury Keal
Elda Weiss	Dolores Jean Renfro	Gerald Lightcap
Gertrude Kurth	Lennus Bostrum, Jr.	Peggy Speck
Bertha Kregar	Leo Stegman	Russell Lancaster
Virginia Renfro	Lucille M. Herrmann	Mary Frinfrock
William Burr	Marjorie Stinson	Robert Katz
1938	Robert L. Stegman	Marcus Oliphant
Edward Schwarz	Dorothy Stegman	1948
Katherine Yates	1942	Raymond Quasebarth
Velma Wetzel	Vernon Katz	Verla Rabe
Henry Quasebarth	Maxine Speck	Richard Basgall
Marie Stegman	Willie Katz	John Snider
Frances Molitor	Robert Berry	Marvin Rabe
Laurine Boehme	Bernard Brecheisen	Tom Burghart
Margaret Kisner	Marion Quasebarth	Gordon Schaller
Marjorie Kurth	Ada Lee Rabe	Gladys Van Nahmen
Ernest Boehme	Leona Erickson	Carol Hedges
Irvin Brehm	1943	Betty Mathes
1939	Robert Burghart	Ritner Roy Richards
George Quasebarth	Dorothy Katz	1949
Christine Katz	Erma Pausey	John Reidl
Irna Beth Molitor	August Konrade	John Kisner
Jake Cox	Lawrence Snider	Wilda Rabe
Clara Mae Kurth	Bessie Berry	Dorothy Wetzel
Laura Brown	LaVona Block	Edna Rainbolt
Marcella Kleysteuber	Leo Holden	Dennis Torline
Ervin Galyardt	1944	Gloria Bowles
Florence Konrade	Vera Kurth	James Schaller
1940	Blanche Simmons	Delores Stegman
Robert Stinson	Loren Mastin	Carol Dedrick
Eleanor Gring	Dorothea Rose	Alvin Konrade
Clarence Anton	Warren Mastin	1950
Erma Hedges	1945	Delores Mathes
Herman Weiss	Ila Mae Rabe	Marilyn Offerle
Andrew W. Riedl	Alma Mae Field	Delores Atwood
Herman Schwarz	Gladys Oliphant	Dorothy Schmidt
Emma Schwarz	1946	Marceda Konrade
Paul Kleysteuber	Susan Snider	Ron Hedges
Vinita Rabe	Bonnie Lancaster	Ruth Kisner
	Ethan Rabe	Don Hedges

1951	Rodney Oliphant	Gerald Hedges
Charles Riggs	Doris Mehl	Nicki Fahrney
Janette Israel	1957	David Konrade
Gerald Roepka	Maurine Torline	1962
Helen Libhart	Wilma Rosproy	Erlene Lightcap
Donna Lou Boehme	Roland Gall	Leroy Brehm
Maurine Offerle	Hazel Wetzel	Virginia Wetzel
1952	Kay Kurth	Diane Stark
Pauline Schmidt	Anthony Schmidt	Milton Gall
Shirley Hedges	Peggy Burghart	James Schmitt
Vernadine Stegman	1958	Mike Kelly
Elden Mehl	John Froetschner	1963
Oma Jean Boehme	Emil Gall	Sandra Parks
Merlyn Wetzel	Alan Wetzel	Roger Leith
James Torline	Frederick Schmitt	Linda Green
Emmett Hedges	1959	Eileen Mehl
1953	Kathy Green	1964
Donald Atwood	Gordon Riggs	LaVern Wetzel
Kate Finrock	Donna Ley	Kay Lightcap
Bill Roepka	Larry Brehm	Jerry Brown
1954	Carolyn Wetzel	Paul Overstreet
John Schmidt	Kay Konrade	Lawrence Kregar
Louis Mehl	Kay Green	1965
Ronald Kurth	Mike Schmitt	Milton Kregar
Richard Snider	Maxine Kurth	Gerald Konrade
John Van Nahmen	1960	James Roepka
Dolores Offerle	Emily Green	Jon Herrmann
Shirley Israel	Gertrude Schmitt	Larry Overstreet
Frank Vernon Rose	Brenda Froetschner	Thomas Schwarz
Marlene Leith	Louis Wetzel	Elizabeth Wetzel
Robert Schaller	Larry Leith	Chestine Kurth
Melvin Burghart	Cecil Offerle	Glenn Herrmann
1955	Linda Lightcap	Sonja Hedges
Joyce Hamm	Arthur Weiss	Donna Strohwitz
W. Eugene Stegman	Marilyn Regnier	1966
Beverly Ann Kurth	Eugene Barlovic	Sharolyn Lancaster
Marilyn Froetschner	Frances Schaefer	Connie Burghart
Patricia Weiss	1961	Rosanna Herrmann
Benita Hatstrup	Wayne Kurth	Kenneth Regnier
1956	Kathleen Wetzel	Dennis Konrade
Carol Israel	Harry Barlovic	
Dorothy Rosproy	Linda Ley	
Dolores Marie Rosproy	Duane Mathes	
Barbara Froetschner	Wayne Stegman	
Eric Hedges	Karen Israel	
Harriet Speck	Frank Peterson	
Patricia Offerle		

Country Schools

There were many country schools around Offerle. One of the schools was District No. 37, known as "Golden Rod." It was located two and one-half miles north and one mile east of Offerle. Some of the teachers were: Miss Wonsetler, Miss Roth from Larned, Winona (Brecheisen) Field, Frank Trogden, Jenny Diers, Fred Diers, Mable Teed, Della McCarty, Kay (Kingry) Lewis, Dora (Rabe) Renfro, Alma (Froetschner) Gall, and Marie (Rabe) Oliphant. Some of the pupils were: Floyd Hedges, Harriet Moletor, Pauline Weikert, Martha Katz, and Wilda Davis. Other students of an earlier time are on the accompanying picture.



Golden Rod District No. 37 - about 1915. Back: Marie Kraft, Louise Diers, Pauline Brecheisen, Frank Trogden (teacher), Carl Brecheisen, Annie Kraft, and Edna Brecheisen. Second Row: Bertha Kuhn, Dave Langhofer, Alice Kraft, Frank Laughofer, Philip Kraft and Jacob Langhofer. First Row: William O. Kuhn, Fred Kraft, Christina Kraft, Ruth Hedges, Edward Brecheisen and Willie Langhofer.



Early day picture of District No. 2 - west of Offerle.



Later picture of District No. 2. Top: Emma Stegman, Evah Showers, Martha Galyardt, Nellie Brumfield (teacher), Zelma Weiss, Clara Galyardt, and Edmund Weiss. Middle: Mildred Burghart, Leory Lightcap, Bill Stegman, Eva Stegman, Rosie Stegman, Agnes Stegman, Mary Burghart, and Jerome Stegman. Front: Clemmie Stegman, Regina Stegman, Regina Burghart, Rexford Lightcap, Sylvester Stegman, Ed Burghart, Leland Lightcap and Anthony Stegman.

District No. 7 was further north and east in the Jensen Neighborhood. Some of the teachers were: Dora (Froetschner) Wetzel, Emma (Rabe) Vogelgesang and Lucy Warner.



District No. 8 was located east of Offerle in what was then known as the Ardell School. Some of the teachers were: Elva (Fisher) Breitenbach, Lola (Lauber) Young and Emma (Basgall) Kisner. Some of the families attending this school were: Wortmann, Heit, Atwood, Heinz, McGinty, and Bitner. An accompanying picture is of an early time.



District No. 8 - Taft (Ardell) - 1910. Back: Bert Bitner, John Wortmann, and Violet Mathews. Middle: Mary Engleton, Cora Haywood, Cora Atwood, Letha Atwood, and Clarence Mathews, Vivian Ford (teacher). Front: Three Haywood youngsters.



District No. 14 - 1909. Built around 1880. This was the first school. Located on the Bill Kurth place. Later school was bigger and was later moved to Kinsley. Back: Anne (Hick (teacher), Harry Speck, Charley Wetzel, and Charley Krumrey. Second: Christina Weiss, Alma Wetzel, Julia Weiss, Clara Dubberstein, Lillie Ley, Ben Hatstrup, and Leo Hatstrup. Front: Fritz Ley, Esther Ley, and Minnie Hatstrup.

District No. 47 was located east of the now Mervin Kurth farm. Laura (Kurth) Boehme said her father, William Kurth, bought his farm because it was close to a school. The school building was later moved south one-half mile and later a new building was built. Some of the teachers were: Emma (Rabe) Vogelgesang, Verda (Parks) Stroh-witz, Herman Wetzel and Agnes Showers.

There were other school districts, such as District No. 4 - Wm. Seith - south of his home, District No. 2 - 2½ miles west of Offerle, District No. 4 "Benish School".



**District No. 4
"Benish School"**



District No. 4 - 1930-1931 - Hodgeman County. Back: Frank Grasser, Cleo Katz, Bill Grasser, Clarence Burkhardt, Bernard Konrade, Alexander Konrade, Ralph Konrade, Wm. G. Burkhardt, Sylvester Grasser and Wilferd Konrade. Middle: Christine Katz, August Konrade, George Benish, Helen Gleason (teacher, now Mrs. Lawrence Werner), Carolina Konrade, Florence Konrade, Wilfred Burkhardt and Willie Benish. Front: Harold Liebl, Jim Liebl, Billie Katz, Elwyn Liebl, Vernon Katz and Irene Burkhardt.

Thank You Note

This year marks the 100th anniversary for the City of Offerle and also the Offerle Mercantile Co. For 55 years I have worked and lived out of the business. I know nearly every person in this community and want to take this opportunity to thank everyone of you for making it possible for this business to celebrate 100 years of serving Offerle.

I especially want to honor and mention these pioneer families that had faith in this new country and the guts to stay here through the bad and the good years. These families should all be honored at this time for what they have contributed to the growth and character of the Offerle community. I am proud to have them as friends, neighbors and customers.

I honor these pioneer families — The Gleason's, Burkes, Benish, Lightcaps, Weiss, Wetzels, Tassets, Issinghoffs, Herrmanns, Kurths, Browns, Lancasters, Hedges, Westphals, Brakes, Burkharths, Stegmans, Nalls, Trenkamps, Laubers, Oliphants, Otts, McKees, Schwarzs, Krumreys, Israels, Katz, Brehms, Konrades, Spahns, Boehmes, Heilands, and Frolichs. I know I have missed some names that should be listed but I assure you it has not been done intentionally — it's just old age and a weak mind.

A. B. Offerle

Miscellaneous Pictures



Back Row: Vernon Oliphant, Perry Johns (coach), and Charles Higgins. Second Row: Cecil Offerle, Vincent Riggs, and Bartley Mills. Seated: Abner Offerle.

B. L. SAMS

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Early-Day Settlers



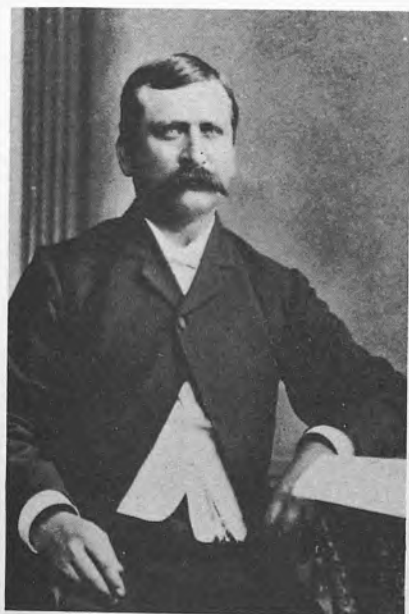
The Israel family long ago. K. G. Israel is second from left.



E.P. Ott



Sarah Ott (Mrs. E.P.)



S.S. Ott



Julia Ott (Mrs. S.S.)



Abner Offerle

Oscar Offerle



Cyclone turned B. L. Sams residence around on its foundation.



Picture at bottom of previous page is in 1941, when it rained four inches in forty minutes, flooding parts of Offerle.



This is the first plane to land at Offerle (1921). It is a Curtis-Wright two place Bi-plane. Pictured in front is Jay Sandusky (pilot) and Kenneth Brown. In the cock-pit is the co-pilot and Harry F. Brown with Dan Brown standing beside the plane.



During the Dust Bowl Days.



Early day depot picture.



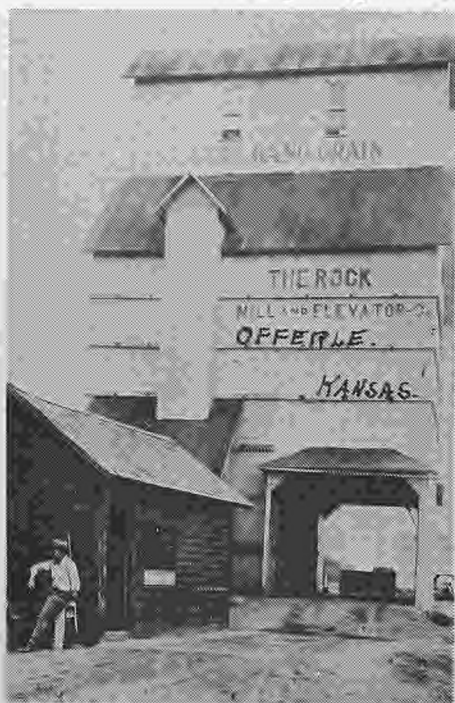
First E. U. B. Church and houses to the south.



Early day photo of Offerle Grocery.



Oxen pulling a threshing machine.



The Gano Elevator played a big role in the history of Offerle. Adam Kisner ran the elevator for over thirty years.



St. Joseph's Catholic Church

St. Joseph's Parish had its origin in 1876. Eight families came from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. The men and their families were: Joseph Meier, John Nuss, Joseph Mellecker, Vincent Mellecker, Joseph Helmer, Sr., Joseph Helmer, Jr., John Helmer, and Michael Hines. One bachelor came with them named Joseph Ehrler.

They all bought land from the government and from the railroad company, which was situated west and north of Offerle. Church services were held for a time in the home of Joseph Mellecker. According to the history of the parish, it was the first Catholic church in western Kansas, past Newton and Ellinwood.

Soon these settlers felt the need for a church, so in the same year they came, they built a small frame church and with it a little school. The church was built about three miles north of Bellefont. The buildings were built under the direction of Father Schwemberg, who was the first missionary priest in western Kansas. He went from Newton to the Colorado border. It was decided to call the church after St. Joseph because at the time of organization there were several men present with the first name of Joseph.



Old St. Joseph Church, Cemetery, House and Barn.

After Rev. Schwemberg, Father Ferdinandes Wolf, a Benedictine priest, came from Atchinson, Kansas as a missionary priest. He became the first resident pastor. People from miles around came here to worship God and fulfill their Christian duties.

In the following year, 1877, the church was severely damaged in a

storm. A second church was built on the foundation of the first church, with completion in 1878.

It was during this year that a parish was established at Windthorst and one was established at Fort Dodge.

When the congregation outgrew the second church, a new one was planned with a foundation out of native stone. This stone was hauled down from the north in what is now St. Mary's parish. The newer church was built beside the old one. Some stone still remains there today. The church was a frame church and was built in 1908. The two large bells from this church are in the present church used today in Offerle.



Inside of St. Joseph's Church at the new cemetery.



**Entrance to
Old St. Joseph Cemetery.**

Some time passed and after the turn of the century, the need for a larger church became apparent. At this time, the parish divided. The families living a few miles north of the original St. Joseph's church formed a new parish called St. Mary. The parishioners of Old St. Joseph's wanted to build a new church closer to Offerle.

Adam Stegman donated ten acres of land for a new church site. This was located three miles west of Offerle. A new church and another building were erected at this new site, thus becoming the third church since its beginning in 1876. These buildings were dedicated in 1909, by

Rt. Rev. Bishop Hennessey. Although the church is gone from its beginning site, a well-kept cemetery remains that is known as "Old St. Joseph Cemetery."

During the years 1905 to 1920, the parish was served by the following pastors: Father Kummers, Father Theobald, Father Von der Lade, Father Diselkamp, Father Schroeder, Father Smith, and Father Zink. The last two served in the second St. Joseph church.

Father Zink was the pastor from 1915 - 1920. He lived for half a year in the school. He succeeded in finishing the priest's residence, whose foundation was started by a former priest. The cost of building the priest's residence was about \$8,000. This house was later moved to town and used for the sister's house and the school.



Church and Rectory at second St. Joseph site.



Another view: Church, Rectory, School and other building.



Pictured in this First Communion picture of 1916 with Father Zink are altar boys, Frank Schmidt (at left) and John Stegman (at right); in back row directly in front of Father are (l. to r.) — Stegman, Gabriel Blottner, Fronie Stegman, Mary Schmitt and Barbara Blottner; second row down are Jacob Stegman, Bill Burghart, — Blottner, Annie Stegman, Mary Schmidt, Mary Dome, Clara Stegman, Emma Stegman, Jack Dome, Andrew Konrade and John Burghart; third row down (l. to r.) are Albert Konrade, George Stegman, Hilda Heinz, — Blottner, unidentified girl, Mary Burghart, Mike Dome and Vincent Schmitt; in front are Jerome Burghart (at left), George Konrade (center) and Benhart Stegman (at right).

In 1920, Father William Paul was appointed pastor. He was a former chaplain of St. John Institute. Father Paul had a school with about thirty children enrolled in the years 1922-23, with Miss Lucy Ehrler, from Ohio, as the teacher. It was the last school for years.

During the month of February, 1925, Rev. Paul installed the side altars. They were made by Mr. Olberding of Eldorado, Kansas. In the same month, the Sacred Heart statue was donated by Mr. and Mrs.



Rev. William Paul. He was born Feb. 21, 1881, at Gladbach, Germany. He died Jan. 27, 1939.

Pete Gunchard of Hanston, Kansas, at the cost of \$72. Some time later the Blessed Virgin statue, Queen of Heaven, was donated by Mrs. M. Tenbrink for \$65.

With the passing of years, the church was in need of extensive repairs. In 1925, it was decided to build a new one rather than repair the old church. It was decided at that time to build in the town of Offerle as it would serve more area. Two church members, Joseph Basgall and Jake Konrade, Jr. and the pastor met with the Rt. Rev. Bishop and plans were approved.

The following year, a city block of property was purchased for around \$800 and plans were begun in earnest for a new church. The church ground was a present from the pastor, Father Paul. With the completion of plans for a new church costing around \$23,000, construction was started. Ground was broken on November 22, 1926. Elected to the church building committee were: John Loibl, who acted as treasurer, Carl Eickholt, George W. Stegman, and Pete Kisner. The architects were Hogan and Brinkman. Joseph Seebacher was the contractor. When the basement was finished in December of 1926, a blizzard followed and progress was slowed. The cornerstone was finally laid on May 28, 1927. The church was to be eighty-nine feet by forty feet, with a seventy foot tower, and a twelve by seventeen room added to be used as a winter chapel.

The church was dedicated on November 3, 1927, by Bishop Schwertner. This was the fourth church to be built by the congregation of St. Joseph, the oldest parish in western Kansas. This is the church that serves the Offerle area today.

In August, 1931, a new pastor was appointed by the name of Father Francis J. Huppertz. The Rev. William Paul became pastor at Sacred



Church photo when construction was still underway on the bell tower.

Heart church in Cunningham, Kansas. Father Huppertz had served as pastor in Chase and Sitka and had taken an extended trip to Rome and the Holy Land before coming to Offerle.



Early day church scene in Offerle.



Photo taken on April 19, 1928. Moved through the fields into Offerle by old George Fox of Kinsley. The house was too heavy, so all the plaster was removed. It took four steam engines to move the building. It served as the parish house until 1945, when it was converted into a school, then it became the sisters' house until the school was closed in may, 1971.



Church and school, later torn down.

In 1936, the old rectory at old St. Joseph cemetery was auctioned off and sold for \$110 to Mr. J. Brake of St. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley. The old barn was like wise sold to John Halin, also of the same parish for \$90.

In 1937, the sisters' residence was sold for \$300. In June of 1937, Father Joseph J. Gerstenkorn became pastor. He had been a priest for three years and had been pastor at Parsons.

In Feb. of 1939, the interior of the church was completely destroyed by fire. The fire was discovered at two o'clock on a Saturday afternoon. It was discovered in time to strip the church of most of the furnishings, vestments, all of the statues, and various other articles. The town was without a fire wagon, so a bucket brigade was started. Trucks carrying water arrived and the Offerle Chemical wagon was on the scene pouring hundreds of pounds of baking soda and gallons of acid into the burning building. After two hours, the Kinsley fire truck arrived. Two large transport trucks of water arrived. Five loads of water were hosed into the church before the fire dwindled down. It had taken nine hours to control the fire. The furnace was the origin of the fire.

The damage came to around \$7,100. Work began to rebuild the interior of the church. The people of the parish were allowed 25 cents an hour to be applied on their church dues, for all the labor they could and would do. At this time, the rectory was also painted, a garage built, and the walk from the church to the rectory was laid.

On May 15th, 1939, the church was reblessed by Msgr. F. J. Morrell. The re-building committee had consisted of Albert Benish, Carl Eickholt, Adam Kisner and John Loibl. Services were held in the interim in the John H. Stegman building, formerly the Joseph Burkhart Harness and Shoe Shop, which is now the McAvoy Welding office. Under the direction of Father Joseph Gerstenkorn, the former priest's rectory was converted into a two room classroom. It opened in Sept, 1945. A new rectory was built in 1946-47.

In April of 1948, Father Gerstenkorn was transferred to Conway Springs and he was replaced by Father J. J. Drehr. Among Father Dreher's talents was the ability of a fine carpenter, which he put to good use during his time at St. Joseph Parish.

Improvements in the years that followed included:

In 1949, a new organ was purchased for \$1,500 from King Music Company of Wichita. In 1951, William Stegman donated \$500 for kneelers in the church.

In 1952, the church interior was repainted and a new floor covering was laid.

In 1953, a forced air heating system was installed in the rectory and the school at a cost of \$2,800. The tile roof on the church was replaced and a new roof took its place.

Storm sashes were added to the windows in 1955, at a cost of \$1,350. In June, 1955, Father Fred Tuzicka came.

In 1963, plans were started for a new school building. The plans were completed in 1964, and a building committee was elected. This committee included W. H. Benish, William G. Burkhart, Alvin Konrade, Henry Schaller, Ed Schwarz, William R. Stegman and Joe Werner.

Kansas Metal Building Company of Dodge City, Kansas, was to build the building and it was started in August, 1964. The school was finished in January of 1965. The school was ready for occupancy on Feb. 1, 1965, and it was blessed on March 19th by Bishop Forst at the annual St. Joseph's parish feast. A nice address was given at the dinner by Monsignor Gerstenkorn, a former pastor.



School which was built in 1964 and 1965. Now it is used as a parish meeting place and CCD classes are held here.

In the years from 1945 until 1971, a total of 1,273 students attended the school, with a total of 126 eighth-grade graduates. The largest graduating class was twelve in 1965. The largest enrollments were in the school terms of 1961-1962 and 1963-1964 with sixty-three students enrolled. At the end of this article, a list of pastors, teachers and graduates will be listed.

In October, 1965, Father Hammeke was transferred to St. Bernards at Belpre, Kansas, and the new pastor was Father Richard H. Schinstock.

In 1968, there were many improvements made. A new composition shingle roof was put on the church in place of the Spanish tile roof. New aluminum doors were installed at the entry to the church. The interior of the church was painted and new carpeting was installed in the sanctuary, center aisle, priest sacristy, choir and stairs leading to the choir. The wood in the church was refinished by the Altar Society and the Sisters working in the parish. The exterior of the church was also painted, as well as the rectory and the garage. The original large altar was cut down and marbelized. Church committeemen at this time were: Ronnie Gleason, August Konrade, Henry Schaller and Larry Stegman.

The old parish hall was sold to Morris Coover of Kinsley for \$110.

This was the year that the Parish hooked up to the city sewer system and had restrooms built in the rear of the church.

The Parish Council system began in the fall of 1972.

The Team Ministry began in June of 1973, with Father Jerry Strecker, Father Vic Krmela, Father Jack Maes, and Father Bert Nett. Sister Francine Schwarzenberger and Sister Rose Mary Stein began working full time in the pastoral ministry with their headquarters in Offerle.

A new organ was purchased in Nov. of 1973. New carpet and furniture were purchased for the rectory. This was also the year the old convent-school was torn down by Mrs. A. J. Brake. A youth center was made in the basement.

A new air-conditioning and furnace unit was installed in the spring of 1974.

Father Vic Krmela left the team ministry work in Dec., 1974.

Many improvements in the church property were made during 1975. Work on the leaking roof was completed in the spring of 1975. A cemetery monument project was done in the summer of 1975. The repair of the stained glass windows was done in the fall of 1975. New shingles were put on the rectory in the spring of 1975. Parish guilds were established in 1975.

The year 1976 finds our parish being served by the Team Ministry: Father Jerry Strecker, Father Jack Maes and Father Bert Nett. Sister Rose Mary Stein and Sister Francine Schwarzenberger serve the three parishes spiritual needs in many ways. This year in September, we are celebrating 100 years of St. Joseph's parish with a look to the future.

OFFERLE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1945-1946 (35 students)

Sister Bernita *

Sister Loyola

Sister Armella (housekeeper)

Pastor: Father Joseph Gerstenkorn

Graduates:

Marceda Konrade

Ruth Kisner

Marcella Hattrup

Ramona Burkhart

1946-1947 (42 students)

Sister Anastasia

Sister Loyola

Sister Ursula (housekeeper)

Pastor: Father Joseph Gerstenkorn

Graduates:

Clara Benish

Josephine Snider

1947-1948 (39 students)

Sister Anastasia

Sister Loyola

Sister Walburga (housekeeper)

Pastor: Father Joseph

Gerstenkorn +

Graduates:

LaVone Burghart

Pauline Schmidt

James Torline

Leroy VanNahmen

* replaced in Nov. by Sister Anastasia

+replaced by Father Dreher in April, 1948.

1948-1949 (36 students)

Sister Loretta
Sister Charles
Sister Roberta (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Jacob Dreher
Graduates
No graduates.

1949-1950 (49 students)

Sister Loretta
Sister Vivian
Sister Theodosia (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Jacob Dreher
Graduates:
Melvin Burghart
Anthony Burghart
Shirley Israel
Robert Schaller
John Schmidt
Lorraine Stegman
Elaine Stegman
John VanNahmen

1950-1951 (51 students)

Sister Catherine
Sister Winifred
Sister Theodosia (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Jacob Dreher
Graduates:
Gerald Burkhardt
Benita Hatstrup
Donald Stegman

1951-1952 (37 students)

Sister Verena
Sister Caroletta
Sister Donata (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Jacob Dreher
Graduates:
Carolyn Konrade
Carol Jean Israel
Delores Rosproy
Dorothy Rosproy
Larry Stegman
Ronald Werner

1952-1953 (40 students)

Sister Verena
Sister Angelita
Housekeeper: None
Pastor: Father Jacob Dreher
Graduates:
Maurice Burghart
Peggy Burghart
Wilma Rosproy
Anthony Schmitt
Janice Stegman
Maurine Torline

1953-1954 (41 students)

Sister Verena
Sister Felicia
Sister Laura (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Jacob Dreher
Graduates:
Gaylord Kisner
Keith Regnier
Fred Schmitt

1954-1955 (44 students)

Sister Everista
Sister Angelita
Sister Helena (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Jacob Dreher *
Graduates:
Elmer Burghart
Virginia Israel
Gilbert Konrade
Kathleen Konrade

1955-1956 (46 students)

Sister Everista
Sister Angelita
Sister Helena (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Fred Tuzicka
Graduates:
Donald Fredelake
Marilyn Regnier
Marilyn Schaller
Gertrude Schmidt

* replaced by Father Tuzicka

1956-1957 (50 students)

Sister Everista

Sister Angelita

Housekeeper - None

Pastor: Father Fred Tuzicka

Graduates:

Bernard Burghart

Donald Burkhardt

David Konrade

Wayne Stegman

Tom Werner

1957-1958 (53 students)

Sister Sylvana

Sister Angelita

Housekeeper - None

Pastor: Father Fred Tuzicka

Graduates:

Emmett Brake

Gary Burkhardt

Peggy Hattrup

Gerald Schmitt

James Schmitt

Susan Werner

1958-1959 (54 students)

Sister Sylvana

Sister Angelita

Housekeeper - None

Pastor: Father Fred Tuzicka

Graduates:

Jane Birzer

Dennis Burghart

Reginald Konrade

Patricia Owsten

1959-1960 (58 students)

Sister Sylvana

Sister Christine

Sister Columba (housekeeper)

Pastor: Father Fred Tuzicka

Graduates:

Marjorie Brake

Patricia Burkhardt

Joyce Fredlake

Patricia Stegman

1960-1961 (about 60 students)

Sister Hilda

Sister Jude

Housekeeper - None

Pastor: Father Fred Tuzicka

Graduates:

Betty Birzer

Vincent Burghart

Elaine Burkhardt

Patricia Fredelake

Linda Schmitt

Gerald Konrade

Thomas Schwarz

1961-1963 (63 students)

Sister Jacinta

Sister Jeannine

Housekeeper - None

Pastor: Father Fred Tuzicka *

Graduates:

Kenneth Burghart

Connie Burkhardt

Theresa Brake

Dennis Konrade

Rosanna Herrmann

Mark Green

Kenneth Regnier

1962-1963 (61 students)

Sister Jacinta

Sister Marie Gorette

Sister Maxine (housekeeper)

Pastor: Father Gerald Hammeke

Graduates:

Melinda Clark

RoxAnn Katz

Timothy Schaller

Corrinne Stegman

Christine Schmitt

* replaced by Father Hammeke
in Sept. 1962.

1963-1964 (63 students)

Sister Jacinta
Sister Marie Goretti
Housekeeper - None
Pastor: Father Gerald Hammeke
Graduates:
Rebecca Birzer
Mary Jane Brake
Jeanette Burkhardt
Janice Green
Valerie Heinz
Brenda Katz
Michael Liebl
Raymond Herrmann

1964-1965 (62 students)

Sister Jacinta
Sister Marie Goretti
Housekeeper - None
Pastor: Father Gerald Hammeke
Graduates:
Mary Linda Burkhardt
Robert Dunn
Dianne Herrmann
Linda Konrade
Deanne Konrade
Karen Katz
Karla Katz
Gus Liebl
Vicki Schaller
Evelyn Stegman
Rosanne Stegman
New school Facility *

1965-1966 (58 students)

Sister Clarice
Sister Marie Goretti
Sister Aurelia (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Gerald Hammeke+
Graduates:
Ella Mae Birzer
Timothy Burghart
Cheryl Konrade
John Stegman
Marietta Werner

1966-1967 (52 students)

Sister Jean Marie
Sister Marie Goretti
Sister Helena (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Richard Schinstock
Graduates:
Allen Burkhardt
David Dunn
Beverly Konrade
Daniel Konrade
Dona Stegman

1967-1968 (54 students)

Sister Jean Marie (6, 7, 8 grades)
Sister Marie Goretti (1, 2 grades)
Mrs. Dora Renfro (3, 4, 5 grades)
Sister Helena (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Richard Schinstock
Graduates:
Theresa Burghart
Debbie Konrade
Laurie Liebl
Gene Schwarz

1968-1969 (49 students)

Sister Jean Marie (6, 7, 8 grades)
Sister Georgia (1, 2 grades)
Miss Noreen Lampe (3, 4, 5 grades)
Sister Leocretia (housekeeper)
Pastor: Father Richard Schinstock †
Graduates:
Mark Burkhardt
Harold Katz
Charlene Konrade
Nancy Konrade
Dean Stegman
Theresa VanNahmen

* moved to new school in Jan. 1965

+ replaced by Father Schinstock
October, 1965

† replaced by Monsignor Patrick
Leahy June, 1969.

1969-1970 (45 students)

Sister Ruth

Sister Denise

Sister Alberta (housekeeper and music teacher)

Pastor: Monsignor Patrick Leahy

Graduates:

LaVern Burghart

Carol Konrade

Matthew Schmidt

Rean Stegman

1970-1971 (31 students)

Sister Rita (6, 7, 8 grades)

Sister Catherine (1, 2 grades)

Miss Ramona Rodriguez (3, 4, 5 grades)

Pastor: Monsignor Patrick Leahy

Graduates:

Lynda Liebl

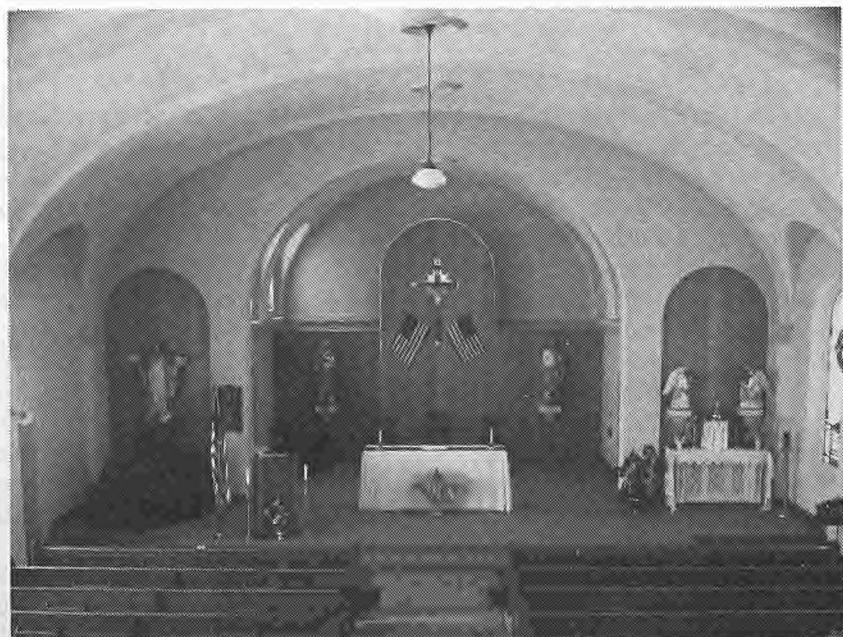
Charles Konrade

Larry Schmidt

Cindy Woolard



Back Row: Jake Konrade, Henry Loibl, Pete Burghart, Pete Kisner, Raymond Stegman, Joe Basgall and Pete Burghart. Front Row: Adam Stegman, Fred Loibl, Father Heinman, George Burkhardt, and Andrew Stegman. Seated on floor: Andrew Burkhardt and George Dome.



Inside church at present.



New rectory.

Offerle United Methodist Church

The Offerle Mission of the Evangelical Association was organized in the year 1879, and supplied in March of that year by the Rev. Louis Snyder. Several of the members had been members of the Zion Evangelical Church, Geneseo, Ill., hence this church in Geneseo is known as the mother church of the Offerle charge.

The first year of the new church passed without any growth in membership, but the nine original members remained steadfast in the faith. These charter members were: S. S. Ott, Julia Ott, E. P. Ott, Sarah Ott, Edwin Offerle, William Snyder, Lida Snyder, Mary Snyder, and Rev. Louis Snyder. The presiding elder visited the mission several times during the year; but the country was in a poverty stricken condition due to the drouth and complete failure of all the crops. Though there was no effort put forth to organize a Quarterly Conference, Rev. Snyder continued in a faithful way to shepherd the small flock.

Offerle Mission was not supplied during the years 1880-1883 because of a lack of funds; however, services were continued under the leadership of Rev. A. Yockel. In 1883, the conference appointed Rev. Yockel to fill this mission. Lawrence Offerle furnished the second floor of his store building which stood at the place the Oliphant Hardware was located as the place for meeting. The class was officially organized with the following officials elected: Edwin Offerle, class leader; Lawrence Offerle, exhorter; E. P. Ott, steward. The Lord prospered the work and eleven new members were added.



First Meeting Place - Offerle Store Building

In 1884, Rev. A. Ernst was appointed minister. Two new members were added to bring the total membership to twenty-two. The following year Rev. Christian Geiser was the new minister while the membership was increased to total twenty-nine.

The year 1886 found Rev. H. Toedtman being sent to the charge and under his leadership of total of \$866.08 was collected toward the building of a new church. The church was erected that same year at a cost of \$1,066.08. Rev. H. Mattill was invited to be the dedication speaker. At the conclusion of Rev. Toedtman's three year term, the membership was fifty-eight.



First Church 1886

Rev. Edwin Brown became the pastor in 1889. Through his efforts twenty-six young people joined the church. The remainder of the church debt was liquidated. Rev. J. Paulin was sent to the field in 1890.

In 1892, Rev. S. A. Burgert was sent as pastor. Three societies were organized: the Women's Missionary Society, Young People's Alliance, and Catechism Class. The pastor's salary was \$150.00. In 1893 the first Children's program was presented. By 1895 the membership had dwindled to thirty-seven, due largely to the passing of a number of the pioneer members.

Rev. H. S. Bower came in 1896 and enjoyed a successful pastorate. In 1897, Rev. G. J. Harbes was sent to Offerle but on being returned the following year was forced to quit work due to ill health. Rev. R. I. Winters served for the remainder of the conference year. The following year, Rev. R. C. Underkofler was sent to the field and in 1901 Rev. F. M. Manshart became the pastor.

The Rev. J. H. Parmer accepted the charge in 1901 and was returned in 1902 and 1903. After the first quarterly conference in 1903, he was relieved by Rev. I. J. Pfeifer. Failing health forced him to

retire after the next quarter and I. B. Miller was persuaded to fill the station for the remainder of the year.

At the conference session in 1904, I. B. Miller was ordained and officially stationed at Offerle. During his pastorate the membership greatly increased and two new preaching stations were added, Orwell in 1904 and Pleasant Valley in 1906.

In 1908, Rev. Quin Roth was appointed to come to Offerle. In the year 1909, the present parsonage was built and the membership numbered seventy.

The year 1912 marked an important circumstance in the history of the church. Rev. J. B. Gresser was the new pastor. In May the church was completely demolished by a cyclone. By November of that same year, a new church had been built at a cost of \$5,600. It was formally dedicated by Bishop Bowman.



The second church - 1912

Rev. H. A. Schneider came to Offerle in 1913 and served for four years. At the end of his ministry here the membership was eighty-seven.

Rev. S. Beese became the pastor in 1917. During his stay at Offerle, the terrible influenza epidemic took its toll. The pastor executed his office admirably as he visited and helped in the homes ravaged by the disease.

In 1919, Rev. M. J. Steinmetz was the pastor. A class aimed for preparing teachers and church workers was very helpful. The year 1922 saw the coming of Rev. E. F. Hofer. The Women's Societies were very active, numbering a membership of seventy-six at Pleasant Valley and Offerle.

Rev. I. W. Gray came in 1925 and served for three years. In 1928, Rev. C. Meeder was sent and during his ministry the membership totaled one hundred thirty-three.

Rev. M. D. Landis became the pastor in 1930. His previous training and work at Hesston College made him an outstanding Bible teacher. Catechetical instruction was emphasized and his musical ability lent much to the spiritual uplift of the church.

The year 1933 saw the coming of Rev. F. W. West. In spite of the severe drouth and general depression, the church went ahead spiritually. Another tragedy struck on December 24, 1933, when the church was destroyed by fire. Once again the "people had a mind to work" and by March, 1935, a new church had been built at a cost of \$7,000.00 along with 864 days of donated labor. Bishop C. H. Straffacher presided at the dedication service.



Present building - 1935

Rev. O. A. Burr came in 1935 and closed out a successful and profitable pastorate four years later. The Mastin family occupied the parsonage commencing in 1939. This was a dry year and Rev. Mastin was quoted as saying, "I couldn't find enough grass to feed a jackrabbit." Mrs. Mastin, though blind, was a real inspiration to the entire community. During Rev. Mastin's term the church prospered numerically and spiritually.

A young seminary graduate, H. M. Bower, came to the charge in 1944. Though a bachelor when he came, his status was changed on the following June when his bride joined him in the parsonage. Two children were born during their stay here. The parsonage was modernized and new heating system was installed in the church.

Rev. R. L. Miller became the pastor in 1948. After a two-year ministry he joined the U. S. Army and is now serving as a chaplain in Korea. The Rev. R. D. Bletscher is the present pastor, having come in the spring of 1950. The present membership is numbered at one hundred thirty-six at this time.

The 75th Anniversary of the Offerle E.U.B. Church was celebrated in 1954 during the ministry of Rev. R.D. Bletscher, who came to the field with his new bride in 1950. Attractive books were printed for the occasion. Rev. Bletscher continued a fruitful pastorate until the spring of 1955, when he resigned and transferred to the Pacific Northwest Conference, where he still pastors a large church in Portland, Oregon. The church became acquainted with his sister Naomi (Mrs. Lowell Williamson), who served as a missionary to Formosa with her husband, and one of the Sunday School classes, the Crusaders, assumed partial support for her.

Within one month after accepting appointment to the church in the spring of 1955, Rev. D.E. McGregor was involved in a fatal automobile accident near Offerle. Pulpit supply was obtained through the assistance of Friends Bible College, Haviland, until the appointment of the Rev. S.D. Hower in 1956. His ministry was cut short, also, when in the month of August he suffered a heart attack and passed away in September. In the interim period, the church obtained the services of Rev. Frimoth, pastor of the Federated Church, Spearville, as supply speaker.

In the fall of 1956, the Rev. M.D. Landis, retired minister and one of its former pastors, served the church for one year. In May, 1957, Rev. G.C. Munyon accepted the appointment, but after eleven months resigned and moved to Iowa. Again speakers were obtained from Haviland.

Another set-back to the church occurred in 1958, following the appointment of Rev. Woodruff, who had attended Fuller Seminary. Shortly after arrival on the field, the new appointee learned that Mrs. Woodruff declined to settle here, and Rev. Woodruff asked for a release. In this emergency the church again turned to Friends Bible College for aid, and obtained the services of David Leach, a student, who brought youthful zeal to the church the following three years, 1958-1961. He served a part of this time as director of Youth for Christ, Dodge City, and for a while took further studies at Ft. Hays. In 1961 he resigned to serve as manager of a Friends Church youth camp and other youth activities. A Wichita layman, Mr. William Stark, who felt called to the ministry, was appointed to the field in 1961. But within the year the church felt it advisable to terminate his services, which took place in February, 1962. Arrangements were made for Rev. Veryl McKinney, an instructor at Friends Bible College, to supply the pulpit until September of 1962.

With the consent of the cabinet, the Offerle church extended a call to the Rev. Paul N. Rager, of Dodge City, then concluding his 5th year as pastor of the First Missionary Church. Rev. Rager accepted, but he felt it proper to complete his term of service in Dodge City, and thus did not arrive in Offerle until the end of August, 1962. While waiting for the new pastor's arrival, the church successfully undertook one of its major improvements in the construction of a lovely, 3-bedroom parsonage on a large, donated lot north of the church. The Rager family

occupied it in November, and the following July, 1963, a mortgage-burning service was conducted by Bishop Milhouse and Dr. Earl Ford. More recent improvements include: repainting the church exterior, 1963; purchase by the W.S.W.S. of lovely new office furniture for the pastor's study, 1964; 100 new copies of "Worship and Service Hymnal," 1964; installation of 16 new 15-ft., foam-rubber padded pews and pulpit seats, 1964; redecorating of basement, 1965. Shortly before the 86th Anniversary services, Pastor Rager announced his acceptance of chaplaincy of the R.G. LeTourneau, Inc., plant in Longview, Texas, effective May 1.

Rev. Seyffer served one year.

In June, 1966, Mr. Michael supplied the Church until February, 1967, when they moved to Liberal. Mr. Michael ran a restaurant in Kinsley while he served our Church at Offerle.

Dr. Earl Ford, Conference Superintendent and Rev. Clinton Rock, superintendent of schools at Haviland, supplied the church until June 1, 1967, when Rev. and Mrs. John Gilbert were appointed here. The Gilberts served four years and moved to Jamestown, Kansas, in 1971.

In June, 1971, Nina Anderson, our first lady minister and former Methodist was assigned to Offerle. In 1968, The Evangelical United Brethern Church was officially merged with the Methodist Church and is now known as the United Methodist Church. Nina was again appointed to serve here in 1972, but because of ill health she resigned in August, 1972 and Dale Morse, a student at the State Hospital in Larned served the Church for nine months. He resigned in May, 1973, to take a pastorate in the United Church of Christ in Hudson, Kansas.

Paul Lind, a seminary student, served the church during the summer of 1973, and in August, 1973, Rev. David Braun, a Mennonite, also taking training at the State Hospital in Larned, came to Offerle and served one year.

In June, 1974, Glenn Miller, a supply pastor from Salina, Kansas, came to us as pastor and served one year.

In May of 1975, Rev. Harry Barnett, Jr., of the Kinsley United Methodist Church, was assigned to fill the pulpit at Offerle in connection with the church in Kinsley. The two churches are now known as the Kinsley-Offerle Parish and are beginning their second year as such.

Zion Lutheran Church

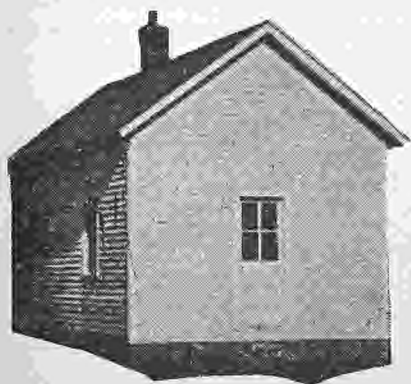
1878 — 1903

Zion Lutheran Church, the mother church of Lutheran congregations in Southwest Kansas, was organized on September 29, 1878. On that date Pastor Krause had come from Ellinwood to officiate at the marriage of Gustav Israel and Bertha Gueldner. The wedding was at the home of the bride's parents, which was located approximately two miles west of the present church property, on the southeast quarter of the section, on the north side of the highway. (The place now is bare of all improvements.) On the same day, under the guidance of Pastor Krause, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Wheatland Township, Ford County, Kansas, was organized in the Gueldner home. A constitution was adopted and signed by the following charter members: Moritz Israel, Julius Israel, Gustav Israel, Carl Gueldner, Robert Gueldner, Louis Wetzel, Carl Reich, Herman Weiss, John Schulz, and Moritz Schmidt. Moritz Israel, Carl Gueldner, and Louis Wetzel were elected as the first elders of the congregation.

The congregation at once proceeded to secure the service of a resident pastor. A call was extended to the Reverend J. G. Schwemly from the state of Ohio. Pastor Schwemly was a member of the Ohio Synod of the Lutheran Church, which at that time was a member of the Synodical Conference. Pastor Schwemly accepted the call and, according to the "Lutheraner", was installed in office on April 20, 1879. Pastor Schwemly served the congregation until May, 1883, when he was given a release from his office. Since the congregation at that time owned no property, Pastor Schwemly lived on the quarter section directly northwest of the church property, which he had homesteaded. After his resignation he continued to live on his homestead until he had suffered a severe financial loss when he lost several hundred cattle in the severe blizzard in 1886; then he returned to Ohio. During the first several years the services of Zion Church were conducted in the homes of the members. In 1881, the congregation purchased a house, moved it on an acre of land which had been donated to the congregation by Mr. Herman Weiss, and converted it into a church building. The building served as church and school for 17 years. During a prolonged vacancy after Pastor Schwemly's resignation, from 1883 to 1888, the congregation was served by Pastor E. Ehlers of Ellinwood.

In 1888, Zion again received a resident pastor in the person of J. H. Hamm, a candidate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. During the pastorate of the Reverend Hamm a house was bought from Mr. Endermeier and moved from its location, one mile north and half a

mile east of the church, to the congregational property. The house served as a parsonage until 1907.



The First Church



The First Parsonage

According to the Kansas Synodical report of 1891, Pastor Hamm, besides serving Zion Church, also served eight other places. The total number of souls in the entire field was about 125. In the fall of 1892 Pastor Hamm received and accepted a call to Newton, Kansas.

In answer to Zion's application for another pastor Candidate J. G. F. Kleinhans was assigned to the congregation. He began his work in the fall of 1892. Besides serving as the pastor of Zion Church, Pastor Kleinhans did mission work in seven counties. He served Lutherans at Offerle, Meade, Dodge City, Kinsley, Wittrup (Jetmore), Pierceville, Lakin, and Kendall. Early baptisms recorded include children from Hodgeman, Kearny, Grant, Meade, Edwards, Stanton, Gray, Wichita, Finney, and Ford counties. The number of souls in this extensive parish numbered 375 when Pastor Kleinhans, after two years, accepted a call to the Lutheran Church at Milberger, Russell County, Kansas.

Pastor Kleinhans was succeeded by another candidate from Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Missouri, Pastor Louis Eschbach, who began his work in Zion Church in the fall of 1895. When Pastor Eschbach began his ministry, the congregation still worshipped in the first church building, the house which had been moved to the church property and remodeled for church purposes. The congregation, which had grown considerably, had realized for some time that a new edifice was needed. On March 17, 1889, a motion was adopted to build a new church. The sum of \$504.00 was subscribed for its cost. But the execution of the resolution was delayed. The following years brought a financial depression and there were years of poor crops. In a meeting during the ministry of Pastor Kleinhans (the date is not recorded) the congregation adopted a resolution to build a new church. Action, however, was again delayed for several years. But in the voters' meeting on March 13, 1897, "the ball started rolling". It was resolved

to circulate a subscription list for a new church. Early in 1898 Louis Wetzel, William Dunker, and Herman Weiss were elected as a building committee, and Moritz Israel was to receive the subscriptions. Before the end of 1898 the new church was completed and dedicated to the worship of the Triune God by a grateful and happy congregation.



Early day picture of the church

During the ministry of Pastor Eschbach two new stations were added to the parish. These were Garden City and Shockey in Grant County. The number of souls had grown to 481. A congregation of 481 souls requires the full time of a pastor, even when the entire parish consists of one congregation and all members are able to attend the same services. It was impossible to give adequate services to a parish of that size which extended to the Oklahoma boundary on the south and the Colorado boundary on the west. In accordance with a resolution of the Kansas District in 1898 the District Mission Board visited the extensive parish of Pastor Eschbach. The result was a three-way division of the parish. Each of these three new parishes at once became self-supporting. One parish consisted of Zion Lutheran Church, Dodge City, and Witttrup. Bucklin was added to this parish, and Deerfield was added to the western parish. After this division the Meade parish extended a call to Pastor Eschbach, which he accepted. The successor to Pastor Eschbach was Candidate Peter Juergensen, a graduate of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. Pastor Juergensen entered upon his duties of service to Zion Lutheran Church and the mission

stations, Wittrup and Dodge City, during the latter part of 1900. He served this parish faithfully until 1903, when he received and accepted a call to Strong City, Kansas.

1903 — 1928

The second quarter of a century filled with God's blessings upon Zion Lutheran Church begins with the ministry of Pastor B. H. Schrein, who also received the call as a candidate from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. Pastor Schrein served Zion congregation and the other churches connected with this parish from September, 1903 until October, 1906.

The original parish of which Zion was the home base had been divided into three parishes. When, however, vacancies occurred, pastors of Zion again took the field. Thus we again find Pastor Schrein and his ponies roaming over the western prairies bringing the Bread of Life to hungry souls. Pastor Schrein wrote: "I held services in Zion Church, in St. Michael's Church at Wittrup, in Kinsley, in Bucklin, and in Dodge City. Then for a long time I preached in a vacant field, composed of Lakin, Garden City, Pierceville, and Shockey, away down in Grant County. During the Christmas and Easter seasons I preached as many as ten times in one week with Communion services everywhere. . . Often I did not get home till midnight, when I was about as tired as were my ponies."

Within the time of one year Pastor Schrein received five calls to as many different states. When he received a call from a congregation in Stanley, Wisconsin, he informed Zion congregation that he felt conscience-bound to accept the call to the Stanley Church, whereupon he was granted a peaceful release.

During the following vacancy the parish was again divided. Since 1900, when St. Michael's Lutheran Church was organized, Zion and St. Michael's were one parish. Early in 1907, Zion and Bucklin became one parish, and Wittrup, Dodge City and Cimarron became one parish. After five pastors returned calls extended to them, a call was sent and accepted by Pastor A. Dubberstein of Groton, South Dakota. Pastor Dubberstein was installed on August 18, 1907, by Pastor Dukewits of Albert. During the preceding vacancy, Zion congregation voted to replace the first, small parsonage with a new one. Building operations began at once and a spacious two-story parsonage was erected. The first church building was attached to the east side of the new parsonage and served as a school room. 130 days of labor were donated by members. Free board was given to the carpenters, painters, and plasterers by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wetzel and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Weiss. The total cost of building the new parsonage and converting the old one into a barn was \$1,620.95. The total of subscriptions paid was

\$1,620.23. The deficit of 72 cents was paid by Pastor Dubberstein. Pastor Dubberstein served Zion Church and Redeemer Church in Bucklin until March, 1916, when he received and accepted a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Clay Center, Kansas.



The second parsonage

The next pastor called was P. G. Krause of Wallis, Texas. Pastor Krause accepted the call and served as the pastor of Zion Church from 1916 to 1926. This period was marked by considerable progress in the life of Zion Church. In 1920, the church building was completely remodeled and enlarged, a full basement was made under the church, which was equipped with a furnace and electric lights. In October, 1921, a ladies aid society was organized. In 1923, the young people's society, organized in 1914, became a member of the International Walther League. In 1923 the parsonage, which had been erected in 1907, was completely destroyed by fire. The origin of the fire was thought to have been defective electric wiring. Immediately work was begun on a new parsonage, which was completed in April of the following year. This parsonage is still serving its purpose. In 1923 also the Sunday school was organized. Undoubtedly, however, the most important



The present parsonage

forward step during this period, particularly for the spiritual welfare and growth of the future members of Zion Church, was the establishment of a Christian day school in 1924. On January 21, 1926, Pastor Krause presented a call from St. John's Lutheran Church, Nashville, Kansas, and asked for a release. The congregation granted Pastor Krause's request. After serving Nashville for a number of years, Pastor Krause retired from office and made his home in Wichita. He was received into the Kingdom of Glory on December 6, 1952.

As their next pastor Zion Church called the Reverend R. M. Lammers of Optimo, New Mexico, who was installed on Ascension Day, May 30, 1926 by the vacancy pastor, J. Resner of Great Bend. Pastor Lammers continued to build the walls of Zion. He served the congregation during a longer period than any other pastor in the 75 years of its existence. Under his leadership and instruction the congregation continued to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1928 — 1953

Pastor Lammers shepherded and counseled Zion Church during the years of financial difficulties, dust storms, drought and crop failures in the third decade of this century, years of adversity, which always will be remembered by those who have experienced them. But also those years were years of progress in the congregation. In 1929 a furnace was installed in the parsonage. In 1934 the weekly envelope system for church contributions was introduced and the office of a financial secretary was established. In 1937 a garage for the pastor's car was built. Bathroom fixtures were installed in the parsonage, and cabinets were built in the kitchen in the fall of 1937. During the pastorate of Pastor Lammers Zion church was privileged to celebrate both the fiftieth and sixtieth anniversaries of its founding. The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated September 30, 1928. Two former pastors, B. H. Schrein of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and P. Juergensen of Chase, Kansas, and Pastor A. C. Dubberstein of Oklahoma City, the son of a former pastor, were the guest speakers. The sixtieth anniversary was celebrated September 18, 1938, in conjunction with the annual mission festival. The guest speakers were the Reverend W. H. Meyer of Haven, Kansas, and the Reverend Walter G. Beil of Herington, Kansas.

In January, 1943, Pastor Lammers received a call from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church at Nortonville, Kansas.

In a meeting held April 18, 1943, the congregation voted to send a call to the Reverend Leo Fenske of Riverton, Wyoming. Pastor Fenske accepted the call and was installed by the Reverend Theo. H. Mueller of Dodge City, the vacancy pastor, on June 13, 1943. During the vacancy the congregation had installed gas in the parsonage and had

decided to adopt Synod's Pension Plan. During the time that Pastor Fenske served Zion Church the common Order of Service was introduced and the congregation decided that a weekly church bulletin be published. In a meeting on June 24, 1945, Pastor Fenske presented a call to the congregation which he had received from St. Paul's Church at Preston. Since Pastor Fenske believed that it was his duty to accept this call he was granted a peaceful release.

The Reverend H. W. E. Buss of Herkimer, Kansas, was called as the successor to Pastor Fenske. Pastor Buss was installed on November 25, 1945, by Pastor Theo. H. Mueller, who again was serving as the vacancy pastor. During the pastorate of Pastor Buss a number of improvements of the church property were made. In 1946 a new propane gas furnace was installed in the church. An electric water pump and water heater were installed in the parsonage in 1947 and the parsonage furnace was equipped with an oil burner the following year. A slide projector and a movie projector were purchased for both educational and social activities in the congregation. In several meetings the question of erecting a new church building or remodeling the old edifice was discussed at length, but no definite action was taken at that time. Largely through the efforts and under the leadership of Pastor Buss the Lutheran Hospital Association, which operates the Edwards County Hospital, was organized. This association has also promoted the organization of several other Lutheran hospital associations in southwestern Kansas.

In July, 1950, Pastor Buss received a call from Grace Lutheran Church at Lyons, Kansas. When he informed the congregation that he felt conscience-bound to accept this call, he was given a peaceful release.

Zion Church then called Pastor Otto C. Mueller of Durham, Kansas. Pastor Mueller accepted the call and was installed in Zion Church on October 1, 1950, by the vacancy pastor, M. A. Pullmann of Kinsley.

In December, 1950, a contract for a new two-manual Verlinden pipe organ was signed by the trustees of the congregation. The organ was dedicated on July 1, 1951, in a dedicatory service in the morning and a sacred organ concert in the afternoon. Mr. Elwood Droegemueller of Garden City, Kansas, was the guest organist. In January, 1951, some alterations were made in the church chancel, the pulpit was lowered to the level of the chancel floor and a built-in lecturn was added on the Gospel side of the altar. A year later the congregation entered upon a more extensive remodeling program. A mother's room was built on the west side of the tower and a vestibule with stairs leading into the front vestibule and into the basement was built on the east side of the tower. The assembly room in the basement was renovated, modern rest rooms were installed, the kitchen was

completely remodeled, and an enclosed stairway, leading into the kitchen, was added on the rear of the church building.

Acknowledging the many blessings and mercies of a gracious and benevolent Lord and heavenly Father, which He has graciously bestowed upon Zion Lutheran Church over a period of 75 years, the voters' assembly in the annual meeting, on January 18, 1953, unanimously resolved to observe in a proper manner the 75th anniversary of Zion Church on September 29, the date of the organization.

Herewith the chronicles of Zion Lutheran Church are brought up to date.

STATISTICS

The first infant baptism recorded was: Peter Jacob, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Heiland, who was baptized September 29, 1878, the date of the organization of Zion Church.

The first marriage recorded was that of Gustav Israel and Bertha Gueldner, also on September 29, 1878, the date of the organization of Zion Lutheran Church.

The first death and burial recorded was that of Paul Otto, the five-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Israel, who was accidentally drowned in a small stream near the home on July 4, 1880.

The 75th Anniversary of the congregation was observed on Sept. 29, 1953. It was a full day of rejoicing, praising and giving thanks to the Heavenly Father for the many blessings He had bestowed on Zion Lutheran Church. A bountiful noon meal was served by the ladies. In the afternoon Service, the Rev. Leo Fenske of Leavenworth, Kansas, preached the anniversary sermon; Pastor Homer Kurth of Paola, Kansas was the liturgist. The evening meal was again served by the ladies. This was followed with a Reunion Service of all classes confirmed in Zion Church during its existence. The sermon was preached by the Rev. R. M. Lammers, residing at that time at Marysville, Kansas.

Pastor, O. C. Mueller retired from the active ministry in October of 1957, and moved to Holton, Kansas.

Pastor Walter Schmid was installed as Zion's pastor on Nov. 3, 1957, and served until June of 1959.

Pastor Frank Schaefer then accepted the congregation's call and was installed in September of 1959. He served until Nov. 28, 1965, when, at his request, he was given a peaceful release.

For the next year the congregation was without the services of its own pastor and was served, on a supply basis, by the Rev. Edwin Hoelter of Dodge City. During the vacancy the interior of the parsonage was redecorated.

Pastor and Mrs. A. R. Lueders then arrived in Kansas, on Dec. 1, 1966, and he was installed on Dec. 4th. He is still our pastor at present, but has announced that he will retire on August 29th of this year.



Rev. Alfred R. Lueders
- present pastor.

On Sept. 29, 1968, the 90th Anniversary of the congregation was observed. The festival sermon during the morning Worship Service was delivered by the Rev. Richard W. Lammers of Newell, Iowa, son of Zion's former pastor, the Rev. R. M. Lammers. Two sons of the congregation were in charge of the special Service in the afternoon. Rev. Homer Kurth was the guest speaker while his brother, Prof. Woodrow Kurth served as liturgist. (Both of these men are the sons of Mr. A. C. Kurth and the late Mrs. Lena Kurth.) As usual, the ladies of the congregation served two bountiful meals.

During the past two years various improvements have been made on the church building. Steel siding and a new roof were installed on the exterior. The entrance on the east side of the building leading up to the narthex and the Mothers' Room was paneled, new carpeting laid, and a new ceiling installed. The same was done to the stairway leading to the basement Assembly Room, and the north wall of the basement was paneled. In the sanctuary itself, new carpeting was laid in the chancel, the center aisle and the sacristy.

The church grounds also have experienced change. Some of the old elm trees which had been severely damaged in an ice storm were removed and were replaced with a variety of young trees. A very old building which at one time had been the parsonage, but later used as garage and barn, was torn down and some of its still sound lumber was used to erect a smaller building housing various necessary tools.

All of these improvements have greatly enhanced the appearance of the building which has stood at its familiar corner southwest of Offerle for many, many years.

Zion's members now eagerly await, God willing, the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the congregation on Sept. 29, 1978.



The present church

St. Mary's Catholic Church Hodgeman County, Kansas

Nearly ten miles to the north and west of Offerle there stands a little stone church on the plains known as St. Mary's. The neighboring homes were peopled by brave, strong, smiling and prosperous families who were not so many, it is true, yet they were good and faithful. For many years the giving and the receiving of the greatest gifts of God to man took place, and only He and the sturdy pioneers of this vast country knew of the blessings of St. Mary's.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gleason, Sr. and their four sons and one daughter came to Kansas from Peotone, Illinois, in 1878. It was new country and like every early pioneer, they were forced to endure many hardships day by day. The sons were John, Mike, Dan and Tom Gleason. They were the fathers of the Gleason families now living near this community. The daughter, Mary Gleason, married John Burke, Sr.



Gleason family. Dan, Tom, John and Mike are standing. Seated is: Mary Gleason, Grandma Gleason, _____



The old Single Bar Ranch, stopping place for many a traveler between Jetmore and Kinsley.

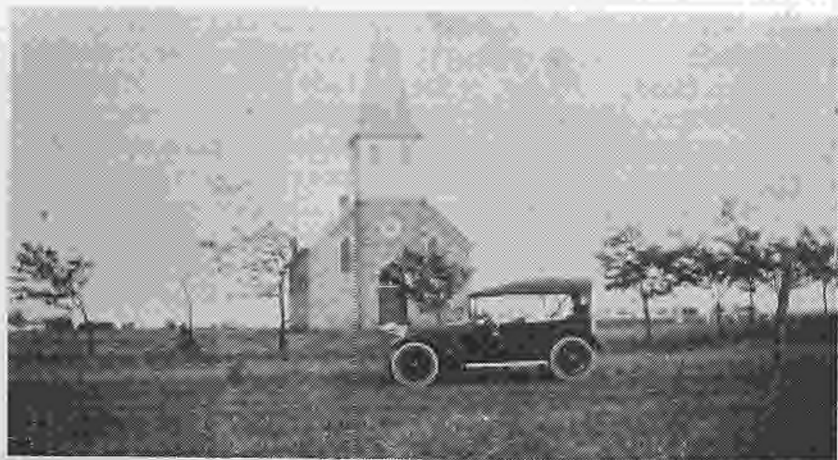
Mrs. Mary Burke, a widow with three sons and two daughters, came to Kansas from Joliet, Illinois, in 1885. They had been friends of the Gleason family in Illinois, so they already had friends in this new and rugged land. Another thing that made the Burke family glad to come was the thought of joining their older daughter and sister, Mrs. Emmett Mooney and family. Emmett Mooney and John Burke came to Kansas from Illinois, homesteaded five miles southeast of present Hanston some years before for Mr. Mooney's health. The doctors in Illinois feared Mr. Mooney had tuberculosis and couldn't live long in the Illinois climate. Kansas was good for him for he lived to be more than ninety years of age.



Mary (Ryan) Burke and her grandsons. At left is James D. Burke and the other boy standing is James D. Gleason. Seated is Mike Gleason.

Mike and John Gleason married Alice and Bridget Burke, respectively. Dan Gleason married Nine Walter. Tom Gleason married Nellie O'Keefe, who didn't live too many years. He then married Rosanne McDermott who also died quite young. John Burke married Mary Gleason, as previously stated which makes a total of three brother-sister marriages in two families. Lawrence Burke returned to Ill. for many years, married there, and finally came back and spent his last days in Kansas. James Burke went to Chicago for many years, but later came back and also spent his final years in Ks.

Soon many more families came to join the pioneers and the names of Regnier, Schnable, Levi, Dvorak, Tonar, Ritchie, Ryan and McDermott remain in our history. For many years these settlers went to regular services held at the Old St. Joseph Church built in 1876. Then trips were long and hard for in those days the transportation was either by horse and buggy or wagon. It was in the winter of 1903 that Bishop Henessy of Wichita gave them permission to build their own church to be located five miles north of the old St. Joe's.



Early day photo of St. Mary's Church.

Money wasn't plentiful but these people through long hours of dedication and hard work started from scratch to build their church, St. Mary's. The men of the parish went near the "Point of Rocks" north of Spearville and quarried the stone for their new church. The back breaking work of blasting the rock lasted all day, they then loaded their wagons to make the long drive home, sometimes arriving home late in the night. Much lumber was hauled from Kinsley. This was a very long and rough trip but it couldn't compare with the difficulties of loading and unloading all those rocks.

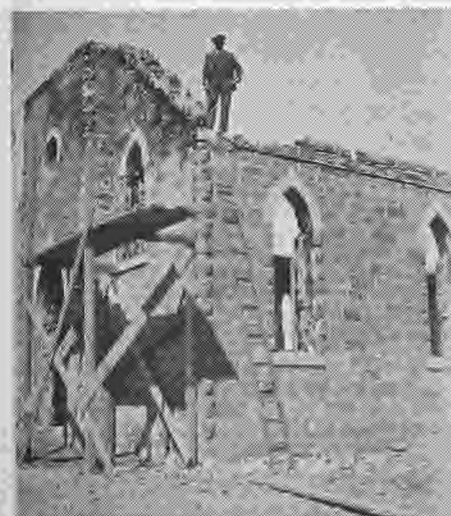
Mr. John Ritchie, who lived one mile west of the church, was a stonemason by trade and he did most of the stone work on the church. Construction of the church progressed at a steady pace. The corner stone was laid down on May 29, 1904 and the dedication ceremony was in Jan. of 1905. This small stone church has been a landmark since the very beginning. By that time families from Hanston had joined and were a part of the parish until they built their own St. Anthony's Church in Hanston. Some of these were the Mooney, Hertel, Hahn and Deutsch families.

It is scarcely the history of man for things to go on uninterruptedly for years without some disaster; this happened likewise to St. Mary's. On Jan. 1, 1928, a raging fire devastated the church. The fierce heat melted some of the walls to powder but the walls were not totally destroyed. Overwhelmed at the destruction of their church, the men went back once again to the rock quarry and got enough stone to restore the church. Stronger now without and more beautiful within. The Church was restored according to the same plan and almost the same dimensions.

There is a small cemetery at the back of the church yard where many community loved ones are buried. Mr. John Gleason Sr. of the original Gleason family who came to Kansas in 1878, donated 10 acres of ground for this church and cemetery. Ironically he was the first



St. Mary's Church after it burned. Construction work on the church to restore it to its original beauty.



person buried in that cemetery. He was killed when his six-horse team pulling a drill and a load of wheat, became frightened and ran away, pulling the load of wheat over him and crushing him, living only a few days. Now, many of his own family, relatives, and friends are buried along with him in that same cemetery. Many have been brought back from other cities and states to be buried there. The men of the parish take pride in keeping it in the best of condition.

During all of the 72 years St. Mary's has been a mission parish, attached first to St. Peter and Paul parish of North Kinsley and to St. Joe parish of Offerle for approximately the past 49 years. In 1943 a home was built for the Sisters who taught the children for 12 years. Then due to the shortage of sisters and the increased enrollment in all schools throughout the country the sisters could no longer be retained. For the next several years St. Mary's had two lay teachers. Finally, due to the consolidation of schools, school is no longer held at St. Mary's. The old school has been reconstructed into the now present parish hall.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Windthorst

Windthorst, a German settlement 10 miles southwest of Offerle, and Mother parish of the Catholic faith in Eastern Ford County, Kansas, owes its organization to the fact that a group of German people in Cincinnati were dissatisfied with their living conditions and decided to try to better themselves in the land of opportunity — good old Kansas.

The Aurora Colonization Society was organized and three men, Frank Klenke, Henry Tasset and Herman Thesing were sent out as an exploring committee in 1876, and in the fall of 1877, twelve men came to Larned to close the land transaction. The twelve men were: Joe Demming, Mathias Droste, Fred Hain, Anton Bicard, August Hessman, Barney Koelker, Jacob Steiger, Henry Tasset, Leo Fitzler, Herman Thesing, John Torline and Henry Zerhuisen.

The land south of Offerle appealed to the committee. Here they saw wide open prairies with their possibilities, plenty of buffalo grass, fertile soil with twenty to thirty inches of top soil, good and plentiful water supply at a reasonable depth and a climate far more invigorating than what Cincinnati could offer these sturdy Germans.

The exploring committee therefore painted a rosy picture upon their return and several meetings were held at the Arbeiter Hall together with D. C. Schmidt who took a lively interest in the discussion. He finally brought the deal of ten sections of Sante Fe Railroad land to a close allowing them the land for ten dollars per acre on a long term basis. To show his good will, he informed the meeting that the railroad company would donate eighty acres of land for a townsite in the center of the ten sections. It was to be deeded gratis for church, school and cemetery purposes.

The name of the new settlement was decided upon when F. H. Klenke proposed the name of Windthorst in honor of Dr. Ludwig Van Windthorst, who at that time was the leader of the Catholic Center Party and a bitter opponent of Bismark, the Iron Chancellor of Germany.

On February 21, 1878, a contingent of seven families and three single men left civilization and arrived in the wild west at Offerle the 24th of February. These seven families were: Joe Antermeier, Mathias Droste, Fred Hain, Henry Lampe, August Hessman, Henry Tasset, and Leo Tritzler. The three single men were: Joe Demming, Anton Bicard and Henry Zerhusen. The men who had bought their land previous to their exodus brought with them lumber to build their future homes. A freight car loaded with equipment cost these men seventy-five dollars from Cincinnati to Offerle; this price included the fare for the individual who had to ride in the freight car.

The lumber and building materials were used to build homes, but

many of the early pioneers were not that fortunate and had to protect themselves from the elements by means of soddys and dug-outs. The wells were hand dug. Some of the families, having filed for 80 acres government land also could file for an extra eighty provided they planted ten acres of trees; these are still known today as timber claims. The government wished to encourage the early settlers to plant trees for windbreaks and by a means of drawing rain.

After the seven families left Cincinnati, the Santa Fe Railroad on the 9th of March, 1878, gave a deed to the German Catholic Aurora Homestead Association which in part reads: "In witnesseth that the said Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad Company for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred and fourteen (\$414.40) 40-100 dollars to be duly paid by said German Catholic Aurora Homestead Association the receipt is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained, and sold and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said German Aurora Homestead Association, its successors and assigns, forever, all that tract, piece and parcel of land situated in the County of Ford in the State of Kansas, to wit: The Northeast quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of Section No. seventeen (17) in Township No. twenty-six (26) South of Range twenty-one (21) west of the sixth principal Meridian containing one hundred and sixty (160) acres, more or less according to the United States Survey.

After the early settlers had built their little homes the thought upper-most in their mind was a priest and a church to take care of their spiritual needs. The Benedictines at Atchison, Kansas, seemed to have great interest in the western part of the state and even had plans to establish a monastery to help further the cause of Christian education and the Catholic Religion. Two lay brothers were living down in the hills of Clark county and the spot is known today as the Monte Casino, a national monument marking the spot where the two brothers spent an entire year preparing for the coming of the Fathers of St. Benedict from Atchison, Kan. But the Fathers never came except the one who labored assiduously in territory extending west of Great Bend to Colorado and south to Camp Supply in Oklahoma, and to Camp Elliott in Texas. This Father was Father Ferdinand Wolf, O.S.B. who started ministering to the spiritual wants of the Windthorst people on May 21, 1878. Father Wolf was a very energetic, pious and lovable self-sacrificing character long to be remembered in the annals of time.

Times being hard and money scarce, no church could be built immediately. Mass was held in the Henry Tasset home once a month. During Mass, four men, Henry Tasset, Herman Thesing, John Segbers and John Torline sang the Gregorian Mass and after Mass, Vespers and Benediction were sung. On Sundays when Father Wolf could not be on hand the people gathered at the Tasset home to pray the rosary and the Litany of the Saints. One of the members would also read the Epistle and the Gospel to the assembled group to help keep the Faith alive and furnish some spiritual comfort to these sturdy settlers. Great

sacrifices were entailed attending Mass, many people walking miles in all kinds of weather, there being but a few wagons and no buggies in 1878.

The first baptism in the new settlement was that of Barbara Englert, June 11, 1878, the daughter of Joseph Englert and Eva Klein. The first marriage was that of Dionysius Halloran and Marie Flannery on September 7, 1878. The first funeral was that of a young man, Henry Hessman, but 34 years old who was buried August 5, 1878, and soon followed by Joseph Dierback, Jr., on August 15 that same year.

The spirit of sacrifice kept growing with the pioneers and plans were made to build a church in spite of the poverty. The minutes of August 11, 1878, translated from the German, read: Minutes of the St. Francis Parish meeting at Windthorst, Ford County, Kansas, August 11, 1878. In the absence of the president (the pastor) A. H. Thesing was appointed chairman. Regards the graves in the cemetery the following was decided: the grave for an adult was to cost \$1.50; for a child 75 cents. This however, does not cover the expense for digging the grave.

Proposed was then the suggestion to select a church site and how to build it. This was considered and a decision reached to send both the description of future church and the location thereof to the society. Adjournment. Signed: Henry Tasset, Secretary.

The location of the new and first church was on the church eighty below the peak of the hill where the present church stands. It was half way between cemetery and road on the north side of the cemetery road, the only landmark remaining today are a few rocks that have worked to the top.

In the spring of 1879 a small church was built by the few men, none receiving any pay except Ferdinand Doepke who was paid for the cabinet work, the total cost figure is not available but it is remembered as \$750.00 by the people of Windthorst. The stained glass windows and bell came from the St. Paul Church, Cincinnati, as a gift. The little church was blessed by Father Wolf on Easter Sunday, 1879, and the first Mass was sung in it that same day.

The financial conditions of the early families were not the best. Many of them had borrowed money to come to Kansas, some coming late in the spring of 1878, had not the opportunity to break the sod for a crop, others knew nothing about farming and by Easter of 1879 many of the people were in dire circumstances. Hopes of abundant rain were fading at Easter and the year of 1879 will always be remembered as a dry and crop failure year. Because of this many of the men left their families on the prairies and sought employment in Kansas City, Missouri, others in New Mexico helping the Santa Fe railroad company extend its road to the west. The pay checks were sent home to their families who lived on but the essentials and saved whatever money they could to pay for their land and to buy a cow now and then to build up a herd.

To keep warm in the winter time sunflower and cornstalks were



First church built in 1879 - dedicated on Easter Sunday.

gathered plus the main fuel supply, cow chips. These were gathered in the Arkansas River bottoms where large herds of cattle were grazing. Anyone having a rick of fifteen to twenty loads of cow chips felt secure for the winter.

The fall of 1879 was a dry one and prospects for wheat were not in evidence which resulted in some of the settlers leaving the country to try their pioneering luck elsewhere. Many stared starvation in the face but good Father Wolf always solicitous for the material and spiritual welfare of his flock sought help in the Eastern States and collected two freight carloads provisions which he divided among the settlers according to the number of members in the family. This relieved the starvation condition somewhat but did not tide them over for the winter. But the Faith of these pioneers and their prayers carried them through even through the ten original sections of land bought from the railroad company went back into the hands of the company again. The Aurora Society gave all the relief it could but its funds were limited.

To make matters worse, false rumors were started that Sitting Bull and his Sioux Indians were on the warpath and heading for the Windthorst settlement. Many of the settlers were greatly alarmed and left for safer quarters at Spearville. There, in the Boedecker hotel, they enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Bohman until the Indian report was proved false — the Sioux Indians crossed Kansas at the Cimarron Crossing in the western part of the state. Mr. Bohman, non-Catholic, but close friend of priests, was a grocer and a boarding house manager. He was a generous benefactor toward the needy settlers giving them what they needed on credit of long standing.

Father Wolf, seeing the large number of children of school age, suggested that school be taught in the church. After the field work was

finished school was opened in December, 1879, with 26 boys and 18 girls in attendance trying to gain daily experience under the tutorship of Miss Anna Tasset, the first school teacher in the new settlement. The daily schedule read: German instructions in religion, reading, grammar and writing in the morning, with English, reading, arithmetic, writing, geography and spelling in the afternoon.



First school built in 1883. Mr. Laudick and pupils in 1889. This school was used as late as 1912 or possibly longer.

A four year Catholic High School was started in fall of 1922. In 1940 arrangements were made thru District 12 to maintain the Immaculate Heart of Mary High School as a public school, operating as such until 1968 when it was unified with Spearville District 381. Junior High is still maintained in Windthorst by this District.

During Father Disselkamp's pastorate, people were encouraged by him to turn their attention more to cattle and chickens instead of just wheat raising. Even though prices were low, eight cents for butter, six cents for eggs, the people established a butter and egg route to Fort Dodge entailing twenty-four miles travel each way. People traveled this distance with teams forming a regular procession at five o'clock in the morning and returning from Fort Dodge last at night. Today the gravel road four miles south of the church is still known as the "Butter and Egg Road."

Through the influence of Father Disselkamp, a change was brought about in the year 1897, when he contacted Mr. Parker, Hutchinson, Kansas. Mr. Parker came to the settlement and talked to the people about establishing a cooperative creamery. This proposition was whole-heartedly supported and a separating station was set up at the Henry Nau, Sr., farm, just below the hill on which Windthorst is located. Mr. and Mrs. Nau, operated this station from May 1, 1897 until May 1, 1908. Sixty customers brought their milk regularly; it was



Second church built in 1892. This picture was taken at the time of the Silver Jubilee.

nothing to separate with steam power in one morning 14,000 pounds of milk. After the separating Mr. Nau would take their cream to Spearville and ship it to Hutchinson. Upon his return from town he would bring the mail and before long a post office resulted known as the Windthorst Post Office. With the closing of the Nau Separating Station, the post office was lost. The close of the separating station was brought about by people buying their own separators and selling their cream wherever they got the most for it.

Climatic conditions changed during Father Disselkamp's residence in Windthorst. He encouraged the people to pray for rain and held special services which brought results. More steady rainfall brought about a great change in the settlement. The United States Department of Agriculture introduced from the Ukraine, Russia, hard wheat into the community which proved far superior to the other varieties tried before. John A. Torline was the first to try this Turkey Red Wheat in 1890, when he planted five acres of it. In the spring of 1891, all early May wheat varieties froze but the Turkey Red on John Torline's five acres survived and produced a good yield. In 1892, everyone in the country changed to Turkey Red because of its non-smut and durable quality. This new variety of wheat proved a boon to the communities around Windthorst with three cooperative elevators resulting. Spearville, Wright and Offerle, people of Windthorst having stock in all three, even at the present writing.

In 1898 the Windthorst townsite was up for sale and was bought by one of the parish members, J. H. Torline, for ten dollars. An association was formed known as the Benevolent and Educational Association whereby this eighty acre lot was turned back to the Windthorst Church to be used for educational purposes. An admittance

fee of 25 cents for life membership was charged and the same membership fee prevails today. The money thus accumulated was used to break the sod and put the land into cultivation. The eighty was rented to one of the association members who farmed it on the share plan. The tax title was granted the organization in 1900, but it took until 1911 to quiet the title, due to many owners of the town-plot living elsewhere who had to relinquish their ownership title.

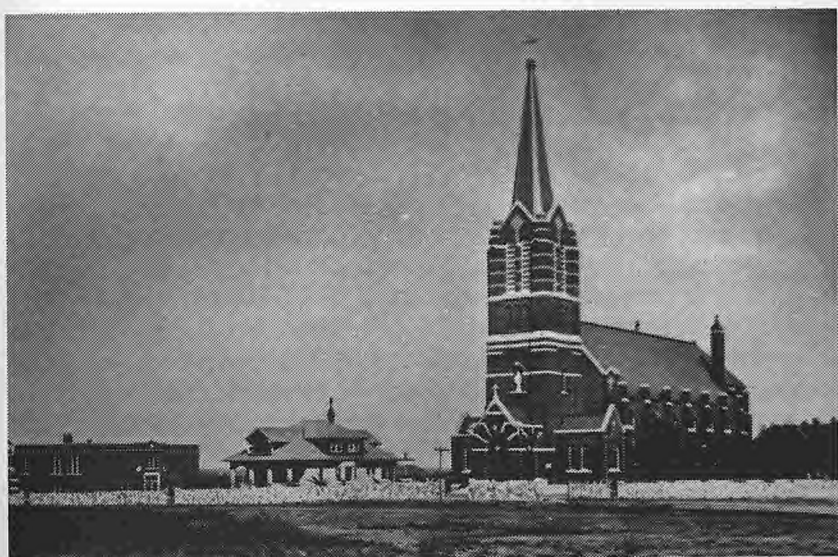
During Father Podgorseck's pastorate preparations were completed for building a new church. There had been discussion previous to his coming but nothing definite was decided upon. The sand was hauled from the river in 1911, by the people, and on December 16, 17, four carloads of crushed rock were unloaded at Bellefont and hauled to the hill.

On December 18, a heavy snow storm set in and terminated the hauling until after Christmas when the roads were finally cleared. Four carloads of bricks were hauled by the time the wind and snow closed them up tight again. People would do their utmost to get the materials hauled but when going to Bellefont they would open the road and by the time they started for Windthorst it was drifted shut again. They finally gave up and waited until the blockade ended in March. During the snow blockade the bricks were unloaded at Bellefont by the parishioners who went to town on horseback.

March 1912, the basement was excavated and before the end of April, concrete for the basement and foundation was poured. The first brick was laid on May 4, the cornerstone on June 12. The bids for the new brick church ranged from \$28,000.00 to \$60,000.00 and the contract was awarded to Mr. William Foley, Dodge City, who did a wonderful job of the building. The architect was the Preuss & Aimes Company, St. Louis, Mo.

The church was not completely finished when Father Podgorseck was transferred July 30, 1912. Father Podgorseck also has the distinction of being the first priest in Windthorst owning a car. He was the proud owner of a two cylinder Reo car. Father Podgorseck often times does not receive the credit for building the church but he it was who gathered the money and had the church erected as it stands today, with the exception of the interior finishing and fixtures. Some of this was done by Father George Sittenauer who was pastor pro tem from August to October 20, 1912.

The next pastor was none other than the beloved Father Joseph Bogner, who also owned a car, a 1913 Buick. Father Bogner despised the idea of moving to the parish at first, but soon learned to know his parish and loved the people of Windthorst. Father Bogner finished the church and had the dedication June 12, 1913. This was a festive day for Windthorst. Dinner and lunch were served in the old church to 800 people. The afternoon was a successful social picnic event that will be long remembered by the happy people of Windthorst. They had reasons to rejoice, they had the finest brick church in the west and free



The present church and facilities. Photo taken in 1943.

of debt, the total cost of the new church as of record December 31, 1914, was \$37,538.37.

In 1974, this church was redecorated for the third time — costing almost as much as the original cost of building the church.

At present there are 64 households, with approximately 220 Catholics. The present pastor is Rev. James M. Tainter.

Organizations, Bank and Ranch

AMERICAN LEGION AND LEGION AUXILIARY

The Gerald D. Speck Post No. 225 was organized after World War II and received its charter on January 26, 1946. The Post was named in honor of Gerald D. Speck, who entered the U.S. Navy on Sept. 30, 1943. His ship, USS Ommaney Bay, was lost in the Asiatic Area on January 4, 1945. Other men from Offerle who gave their lives during World War II were Ernest Amos, Otis Kurth and William Kisner. The charter members of this Post were Raymond R. Stegman, Elwyn A. Liebl, Clarence G. Katz, Urban Klenke, Clifford D. Yung, Harry Herrmann, Homer W. Richter, Edmund A. Boehme, Wm. G. Atwood, August H. Kurth, Albert Herrmann, Robert L. Stegman, Harry E. Owston, Wm. H. Strohwitz, Henry H. Rabe, Leo V. Burke, Edward Schwarz, Clarence D. Finfrock, Frank E. Rose and Robert C. Berry.

The American Legion Auxiliary unit of the Gerald D. Speck Post No. 225 received its charter on January 2, 1951. Their purpose in organizing was not only to aid the Legion post, but to serve the community and the disabled veterans. The charter members were Mrs. Blanche Speck, Mrs. Evelyn Bredfeldt, Mrs. Verda Strohwitz, Mrs. Eileen Owston, Mrs. John W. Isern, Mrs. Josephine Spahn, Mrs. Bertha Lancaster, Mrs. Ruby Lightcap, Mrs. Oneita Marshall, Mrs. LaVona Herrmann, Mrs. Paul Burkhart, Mrs. Helen Leith, Mrs. Norma Stegman, Mrs. Andrew Burghart, Mrs. Raymond Kleysteuber, Jr., Mrs. Anna Lightcap, Mrs. Applonia Stegman, Mrs. Thelma Kurth, Mrs. Katie Kleysteuber, Mrs. Anna Amos, Mrs. Duane Lancaster, Mrs. Harry Herrmann, Mrs. Arthur C. Krumrey, Mrs. Harry Offerle, Mrs. C. D. Finfrock, Miss Rosemary Spahn, Mrs. Wilfred Heiland, Mrs. Laura Boehme, Mrs. Alma A. Field, Mrs. Frances Bostrom and Mrs. Dorotha Kregar. The Gold Star Mothers from this group were Anna Amos and Blanche Speck. The Auxiliary members served the community for 22 years. Among their local projects were placing flags and wreaths on veterans' graves at the five cemeteries surrounding Offerle and conducting services at Evergreen Cemetery on Memorial Day; furnishing leadership and citizenship awards to the Offerle schools; sponsoring the Santa Claus treats each year at Christmas, and each year for 16 years expenses were paid for a girl at attend Girls' State, where she could learn more about our government, and report it back to her classmates. The American Legion Auxiliary gave up its charter in 1973.

KANSAS IOTA RHO NO. 9103 OF BETA SIGMA PHI

Beta Sigma Phi is an international organization for women offering opportunities for friendship, development of cultural ap-

preciation, and community service. The Greek letters stand for Life, Learning, and Friendship. Approximately 10,500 chapters in more than 20 countries meet twice a month for a brief business meeting and cultural program. Founded with seven members in Abilene, Kansas, in 1931, the organization now has 250,000 members.

Kansas Iota Rho No. 9103 at Offerle began in May of 1973. It was founded by Cathy Lightcap with the assistance of Elaine Froetschner. Iota Rho began with eight members: Cathy Lightcap, Elaine Froetschner, Linda Offerle, Denise Inman, Judy Miller, Kay Schmitt, Terry Finley, and Alice Kline. The chapter now has 14 members.

Although not a service oriented organization, the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi has always helped when needed. The chapter's largest service project has been a Tennis Court for Offerle and the surrounding community. The Farmer's State Bank purchased the ground for the tennis court, and the Offerle Lions Club and the citizens of the Offerle community have supplied funds and labor to complete the job. Other service projects have included bringing Santa Claus to Offerle, sending gifts to the Larned State Hospital, helping needy families in the area, and donating to the Kansas Beta Sigma Phi Nursing Scholarship. Iota Rho has also donated to the Beta Sigma Phi International Endowment Fund, from which grants are made to medical research, and makes no interest loans to Beta Sigma Phi members in times of illness or disaster.

BANK

The Farmers State Bank, Offerle, Kansas, was chartered September 26, 1908, with an authorized capital of \$10,000.00, consisting of 100 shares of common stock with par value of \$100.00 per share. The bank building, a one-story building of brick and concrete, was constructed the same year. The sum of \$50.00 was paid to Joseph Basgall for the lot and the building contract amounted to \$3,594.49.

The first officers were E. P. Ott, President, Herman Weiss, Vice-President and Dr. M. F. Ehlers, Cashier. The first directors were: E. P. Ott, Herman Weiss, Dr. M. F. Ehlers, D. W. Sturgeon and W. H. Ehlers. The names of the first stockholders are shown as follows: E. P. Ott, Herman Weiss, Ralph Russell, B. F. Brown, C. E. Way, G. C. Kimes, A. A. Young, A. Offerle & Son, J. C. Windmill, L. V. Miller, L. L. Brown, J. H. Kimes, J. Q. Thompson, B. L. Sams, A. C. Bailey, Wm. Westphal, August Stowitz, Edward Kurth, H. O. Stowitz, Henry Wetzal, D. B. Reigel, Louis Wetzal, Charles Wetzal, Chris Krumrey, Wm. Herrmann, L. Erickson, D. W. Sturgeon, Thomas Dorcy, Mrs. M. Offerle, W. H. Ehlers and M. F. Ehlers.

The capital stock was increased to \$15,000.00 in 1913; to \$45,000.00 by a stock dividend in 1955, and to \$90,000.00 by a stock dividend in 1967. The present capital structure consists of \$90,000.00 in capital stock and \$180,000.00 in surplus. Following Dr. M. F. Ehlers, D. W. Sturgeon was elected Cashier in 1912. Mr. Grover C. Field was elected Cashier in

1919, became President in 1954, and remained active in the bank until his death in 1963. Mr. James P. Liebl was elected Cashier in 1954, became President in 1970, following the resignation of Mr. Earl O. Field. Mrs. LaVona Herrmann is the current Cashier and Mr. Dewey Renfro, Vice-President, has been with the bank since 1925. The present Directors are James P. Liebl, Velma M. Liebl, John J. Burke, Maurice F. Gleason and Dewey Renfro. The employees are James P. Liebl, Velma M. Liebl, LaVona Herrmann, Dewey Renfro and Shirley Schmidt.

LIGHTNER RANCH

Before the turn of the century located approximately eight and one half miles south and east of Offerle, Kansas is the property that was known as the Lightner Ranch.

The earliest parcel of land was purchased by George W. Lightner in 1883, from the United States (patent). Later, in 1901, Lightner invested in more land from The City Real Estate and Trust Co. In 1906, a large barn was built with six large granarys built into it. It also had much room for the horses and cattle. Also, on Section 9-26-20 a two story home was constructed in 1907. In later years when a large wheat crop was raised and stored in the barn the foundation gave away under the weight causing the barn to collapse. The house is still lived in after going through many changes in the years. By 1913, the Lightner Ranch was over 3,800 acres in size. In May of 1913, George W. Lightner sold over 3500 acres to Thomas Marshall, he in turn sold it to many others. The largest tract of this land, 1120 acres, was sold in 1928 to John H., Ben and Henry Musenberg, known as the Musenberg Brothers.

The Henry Kindsvater family lived on this farm and rented it from 1926 to 1940. John, Daniel, Esther, and Louisa still live in this area.

In April, 1941, Albert and Agnes Birzer of Ellinwood, Kansas were married. They moved to the farm and have rented it for the past 35 years. Here they have raised their four daughters, who are all married. Janey Clark lives in Wichita, Kansas; Betty Peterson lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Becky Hornung lives on this farm south of Offerle, Kansas; Ella Haskell lives in Kinsley, Kansas.

The farm has been owned by the Musenberg family and their heirs for 48 years, nearly half a century.

OFFERLE LIONS CLUB

The Offerle Lions Club was chartered on Nov. 30, 1959, and held the charter night festivities in the Joseph Hall, Offerle, on Dec. 7, 1959. Charter members were Albert Birzer, Everett Bredfeldt, Maynard Butler, Andrew Burghart, Harry F. Brown, William Cleary, L. H. Erickson, Grover C. Field, Bobby Fincher, Ronald Gibson, Cecil Israel, Raymond Kleysteuber, Edward Kregar, Otto Kurth, David Leach, William Leith, James P. Liebl, Abner Offerle, Cecil Offerle, Harry Offerle, Vernon Oliphant, T. E. Overstreet, Clifford Reed,

Dewey Renfro, Vincent Riggs, Edward Schwarz, Harry Speck and Walter Vogelgesang.

The Presidents since then were: James P. Liebl, Everett Bredfeldt, Harry Brown, Otto Kurth, Vernon Oliphant, Cecil Israel, Wm. Westphal, Cecil Offerle, Adam Spahn, Harry Speck, Abner Offerle, Cecil Offerle, Jr., Rolland Leaf, Harry Brown, David Smith, Donald Strong, Doyle Jones, and Mike McAvoy, the current president.

The Lions Clubs are organized primarily to give service to their local community and to aid the blind on a national scale. Among the local projects helped by the Offerle Club are the Little League Ball games and the Offerle Park. In 1964, they furnished most of the work and one-half of the expense of installing lights on the baseball field. They built the shelters and picnic tables for the park. One year they sponsored home Christmas tree lighting contests and awards. In 1966 and 1967, they remodeled the Gerald D. Speck building. Local Lions sell brooms, etc., each year in the town and in the surrounding area. The profits from these sales go for aid to the blind.

MIZPAH REBEKAH LODGE OF OFFERLE

The Lodge was organized Feb. 28, 1913, with 27 charter members. Mrs. Luella Boehme is the only surviving Charter member. The Order's Motto is the Golden Rule and the colors are Pink and Green. Our members visit the sick, care for the Orphans and help bury the dead.

We honor Schyler Colfax, the Founder of the Rebekah Degree, in March of each year. He was Vice-President of the United States under President Grant.

We have Memorial Services and decorate the graves of our deceased members. We work and send articles to the Rebekah and Odd Fellow Home at Eureka, Kansas. For Christmas we send money for the old folks. We are 100 percent in the Eye Bank. We send flowers to sick members and funeral sprays for deceased members and families, we also serve dinners for members' families or donate to whatever group serves the meal. We meet the second and fourth Friday of each month except July and August.

The Lodge has twelve members that have their fifty year Jewels and one is deceased. Nine members have their twenty-five year jewels, with two being deceased.

At the present time, that are fifty residents at the Rebekah Odd Fellow Home. There are no orphans at the present time.

THE NEW IDEA CLUB

1923 — 1976

On an afternoon in July, 1923, a group of women from the rural area southwest of Offerle, met with Mrs. Leo (Kate) Krumrey for the purpose of organizing some sort of a women's club. At that meeting,

attended by eight or ten farm women, the name 'New Idea Club' was chosen and dues were set at twenty-five cents a year. The meetings were to be held on the second Thursday of each month throughout the year. Twice-a-year family parties and an Anniversary picnic in July also were scheduled. Until two years ago, meetings were held on the second Thursday. Since then, due to a conflict, meetings are on the second Wednesday.



New Idea Club members about 1925.

An early project in the club was the making of reed baskets. Baby showers were held for all members who were expectant mothers. In the early 30's, the club entered a display at the Fair in the Hoover Pavilion in Dodge City.

In the late twenties, members began a project which continues to this day. It is of making quilts to give to those unfortunate people in the area who had lost their homes by fire. While no accurate record was kept, it is believed that more than forty-five quilts have been made and given.

Another worthwhile project was that of sending letters and packages to men and women in the service of their country. Many such mailings were made to Korea, Vietnam, and other far away places, including near forty or fifty sent to those who served in World War II.

During the thirties, the members made a friendship quilt for each one. The pattern was the 'Dresden Plate', using contributed pieces sewed together around a center on which the name of the individual member was embroidered. The result was a beautiful memory quilt for each member.

In July of 1973, members celebrated their fiftieth anniversary by going out to dinner at the Dodge House in Dodge City. . . It was a great day.

Only two of the charter members are members of the club today. They are Kate and Rose Krumrey. Kate has been a continuous member, while Rose missed a few years.



Members of New Idea Club at 50th Anniversary party on July 19, 1973. Back Row: Emma Lancaster, Vivian Elsbury, Billie Herrmann, Rosalyn Schaller, Agnes Birzer and Matilda Danler. Front: Katie Kleysteuber, Kate Krumrey and Margaret Lorimor.

The group continues to meet today, much as they formerly did, and with the same — wonder of wonders — yearly dues of a mere twenty-five cents.

Names of those who, at one time, have been members.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Christine Anton | 25. Susie Israel | 50. Leota Speck |
| 2. Agnes Birzer | 26. Sylvia Israel | 51. Ruth Strickland |
| 3. Mary Burghart | 27. Marie Jensen | 52. Augusta Strohwitz |
| 4. Jean Cash | 28. Katie Kleysteuber | 53. Lillie Thennes |
| 5. Elsie Chamberlain | 29. Kate Krumrey | 54. Ms. Tremaine |
| 6. Ives Cox | 30. Nadine Konrade | 55. Avanelle Weiss |
| 7. Joanne Danler | 31. Thelma Kurth | 56. Persis Westphal |
| 8. Matilda Danler | 32. Vernetta Kurth | 57. Katie Weyrich |
| 9. Lucille Ditges | 33. Anna Lancaster | 58. Emma Winkler |
| 10. Ms. Dolechek | 34. Bertha Lancaster | 59. Janelle Witt |
| 11. Margaret Dolechek | 35. Bonnie Lancaster | |
| 12. Betty Duesing | 36. Anna Lightcap | |
| 13. Nettie Elkington | 37. Grace Lightcap | |
| 14. Vivian Elsbury | 39. Pauline Lightcap | |
| 15. Alma Field | 40. Ruby Lightcap | |
| 16. Dora Gard | 41. Verla Leaf | |
| 17. Helen George | 42. Marie Quasebarth | |
| 18. Anna Herrmann | 43. Stella Randolph | |
| 19. Betty Herrmann | 44. Viola Roepka | |
| 20. "Billie" Herrmann | 45. Mary Schaller | |
| 21. Gladys Herrmann | 46. Anna Sire | |
| 22. Mary Herrmann | 47. Rosalyn Schaller | |
| 23. Evelyn Horacek | 48. Gertrude Spahn | |
| 24. Edith Hornung | 49. Josephine Spahn | |

THE PAST NOBEL GRAND CLUB OF THE REBEKAH LODGE

On the 26th of October, 1924, twelve members, all Past Noble Grands, met at the home of Catherine Way to organize the club.

Honor was chosen for the Motto and By-Laws were written which are used today. At the next meeting, five more were added to the list with Mrs. Mary Herrmann being the First P.N.G. to be initiated.

The first officers were: President Jennie Brumfield (Blanche Speck's mother); Vice-President Jennie Diehl (Minnie Berry's mother); Sec. Anna Lightcap and Treas. Minnie Berry.

Through the years the members have helped each other in quilting and other fancy work and each year the members send money and other gifts to the Rebekah Home near Manhattan, Kansas.

At Christmas time, a fruit plate is fixed for our shut-in members. Our out-of-town members are remembered with a small gift or card. We have had sixty members through the years. We have lost a good many members through death and several have moved. At the present time, we have fifteen members.

Mary Herrmann is President, Gladys Herrmann is Vice-Pres., Secretary is Katie Kleysteuber, and the Tres, is Rosa Krumrey. They meet the third Wednesday of each month except July and August.

"The Good Old Days versus The Now Days"

Readin', writin' and 'rithmetic has been one of the highlights of our life since way back, so let's begin with the schools.

THEN

The country was full of one room school houses with one teacher for all eight grades. In small towns all twelve grades were housed in the same building. The wages were very low and in many rural areas the teacher boarded around with families in the district, usually paying a very small amount for board and room.

Most of the children walked to school in good weather, others rode horseback or drove a horse hitched to a buggy or spring wagon. Everyone brought a cold lunch from home. Box suppers and programs were held quite often and the community would enjoy an evening together. Drinking water was furnished by an outside pump, everyone using the same tin cup but later everyone had a folding cup, which was a state regulation. Everyone had to line up in a straight line when the last bell rang, mark time and keep in step to a march played on the victrola. If you didn't keep in line or keep step, you stayed in after school and did a little practicing until you were certain you could obey the rules. Kinda cruel wasn't it?

NOW

My goodness kids, now you have it made. With a little sweet talk to Mom, she will drive you to school, yes two or three blocks. Shame on you. Many high school folks drive their own car. We have some pretty fancy schools now. The newer ones are out of this world, equipped with carpets, air-conditioning, lunch rooms and you name it, they have it. Many courses designed to fit the needs of pupils are offered. They have several kinds of sports, a fine music department, and many activities for the social life of all. Better appreciate it kids.

THEN

Everyone had an out-house. Some were two holers, others were three holers with a little one to accomodate the small fry. They were most always equipped with an old Sears, or Monkey Ward catalogue for toilet use. If you had a hard job in the house to do, you could spend a lot of time looking through those catalogues in hopes the work would be finished when you got back to the house. Of course you couldn't stay very long if the weather was cold because that cold north wind would whistle through the cracks in the building and almost freeze you. During very cold weather at night potties were used and taken care of the next morning.

Have you ever tried to bathe in a wash tub? You had to curl your legs up just so to get in the tub. I just don't know how the big folks managed but kids got along okay. Anyway we were clean. I'll never forget those experiences.

NOW

Just think from the good ole days to all these fine bath rooms. Heat, hot and cold water, flush toilets, showers or bath tubs, sometimes both, carpets and you even have sweet scented sprays to take care of the odors. You missed a lot kids or should I say that you are very lucky??

THEN

Away back when, every kid had his or her chores to do. As soon as you got home from school you changed from school clothes into work clothes and did something to help out at home, like washing dishes, gathering the eggs, feeding the chickens, getting in fuel for the night and various other little jobs.

NOW

Most kids don't know what chores are today. They are a thing of the past. With all the modern appliances and gadgets there isn't so much to do, anyway with all the activities and social events, when do they have time for extra home work. If mom has extra work she doesn't have a change for it's practicing or going. Poor Mom.

THEN

Horse tanks and Wash tubs

In the good ole summer time you could fill the horse tank with good clean water or fill the wash tub full, put on old clothes and really take a swim. It didn't cost a cent and my what fun.

NOW

Swimming Pools

Just think, now you can go to a fine swimming pool, if you have the money. It's necessary to have a nice swimming suit though. The men and boys wear trunks or we might say topless suits and the women and girls almost topless and bottomless suits. I think they are called bikinis. I just can't keep up with all the new things. I guess I was born thirty years too soon.

NOW FOR A FEW FACTS

A long time ago you could buy a fair size sack of candy, of your choice for a nickel, now it takes a magnifying glass to find a nickels worth.

Corsets were worn by the ladies to help them have a small waist. They would tie the strings to the bed post and pull and pull the strings and tie them to make it secure. They really had to stand up straight or else breathing was difficult. I wonder which would be more miserable, tied fit to kill or starving ones self?

Men's clothing was always of dark, drab colors but now they are beautiful. My what a change!

In the early 1900's, buggies, surreys with the fringe on top and bicycles built for two were the common method of transportation. A young man was very popular if he had a shiny buggy and a high stepping horse with fancy harness. He could take his best girl for a ride on a Sunday afternoon.

It was a great age then and it's a great age now, I wonder what the future will bring? I'm very happy that I have had a part in celebrating the Offerle Centennial and live in a friendly little community here in the good old U.S.A.

—By Catherine Brumfield

The above article is an original composition by Catherine Brumfield, who was a teacher for forty-two years. She taught in Kinsley, Chase, Sterling and Lewis before retiring to Offerle where she is a good neighbor to all.

Harry Offerle Tells Story of Grateful, Troublesome Cowboy

By H. A. Offerle (taken from *The High Plains Journal*) Nov. 13, 1952

In the late 1870s, or about the year 1878, my father, Abner Offerle, homesteaded on Osage Indian trust lands in unorganized Comanche county on Middle Kiowa creek. His homestead was for water rights to go with the free range of the territory.

The homestead was the southeast one fourth of the southeast quarter of section 19, and the northwest quarter and the east half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 30, range 20. This homestead was in sections 19 and 30 so that it would contain more of the creek.

Later, this location was in organized Comanche country, and now is in the extreme southwest part of Kiowa county.



Harrison Hillman, photo
taken March 22, 1883.

There was in this part of the country at that time, a Harrison Hillsman, also known as Nigger Bill or Kiowa Bill, who had come up from southern Texas with the cattle drives. Hillsman could neither read nor write. He had his schooling in the working of cattle.

Hillsman was running some cattle of his own with the Offerle cattle, and was working part time for my father.

Some of the cowboys on the range decided they would put a scare into Hillsman, and they told him that the soldiers at Camp Supply were looking for him because of some misdemeanor that had been committed. Hillsman told them that he would show the soldiers where he was, and he rode into the fort, inside the stockade, and threw his rope over the cannon. He put spurs to his horse and dragged the cannon outside the stockade. Then he took his rope off the cannon and rode away. Nothing was done about it, for the soldiers were not looking for Hillsman at all.

Some time in 1882, in the evening, a Negro cook for the Comanche Pool Cattle company, named Bell, drove in between my father's house and the creek to make night camp for the herd that was following. Hillsman went and asked Bell, the Negro cook, not to make camp between the house and creek. They argued some over it, and Bell threw his lariat at Hillsman. This was considered as much of an offense as drawing a gun. When Bell threw his lariat, Hillsman shot and killed him.

Hillsman was taken in custody by a United States marshal, and taken to Medicine Lodge before the United States court for a hearing. My father had to appear as a witness to the shooting. Hillsman was out on bond until such time as the United States court should convene for trial.

After the shooting, my father sold out his cattle, and never returned to his homestead.

(The town of Offerle was named after the writer's grandfather.)

Hillsman came to Offerle, and stopped at the Offerle hotel until time for his trial.

The school ma'am of the Offerle school also resided at the Offerle hotel. Since Hillsman could neither read nor write, he would have the teacher write his letters for him. The teacher induced Hillsman to go to school.

Bert Sidlow, son of John Sidlow, late of Dodge City, went to school at the time that Hillsman went, and Bert says that Hillsman wore his guns to school, but would put them in his desk during school hours.

(The late John Sidlow proved up a homestead north of where Bellefont is now. Later he went to Pleasant Valley and lived on what is known as the old Frank Bailey place. It was John Sidlow who named Ford county's Pleasant Valley and Wheatland townships. He planted the first wheat in Wheatland township. For years, he was quartermaster at the Old Soldiers' Home.)

Hillsman had gone to school long enough to learn to write his name when he decided that he had to have some action. He went to a Dodge

City dance hall one night, and the next day returned to Offerle, saying that a party was out to get him.

Hillsman made a will that day, willing a thousand dollars to the Offerle school ma'am, and the rest of his property to his sister in Texas. I do not know the teacher's name, but she married a Mr. French at Kinsley, and they moved to Denver. Mrs. French died in Denver about six years ago.

(L. L. Anderson, Edwards county probate judge at Kinsley, tells me that on Dec. 28, 1886, a marriage license was issued to W. H. French of Kinsley, age 34 and Clorra C. Brown of Kinsley, age 28; and that on Oct. 12, 1901, a license was issued to James L. French of Lewis, age 35, and Mary Curry of Fellsburg, age 25. "These are the only licenses issued to persons by the name of French between 1883 and 1903," Judge Anderson says. The couple married in 1886 apparently is the one referred to.)

After making his will, Hillsman returned to Dodge City to the dance hall that night, and as he was watching the party he thought was out to get him, another party on the other side of the room shot him in the back.

Hillsman turned and shot and killed the party that shot him, then he fell dead.

Since Boot Hill had been closed, both these candidates for a real Boot Hill burial were interred in Prairie Grove cemetery.

The cattle and horses belonging to Hillsman were sold. The teacher received the thousand dollars willed to her, and the rest was remitted to Hillsman's sister.

My father made final proof of his homestead in 1882, but the government didn't issue a patent until May 23, 1888 — possibly because of the unorganized county. After being a witness to the shooting of a man, he never returned to see this place. Someone possibly has a tax title to his homestead now.

Families

JOSEPH BASGALL, JR.

Joseph Basgall, Jr., was the oldest son of Joseph and Katherine Basgall, who had migrated to America from Germany in 1877. He was born in Rush County, in 1881, near the town of Pfeifer, where he helped on the family farm and taught school in Liebenthal, Schoenchen and other surrounding communities.

In 1903, he and the family homesteaded two quarters of land just east of the old St. Joseph Church north of Offerle. They lived there for several years before the rest of the family moved to a new homestead north of Spearville. Joe, however, moved into Offerle and built a house on the corner southwest of the Catholic Church, living there for the rest of his life.

Since Offerle was a thriving and growing community at that time, Joe decided to open a general store. He traded a horse for a piece of land south of the railroad and built a brick building, which still stands, adjacent to the Farmer's State Bank. He opened for business in 1913, under the name of Basgall's General Merchandise.

In 1927, he married Dorothy Moore from Montclair, New Jersey. They had two children—Beatrice, who is now Mrs. Gordon Coats of Kinsley, and Richard, who presently lives in Dodge City. In addition to running the store, Joe was active on the school board and the town council for twelve years, serving as mayor of Offerle for several of those years. He also frequently substituted in the public school when a teacher was ill or indisposed.

Basgall's General Merchandise was a typical country store, handling everything from bulk foods and drygoods to hardware and gasoline. Eggs were taken in trade for groceries, and credit was extended from harvest to harvest. Saturday was always a big day, with farmers bringing in crates of eggs that were stacked nearly to the ceiling by the end of the day. During the week, tickets were given out on the basis of trade, and on Saturday afternoon, a drawing was held and prizes awarded to the lucky ticket holders. This always drew large crowds, and many would linger on the benches and chairs around the stove, visiting with old neighbors and meeting new ones.

Over the years, a number of local people were employed at the store. Carl Brecheisen was one of the first employees, followed by Mr. Riggs and Carl Eickholt. Jack Strowitz spent thirteen years there before going into the service during the war. Paul Snider learned the business there and now has a store of his own in Florida. Some of the others were Eugene Quisenberry, Nadine Konrade, Bill Rabe, his son, Ethan Rabe, Ben and Mary Hattrup, and Paul Schmidt.

In 1962, while on a business trip to Dodge City, Joe was killed in an automobile accident. His wife, Dorothy, kept the store going until its

fiftieth anniversary the following year. She then closed the business and retired. She thought about returning to her native New Jersey, but so much of her life had been spent in Kansas that she decided to remain in Offerle amongst the many friends she had made over the years. She still lives in the house on the corner, southwest of the Catholic Church.

BENISH

Mr. and Mrs. George Benish and their seven year old son, George, arrived from Austria and settled in Linn County, Missouri, about 1865.

Several members of the Nall family arrived on the same boat and settled in the same area.

Some years later Mrs. Clara Nall and her daughter Rosalia also came from Austria to join her children that were already here.

George Benish and Rosalia Nall were married in 1881, in Linn County, Missouri. George III, was born 1882, Albert in 1883, and Annie in 1885. They then moved along with Mr. and Mrs. George Benish, Sr. and Mrs. Nall to Hodgeman Co, Kansas. They homesteaded on the Will Benish farm. Here, Will was born in 1887, Edward in 1889, Clara in 1891 and Lizzie in 1895.

Mrs. George Benish I died in Aug., 1893. Mrs. Nall died in Oct., 1895, and George Benish I died in 1902. All are buried in the Old St. Joe Cemetery.

The elder Mr. and Mrs. Benish lived in a small house south and



Standing L. to R.: Ed, Anna, George, Albert and Will. Seated L. to R. George, Lizzie and Rosalia.

east of the Will Benish home on the same section. This house was moved after the death of George Benish I to the George Benish II farm and is now the east end of the chicken house.

Mr. and Mrs. Benish II lived first in the small house still standing on the place. They built the big barn in 1903, and the big house in 1905.

BERRY

William E. Berry was born in Emporia, Kansas, on January 9, 1890, to John Berry and Rose Sutton Berry. The family moved to a farm south of Spearville in 1911. Mrs. Rose Berry died at Spearville, and Mr. John Berry moved to Portland, Oregon. William E. Berry married Minnie Diehl (daughter of Henry and Jennie Diehl) on May 20, 1914. Bill worked at the post office at Spearville until he came to Offerle in 1915. For several years he ran a pool hall (which was in a barber shop ran by Minnie's half-brother, Deola Woodruff). Bill then worked second-shift at the Santa Fe depot and later on ran a cream station. During this time he worked off and on at the Erickson farm. He started working at the post office (where Minnie was also working) when Carl Eickholt resigned. He worked there until his death in August, 1959. Bill and Minnie were parents of the following children: Jennieve (Mrs. Frank Metzger), William E. Berry, Jr. (wife: Joan Esposito), Robert C. (wife: Marilyn Voigt), Bessie Marie (Mrs. Clay Korte - deceased), and Minetta (Mrs. Lee Carothers). Minnie retired in 1972 and still lives in Offerle.

THE BOEHMES

By Galen R. Boehme

The Boehme family name has been a part of the Offerle community since 1906, when twenty-seven year old John Boehme came here as a farming tenant. Four years later his sister, Anna Boehme, came, with their younger brother, E. A. (Ed) Boehme, coming in 1912. The history of these three individuals and the families which they have raised is noteworthy for a number of reasons. One is that each family has developed its own traditions, customs, and loyalties. The other is that two of these families have become interrelated through marriage as brother and sister married brother and sister: John Boehme married Luella Lightcap, the sister of Earl Lightcap, Sr., who married Anna Boehme. This article will focus upon the families of John Boehme and of E. A. Boehme.

John Boehme was born May 1, 1879, at Ellinwood, Kansas. At the age of two, he and his parents moved to Fair Grove, Missouri, where he lived until the age of eighteen, returning once again to Ellinwood as a farm laborer. He came to Offerle in 1906, to work as a farming tenant on the Ernest Isern farm northeast of Offerle. He farmed for Isern until 1916, when he and his bride, Miss Luella Lightcap, moved to the William Lightcap place one-half mile east of Offerle, the place which

they had earlier purchased. The Boehmes lived here until 1942, when they moved into Offerle itself.

Mr. and Mrs. Boehme were married April 29, 1908, in Offerle. To this union were born seven children: Thelma Quisenberry of Offerle, Catherine Dempster of Wichita, Clifford of Goodland, Elmer of Offerle, Ramona Jackson of Valley Falls, Donald Earl (deceased), and Donna of Watsonville, California. As of July 1, 1976, their family also includes nineteen grandchildren, thirty-six great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. For all of their children, Mrs. Boehme has made quilts, afghans, and pillows. All grandchildren have been given hand-made quilts and several of the great-grandchildren have been given hand-made baby quilts. Mrs. Boehme estimates that she has made ninety quilts so far.



Boehme family. L. to R.:
Ramona, John, Donna, Luella,
Clifford, Catherine, Elmer and
Thelma.

Of his ninety-seven years of life, Mr. Boehme has spent seventy of them in Edwards County. He served as County Commissioner from 1936-1940, did local assessing for eight years, and served as a trustee for Trenton Township for several years. He is still in active farming partnership with his son, Elmer, who lives on the home place east of Offerle. Mrs. Boehme, eighty-seven years old, is the only living charter member of the Rebekah Lodge of Offerle. In addition, she has fifty year pins from the Rebekah Lodge, the Royal Neighbors, and the Eastern Star of the Golden Chain Chapter in Kinsley.

Among the honors that the John Boehmes have received are the following: They received a note of congratulations from President Lyndon B. Johnson for their sixtieth Wedding Anniversary in 1968; Mr. Boehme was given the national flag that was flown at the White House in Washington, D.C. on his 90th birthday, May 1, 1969.

Two of Mr. and Mrs. Boehme's children live within the Offerle area. Their daughter Thelma and her husband Eugene Quisenberry returned to Offerle in June, 1973, after living twenty-one years in Wichita. They live in a trailer house just west of the Boehme's house in

the northeast corner of Offerle. Their son and daughter-in-law, David and Bobbi Quisenberry, have two children, Aaron and Wendy; this family lives in Kinsley. David is a supervisor at the American Products Company, Spearville.

On November 6, 1940, Elmer Boehme married Joyce Carroll of Lewis, Kansas. After a two-year stay of residence in Kinsley, the couple moved in 1942, to the Boehme home place one-half mile east of Offerle. Here, they have successfully operated a beef and a wheat farm in both Ford as well as in Edwards County. In 1969, the couple was one of three couples honored with the Soil Conservation Award for practicing worthy soil conservation practices in Edwards County. The couple has been and-or is actively involved in such community organizations as the United Methodist Church, the American Farm Bureau, and the Edwards County Historical Society.

Three sons were born to Elmer and Joyce Boehme: Donald Duane (deceased), Galen, and Jarold. Galen received a doctorate in English Education from the University of Kansas, Lawrence in October 1974. He is presently employed as an assistant professor in the English Department at Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Illinois. Jarold is self-employed, doing custom-hay work in the Kiowa County area. He married Alice Westphal on June 4, 1967; they and their two children, Matthew and Andrew, live in Mullinville, Kansas.

In 1912, E. A. (Ed) Boehme, a brother of John Boehme, came to the Offerle community from Greene County, Missouri, where he was born November 20, 1894. Mr. Boehme came as a laborer for the Bill Rehmert farm south of Offerle. In 1914, however, Mr. Boehme began his own farming career when he bought out a brother's interest in the Isern land northeast of Offerle; he farmed this land until World War I when he left the community to serve his country, primarily in France.

On February 12, 1918, Mr. Boehme married Laura Kurth of Offerle, the eldest daughter of William and Anna Kurth. They then moved to the Al Ott place one-half mile west of Offerle into Ford County; here they not only farmed the land for 47 years, but they also raised their four children. The Boehmes moved into Offerle in May, 1966, buying and remodeling the Nick Snyder house.

During his farming years, Mr. Boehme planted and harvested only bald-headed wheat. He served also for four years as a school board member of District No. 2 and helped begin the Gerald D. Speck American Legion organization in Offerle.

During their retirement years, Mr. and Mrs. Boehme take an active interest in their four children: Laurine Proberts, Ernest, Ada Mae Keller, and Oma Jean Oliver; all but Ernest live in Kansas, and he lives in Texas. In addition, the Boehmes have eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In addition to John, Ed, as well as Anna Boehme Lightcap, one other sister, Lucy Rehmert McManniman (now deceased) lived and raised her one daughter in the Offerle community. That daughter,

Lona Wight, now lives in Hutchinson.

The history of the Boehme families is directly connected with the heritage of Offerle. One drawback of any historical resume is that the facts do not convey the pride which these individuals feel and felt in being a part of the community which they have helped to establish. But these facts do show that these individuals not only took but are still taking an active role in the Offerle community.

ANTHONY BRAKE

Anthony Brake was born in Windthorst, Texas, on November 11, 1907, and died on July 8, 1971. When he was two years old, his parents moved to a farm seven miles north of Offerle. He married Rose Marie Nosal of Humphrey, Nebraska, in 1933. They settled on a farm north of Offerle. They later purchased 400 acres of the original Brake homestead seven miles north of Offerle in 1951, from his mother Regina, and his sister Anna. Mrs. Brake still resides on the farm after the death of her husband.

Tony and Rose Marie were the parents of seven children: Kenneth, Larry, Bernadette, Emmett, Margaret (Marge), Theresa, and Mary.

Kenneth is married to the former Eleanora Peters of Kinsley and has four children: Vanesca, Kevin, Janet, and Amy. He lives in Laurel, Maryland, and works for the General Accounting Office in Washington, D.C.

Larry is a teacher in Overland Park, Kansas. He lives in Kansas City and has one daughter, Tammy.

Bernadette is married to Maurice Burghart (formerly of Offerle) and has two sons: Mitchell and Christopher. She lives in Denver and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Emmett is married to the former Judy Dunn of Topeka and has four children: Robert, Terry, Tony, and Jennifer. He lives north of Offerle where he farms the Brake homestead.

Marge lives in Oxnard, California. She is a civil engineer and works for the Navy Department at Port Hueneme.

Theresa lives in Wichita and teaches at St. Francis of Assisi School there.

Mary lives in Kansas City, Kansas. She works for the Kansas City Planning Commission.

CONRAD BRAKE

The Conrad Brake family has lived for over 70 years on a farm seven miles north of Offerle.

Conrad Brake was born in Esterwegen, Germany, February 14, 1857, and died on March 21, 1947. He came to the United States as a teenager, landed in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked in a factory. After suffering from a siege of typhoid fever, the doctor advised him to go to the country. He worked on railroads which brought him to

Kansas.

He married Regina Robben who was born in Lancaster, Ohio, on February 28, 1869, and died on October 18, 1952. She came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Robben, to Walker, Kansas, where they lived on a homestead.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Brake lived on a farm near Walker, Kansas, where William, Anna, Mary (Tholen), Margaret Catherine (who died in infancy), Henry, and Margaret (Dreiling) were born. Cheaper land in the west prompted Mr. Brake to buy land in Sheridan County near Grinnell, Kansas, where Elizabeth (Holdforth) was born.

Land speculation brought him to Kingman County near Willowdale, Kansas, where Rose Tasset was born. Financially profiting from the boom land in Kingman County, Mr. Brake again was lured to the west where he bought a farm seven miles north of Offerle where Clara, now Sister Hildalita, and Joseph were born.

Still speculating for land, Mr. Brake bought a farm in Windthorst, Texas. The family moved to Texas where Anthony was born. Comparing the Kansas farm to the one in Texas, the family agreed that they would rather harvest wheat than pick cotton. The family moved back to the farm near Offerle which had not been sold while the family was living in Texas. The farm is still in possession of the Brake family. Mrs. Tony Brake lives on the farm, and her son, Emmett, farms the land.

All members of the Conrad Brake family have passed away except Sister Hildalita who teaches at St. Nicholas School in Kinsley.

BREHM

Conrad A. Brehm, Sr. came to America from Germany when he was fourteen years of age. He was born March 10, 1856. He was the second child of Justus and Martha Brehm. He first went to Ohio to some cousins and worked to save money to send back to Germany to bring his two older sisters over to America. The three of them, with the help of their cousins, went to Iowa and then worked to bring the complete Brehm family to America. They lived there and raised their families. He was married to Dorothea Katz (1856) on April 14, 1878. They had nine children: Justus (Jan. 5 1879 - March 2, 1879); Wilhelm (Dec. 18, 1880 - Jan. 10, 1908); Herrmann (Jan. 29, 1883 - May 22, 1890); Bertha "Lizzie" Brehm (May 10, 1885 - Nov. 3, 1971); Conrad (March 16, 1888 - Feb. 2, 1961); and his twin sister Dora (March 16, 1888 - April 12, 1967); Vanus (July 21, 1890 - Aug. 20, 1946); George (June 3, 1892 - April 19, 1972); and Anna Catherine (Aug. 20, 1894 - Jan. 6, 1970).

Mrs. Conrad Brehm, Sr. died on Nov. 30, 1918, and Conrad Brehm, Sr. died on Dec. 24, 1933.

The older son, Willie, came to Kansas and was able to purchase ground for his father, Conrad Brehm, Sr. who lived there until he

moved to Offerle where he retired. Vanus H. Brehm took over the farm for the rest of his life. Geo. M. Brehm then farmed there until he retired and moved to Offerle. Vanus was married to Emma Lee Winkler in 1916, and they had two boys: Orville, who lives with his wife,



Standing L. to R.: George, Conrad, Willie, Lizzie, Dora and Vanns.
Seated L. to R.: Conrad, Sr., Anna, and Dorothea Brehm.



Conrad Brehm farm house - north of Offerle.

Helen, in Dodge City, and are the parents of three children; Irvin, who lives on the original Brehm farm north of Offerle with is wife, Irene, and are the parents of three children. All in all, four generations have lived on the farm. The house was built in 1908 or 1909 by Isaac Hatfield, an uncle to Irene Brehm, who now resides there. The barn was built in 1908.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BROWN

B. F. Brown was born in Illinois, on December 1, 1860. He was left an orphan in early childhood and was reared in the home of an uncle, Hugh Brown. He married in Illinois, and began life as a farmer in Mercer County.

In the spring of 1886, he brought his small family to Kansas, and took a preemption on a quarter section in Pawnee County, about 16 miles north of Offerle. Their first home was a small frame, two-room shell of a house, 16 x 24 feet, with a lean-to, 10 x 12 kitchen. The previous occupant of the land had moved the house to that location and it was completely remodeled by Mr. Brown.

During the first year, he got about 20 acres in cultivation, but for three years did not succeed in raising any grain, just forage. Mr. Brown proved up on his claim in 1888, at which time he decided to sell his livestock (20 hogs) which brought only one dollar apiece.

Mr. Brown then went to Lamar, Missouri, where his third son, Dan, was born. He worked in this vicinity for about a year before moving to Meade, Nebraska. The first two years at Meade were spent in farming, followed by four years as an employee of the firm of Condit and Austinberg, grain and lumber dealers. This was followed by a year spent in the butchering business before returning to Kansas, in the spring of 1896.

In 1891, he traded his claim in Pawnee County for a half-section three miles southeast of Offerle. There were no improvements on this land, so in 1896, he purchased a small house just south of Offerle and moved it to the home place. This was followed by the construction of a barn a short time later. In 1908, a tornado partially destroyed both buildings; after rebuilding both structures, the same thing happened in 1912.

After a little more than twenty years of successful farming, the family moved to Offerle in 1913, where they remained for a year. In 1914, they moved to Kinsley so that the youngest daughter, Grace, could attend high school.

Mr. Brown's father was William Brown, a son of Benne Brown, who moved from New Jersey to Ohio in an early day. William Brown was born in Ohio, moved from there in Illinois, and then to Iowa, where he died at the age of forty-two, when his son B. F. was three years of age. William Brown married Nancy Meek, and she died a week after her husband, at the age of 38. They left a large family: Isaiah, Mary, Dave, Phoebe, Louisa, Asa, Viola, Caroline, B. F., Harry and Walter.

B. F. Brown married Laura Knisley, who was born May 10, 1860. Her father, Daniel Knisley, was born in Adams County, Ohio, and when fourteen years old went to Fountain County, Indiana. He died at Kinsley, in 1912, at the age of 88. He was also a Kansas settler in 1886. Daniel Knisley was a son of Samuel Knisley of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Daniel married Martha Meek, a daughter of Samuel and Mary Meek, who were natives of Virginia and moved from there to Pennsylvania and later to Indiana. Martha Knisley died in 1894, at the age of sixty-four. Her children were George, Laura, Dan, Frank, Lucy and Ella.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Brown were the parents of five children: Leonard L., Kenneth F., Daniel O., Mabel and Grace.



Standing L. to R.: Mabel, Kenneth F., Dan O. and Leonard L. Seated L. to R.: B. F., Grace and Laura.

Leonard was married to Erma M. Nesbitt of Aledo, Illinois, and had five children: Margaret (Klein) of Great Bend, Kansas, Clara Mae (Colclazier), Greensburg, Kansas; Laura (Shelby), Bristol, Colorado; Martha Jean, who died as a youngster; and Ella Rae (Houston), Bristol, Colorado.

Kenneth F. never married. He lived on the home place until his death in 1942.

Dan O. married Mary M. Kent of Belleville, Kansas, and had one son, Harry F., of Offerle, Kansas.

Mabel married Bert Bitner and they were the parents of a daughter, Dorothy (Randel), Greensburg, Kansas.

Grace married Harry S. Messing and are parents of Kenneth, who died in his youth; Merry G. and JoAnna. The Messings are retired, and live in San Dimas, California.

Harry F., son of Dan O. and only living grandson of B. F. Brown lives at Offerle on the home place and is married to Arlene Feldman. They have a family of five children: Kenneth H., Gerald L., Douglas D., Bonnie A., and Mary F.

Kenneth is married to Gloria Urban of Hays, Kansas, and has two sons, Gregory and Scott and they are living in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Gerald is married to Nancy Tassett of Kinsley, Kansas; has one daughter, Dawn and they are living in Independence, Mo.

Douglas, Bonnie and Mary are home at Offerle.



L. L. Brown - First Rural Mail Carrier - 1907

BRUMFIELD

In the fall of 1903, Ben Brumfield, his wife and small son, Roy, came to Belpre, from Bozemann, Montana, where he purchased the Hardy general store.

Belpre at this time was a booming town. In about 1905, his two brothers Frank, of Menden, Mich., his wife, Alcha, and two daughters and Chas Brumfield and family, came from Denver, Co., to join in the business. In 1913, Chas moved to Offerle, where he was a buyer for the Gano Grain Co. Frank remained in Belpre.

In 1923, Ben Brumfield moved to Lewis, where he and his son, Rex, operated a general store. This continued until Rex's death in 1957. Rex's wife, Esther, still lives at Lewis.

In the meantime, Roy and family had moved to Seattle, Washington, where he and his two sons still live. Fern Rankin Brumfield, his wife, passed away shortly after leaving Lewis.

The Chas Brumfield family remained in Offerle. His wife Jennie, died in 1942. Their three children: Edgar, a barber, had moved to Chase and then to Lyons. His daughter, Mrs. Robert McLean, still lives at

Lewis. In 1953, Edgar married Catherine West and she lives at Offerle. Blanche (Mrs. Harry Speck) and Nadine (Mrs. Andrew Konrade) still live at Offerle.

Chas, after his wife's death, made his home with his daughter, Nadine.

He passed away in 1957.

BURGHART

John J. Burghart was born in Pfeiffer, Russia in 1871. He came to Topeka, Kansas, about 1894, and started to work as a pipe fitter in the Santa Fe railroad shops.

Mary Jacobs was also born in Pfeiffer, Russia, in 1892, and with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Jacobs, one brother and three sisters left Russia. Her father died of cholera when they reached the Polish border. They arrived in Hays, Kansas, in 1893. She married John J. Burghart and moved to Topeka. While they lived in Topeka, they lost one daughter, Magdalene, from diptheria.

In 1906, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Burghart, one daughter, Josephine,



John J. Burghart and family - before all their children were born.

and two sons, Albert and John P., moved one and one-half miles west of Offerle to south of the railroad where they started their farm. Here they were blessed with more children: Anthony, Mary, Edward, Regina, Paul and Joseph.

John J. Burghart died in 1945 and Mrs. Mary Burghart died in 1957.

One of their children, Ed and his wife, Irene, were married on Oct. 8, 1935, and still live on the original homestead. They have twelve living children: Tony (wife: Alice Hoagland) has four children and lives in Austin, Texas; Maurice (wife: Bernadette Brake), have two boys and live in Denver, Colorado; Elmer (wife: Betty Gittlein) have two boys and live in La Salle, Colorado; Bernard (wife: Esther Johnson) have three children and live in Enid, Oklahoma; Kenneth (wife: Wanda Atkins) have one daughter and live in Fort Worth, Texas; Jeannette (Mrs. Ed Lininger) have two boys and live in Sterling, Colorado; Dennis is an art teacher in Dodge City, Kansas; Tim, lives in Wichita; LaVern lives in Dodge City; Theresa runs a beauty shop in Enid, Oklahoma; Vince, lives at home and does the farming; and Alicia graduated from Marion High, Hays, Kansas this past spring.



Standing L. to R.: Maurice, Dennis, Elmer, Jeanette, Tim, Bernard, Kenneth and Vincent. Seated: LaVern, Theresa, Ed, Irene, Alicia and Tony.

ANDREW BURKHART FAMILY

Andrew Burkhart was born October 20, 1864. Catherine Etzel Burkhart was born December 8, 1864. Their birthplace was Pfeiffer, Russia. They were married on November 26, 1883, at the age of 19.

Their first child, a boy, was born in 1884 (deceased). Eva was born

October 5, 1885, in Pfiesser, Russia. Eva married Frank Trenkamp. A girl was born and died after Eva in Russia.

They came to America in September, 1891, and lived in Topeka, Kansas, ten years and three months. In December 1901, Andrew Burkhart bought 260 acres of land two miles west of Offerle which was known as the Timberclaim Quarter. It cost \$5.00 per acre. They moved from Topeka to Offerle on March 6, 1902, and lived in a four room house on the land.

These seven children were born in Topeka to Andrew and Catherine: George, born January 3, 1892; Mollie, born September 3, 1893, she married John Loibl; Katie, born October 2, 1894, she married Ed Schwarz of Offerle; Anna, born January 12, 1896, she married Martin Domme; Peter, born August 9, 1897, married Mary Jacobs, they have six children; Andrew, born October 21, 1898; and John, born July 25, 1900.

Four children were born in Offerle, Kansas. They are: Lena, born April 20, 1903, she married Ed Stegman; she died in childbirth in 1931, when her son Cleo was born; William born November 15, 1904, married Helen Droste; Jerome, born September 2, 1907 (deceased at 1 year and 2 months); Jerome, born November 1, 1909, married Agnes Stegman. Of all the children only Katherine Schwarz, Offerle, and Jerome Burkhart, Jetmore, remain living.



Andrew Burkhart family, spouses and children.

Andrew bought the home place in 1904. One-hundred sixty acres at \$9.00 per acre. He bought the Rapp land in 1908. One hundred sixty acres at \$9.35 per acre. He later bought the west half section in Marina Township in the fall of 1914, at \$26 per acre.

Eva married Frank Trenkamp on October 30, 1906. George married Rose Burkhart on January 20, 1913. To this union seven

children were born: Louise (Mrs. Joe Werner); Clarence (wife: Alice Marie Gleason); William G. (wife: Martena Hertel); Wilfred (deceased) (wife: Virginia Heit); Irene (Mrs. Earl Taylor); Harold (wife: Frances Bartlett); and Mary Ann (Mrs. Fred Taylor). Katie married Fred Schwarz on April 30, 1912. She still lives in Offerle. Her reputation as a cook is well known, and she quilts and makes homemade soap. She says, "Life wasn't as easy then as it is today, but on the whole, it was pretty nice. My parents were one of the many peoples who helped make our Unites States the great and unique country it is." Mollie married John Loibl on October 20, 1914. Anna married Martin Dome on July 10, 1917. John married Marie Dolecheck on November 8, 1926. William married Helen Droste on October 30, 1928. Peter married Mary Jacobs on June 3, 1919. Lena married Ed Stegman on October 20, 1920. Andrew married Veronica Stegman on October 18, 1921. He ran a meat market and grocery store in Offerle, and in the late 1930's opened a beer parlor. They had six children: Cleora Mae (Mrs. Clint Mitchell); Robert (wife: Edna Crocker); Tom (deceased); Lavonee (Mrs. Gene Wycoff); Peggy (Mrs. Kenneth Sherman); and Melvin (wife: Jan Heinz). Jerome married Agnes Stegman on June 2, 1931.

Andrew and Catherine celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary Sunday, November 26, 1933, at their home in Offerle. Andrew passed on July 5, 1934, at the age of 69 years, 8 months, and 15 days. The survivors were four daughters, five sons, forty grandchildren, and twenty-nine great grandchildren.

Lena and baby died at childbirth on March 25, 1931, at the age of 27 years, 11 months, leaving five children. She was buried in the St. Joseph Cemetery on March 29. Funeral services were conducted by Father William Paul.

Peter died February 1, 1945. Marie Dolecheck Burkhart died May, 1946. John Loibl died June 23, 1947. Mary, wife of Peter, died April 13, 1954. Mollie died September 2, 1955. William died April 26, 1960. Andrew died February 10, 1967. John died December 1, 1967. Anna was killed in a car accident August 20, 1969. George died January 17, 1972, and his wife Rose died April 10, 1972. Eva died December 17, 1972.

JOSEPH BURKHART

The year of the gold rush on April 20th, Joseph Burkhart was born in Pittsburgh, Penn. As a small boy his family moved to Harrietsville, Ohio, where he later met Elizabeth Long. She was born in Masterton (Monroe Co.) Ohio, on October 3, 1853. They were married January 12, 1871.

To them nine children were born: Barbara, Agnes, Mary, Edward, Margaret, Isadore, Justine (Tenie), Martha (Maude) and Will.

Endowed with the pioneer spirit the family came west to LeRoy, Kansas in 1885. In 1908, they moved west again — this time to Edwards

County, Kansas, to live on a farm four and one-half miles north of Offerle. Two years later they sold that farm and bought another farm six miles north of Offerle and there built a new home. They lived there until 1913, when Joseph and his wife moved to Offerle. There he opened a harness shop — selling new harness and equipment and repairing the old.

As the need for harness diminished with the coming of the automobile and tractor, Joseph turned more to repairing leather articles, such as shoes and boots and did a thriving business until shortly before his death, November 1, 1935. She passed away September 28, 1937.

Of the children: Barbara married Otto Hein and moved to California, there living to be past 94 years of age. They had one daughter, Kathryn, also deceased.

Agnes married F. N. Lee and lived at Hanston, Kansas, until she passed away at age 90. They had four children: Herman (deceased), Ray, Ada (Mrs. Walter Steffan) and Iris (Mrs. Leo Dixon), all of Hanston.

Edward - "Ed" married Mary Salm and lived many years near Offerle, shortly after the turn of the century. They then moved to Gray Co. and upon retiring moved to Dodge City where he and Mary passed away. They had eight children: Raphael, Clarence, Arthur, Leonard, Lawrence, Mary Evelyn (Mrs. Doyle Ventling), Leona (Mrs. Richard Wooton) and Dorothy (Mrs. Bob Brennan). Raphael, Clarence and Arthur are deceased.

Margaret married Henry Salm and lived near Offerle for several years before moving to Gray Co. finally retiring in Dodge City where they both died. They had five children. Twins - Ed and Ferd, and Raymond, Isadore, and Margariete (Mrs. Russel Ling). Ferd and Raymond are deceased.

Mary married George Gilger, (a widower) and also lived near Offerle for many years before moving to Cimarron, Kansas, where both passed away. She was nearing 97 years of age. They had six children: James, Ed, George and Mary, (all deceased), Eva (Mrs. Ross Elder) and Beatrice (Mrs. F. Daver) live in California. Roy and Charles, (Roy deceased) were his sons by the previous marriage. Roy Gilger taught schools in the area for several years.

Isadore married Mary Oster and lived in the Sts. Peter and Paul neighborhood until they passed away. They had seven children: Leon and Paul of Syracuse, Kansas, Gertrude (Mrs. Myron Shobe) of California, Monica Reilley of Wichita, Isadore Jr. of Denver, Celesta (deceased) and Elred of Kinsley, Kansas. Elred and wife, the former Esther Durler of Spearville, and family still live on the Isadore Burkhart home place.

Justine, "Tenie" married Carl Eickholt and lived for some time on the homeplace and nearby until they moved to Offerle in 1927. There he was postmaster and she was his assistant for many years. In 1946, they

retired and moved to Dodge City where she still lives. He died June 9, 1966.

Martha "Maude" married P.A. Regnier on October 23, 1912. His family were also pioneer residents of this area having moved to a farm north of Offerle in 1883. Maude and Pete lived on the farm until 1959, when they retired and moved to their new home in Spearville, where she still lives. He died July 7, 1966.

They had five children: Cecil, Adrian, Firmin, Mary Elizabeth and Cora Mae. Cecil still lives on the farm north of Offerle.

Adrian and his wife (formerly Elizabeth Fischer) live in Offerle. They have three children: Keith, Marilyn (Mrs. Terry Minson of Kinsley) and Kenneth "Kenny" of Offerle. Kenny is married to the former Sharolyn Lancaster, also of Offerle and they have one son, Kenny Wayne.

Firmin and his family live in Dighton, Kansas.

Mary Elizabeth married Charles "Gordon" Henry, and live in Belton, Mo. They have three children: Bob, Bill and Deborah.

Cora Mae married Charles Briggs and they have eight children: Jimmy, Gary, Tommy, Michael, Jeanne, Janice, Judy and Janie. They live at Osage City, Kansas.

Will Burkhart married Rose Mary Fox (daughter of John and Mary Young Fox) January 12, 1916 and lived on the Burkhart home place until 1957, when they moved into their new home in Offerle, living there until they passed away. She died November 7, 1965 and he died January 24, 1974. One son, Carlos, preceded them in death. They have three living children: Wilbur, Irene and Rita.

Wilbur and his wife (the former Pauline Strecker of Spearville) live in Offerle and farm nearby.

Irene married Leonard Katz and they live on the original "Katz farm". Leonard's grandparents had bought the farm in 1899, from Pete Regnier's father — Simon Regnier. It is just two and one-half miles from the Burkhart "homeplace". Leonard and Irene have two daughters: Lorene and Loretta.

Rita married Gene Cain of Lyons, Kansas and they live on the Burkhart home place where they recently completed building a new home. They have three children: Melody, Bob and Misty.

BUTLER

One morning in May, 1918, the sun came peeping in the window. Maynard James Butler was there to greet it. This all happened on a farm southeast of Bellefont. He grew up on this farm, one of five children of E. N. and Ila Butler. He farmed with his brother until 1958. At that time he started farming on his own.

In June of 1949, Maynard was married to Mary Leona Erickson.

Leona was born at her home in Offerle, in March, 1925. Offerle has been her home all of her life.

After high school, Leona went to Emporia State Teacher's College

where she was graduated in 1946. She came back to Offerle and started teaching in the Commerical Department in the Offerle Rural High School District. She taught here for six years. Then she taught Commerce in the Bucklin High School for one year.

In 1954, Maynard and Leona's first child, Doris Ann, was born. Their second child, Larry Dean, was born in December, 1955. He died of Leukemia in 1958, at Easter time.

In the fall of 1959, Leona became Acting Postmistress at the death of Bill Berry. This position was held until April of 1961, when Harry Brown was appointed Postmaster.

In October of 1962, Scott Alan was born. Wayne Arden was born in January of 1965.

Their daughter, Doris Ann, was married to Avery Rutledge in August, 1973. Now on July 6, 1976, they have a son, named Nathan Lee.

Maynard and Leona have grown wheat and cattle, with a small irrigation project thrown in.

Leona has worked in the Offerle Schools through the years either as a teacher or a teacher's aide.

With God's help they, as a family, have had and will continue to have a very busy, full and rich life.

HERMAN DIERS

Herman and Anna Christina (Brehm) Diers came and settled on the prairie five and one-fourth miles northwest of Kinsley on a homestead where they raised their family: Henry (died in infancy), Andrew, Fred, William and Mary; later Louise, a niece came into the home at the age of one and a half to live, after her mother died.

Herman Diers was German born in Kingston, Providence of Hanover, Germany, on January 23, 1847. He died November 14, 1925. He came to the United States in June of 1866, at age 19. He lived in New York City and the St. Louis area along with another brother and sisters. He worked in the brick yards and later migrated westward to Benton, Iowa. There he met his future bride, Anna Brehm. He came on to Kansas in 1877, and lived in a dugout the first year. He built a house a few hundred yards east of the dugout, and a year later he returned to Iowa and married Anna Christina on December 25, 1877. They both came to this pioneer homestead in Edwards County in January of 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Diers promoted the building of the Goldenrod School District 37.

The Diers retired to Kinsley from the prairie homestead and built a home at 407 East 6th in 1915, where they resided until their deaths. It was then that their third son, Fred, and his wife, Jennie E. Pollok moved from their home on East Eighth in Kinsley to the original prairie home where he had been born in January of 1882. Here Herman, Jeanne, and Harriet grew and attend school in District 37. Later this original school building was sold, moved and became a dwelling

north of the courthouse on the east side of Atwood Avenue. This home belonged to Gib Smith.

All of the original Diers children are deceased except for Louise, a niece living with the family. She was a daughter of Christina's sister, Mrs. Will Katz. Mrs. Louise Riisoe resides at 812 East Third, Kinsley.

Grandchildren and their families include Mrs. George (Joyce Janet) Haynes and family of Shawnee Mission, Kansas, daughter of Andrew Diers; Harriet Moletor, daughter of Fred and Jennie Diers; great grandchildren Mrs. Larry (Margaret Ann) Homan and children, Mark and Ginger Homan of Verndale, Minnesota; Mrs. Howard (Justine) Hill who is a daughter of Mary (Diers) McKee of Bellefont. Justine graduated from Kinsley High School and is a retired school teacher at Burlington, Kansas; Carl McKee, Jr., son of Mary (Diers) McKee and his family of Bellefont, Mrs. Gail (Fanny) Hubbell and family of Bellefont, Kansas, daughter of Mary (Diers) McKee; Mrs. (Christine) Clark, a daughter of William Diers, of Odessa, Texas, and her family.

JACOB DOME FAMILY

Jacob Dome married Elizabeth Applehans. They moved to the farm five miles north and one mile west of Offerle in 1909, from Pfeiffer, Kansas. With them they brought their seven children: George, Martin, Katie, Elizabeth, Jacob, Mike and Mary. Jacob passed away in 1917.

George married Martha Nall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nall, they had three children: Steven who passed away as an infant, Edward, and Josephine.

Martin married Anna Burghart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Burghart. Sr. Three children were born to them: Lucille, Arlene, and Leroy. In later years they adopted Cleo a son of Anna's sister, Mrs. Ed Stegman, who passed away at the birth of Cleo.

Katie, who had scarlet fever at the age of three was left without speech, a deaf mute. She was sent to Olathe to school where she met John Weber and they were married. John was born mute. They had five children: Leonard, Lucille, Letty, Lewis and Clara. All could talk and hear as normal. Katie passed away in 1964. She had lived most of her life at Topeka.

Elizabeth married Matt Pfeiffer, who passed away with T.B. To them was born two boys: Sylvester and one other who passed away as an infant. In later years she was remarried to John Barbunk. Two boys were born to them: John and Bill. Elizabeth spent most of her life in Topeka, and she passed away in 1964.

Mike married Caroline Alering, daughter of Harry Alering. To them was born three boys: Michael, Ronnie and Tom. They lived most of their lives in Topeka, but in 1975, they moved to the Oak Manor in Kinsley, Kansas. By this time all their children were married.

Mary married Theodore Schaller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry

Schaller, Sr. To them four children were born: Gordon, James, Robert and Marilyn. They have lived on the farm of Mary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dome, for most of their married lives. This was Mary's home as she grew up and she spent all of this time on this farm. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dome retired and moved to Kinsley in 1925.

Martin and family moved on the farm and lived here for two years, then they moved to Cimarron, Kansas. Mary and Ted were married in 1927, and moved to the farm in 1928, and have continued to live here.

A very interesting time Mary can remember as a child was the pranks that were played at Halloween time on her brother, Martin, before he was married. Martin returned to his buggy to find the wheels had been taken off the buggy and hung on a telephone pole about three-fourths of a mile from home and the seat of the buggy on another pole. Martin didn't see the humor.

Mary and Ted are still living on the farm. Their children are all married, and at the present (1976) Marilyn lives in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Jim lives in Erin, Tenn., Bob lives in Wichita, Ks., and Gordon lives in Dodge City, Kansas.

NELS ERICKSON

Nels Erickson emigrated to the United States in 1857, from Sweden. His father was a small farmer, and when Nels was old enough to work he was apprenticed by his father to a tailor. Disliking that occupation, he soon ran away to sea. Until he was 25 years of age, he lived as a sailor on the sailing vessels of those days.

In 1855, Nels brother, Pete, immigrated to the United States and settled in Illinois. Nels joined him there in 1857. They rented a farm near Barefoot.

On January 2, 1862, Nels married Johanna Jacobsen who was from the same province in Sweden. Five children were born to them: Cornelius, John, Ida, Lawrence and Herman.

Pete and Nels soon dissolved partnership. Pete moved to Iowa and Nels worked in shops of the C.B. and Q. Railroad at Galesburg. Pete gave Nels a team of horses incurred on an old debt and told him he would help him get started. This he did when Nels decided to move west. He furnished Nels a team, harness, and an old wagon and rented a 120-acre farm for Nels and his family from the county surveyor named Julius Carlson.

Due to poor health, Cornelius could not farm but he became a barber. In 1884, he was hired by a neighbor to drive a wagon to Kansas. The neighbor settled near Meade. There Cornelius took a timber claim. After 5 years he acquired a title to his claim, sold it and purchased an 80 acre farm north of Kinsley. He also opened a barber shop in town.

In 1887, Nels moved his wife and two youngest sons west. Being a hard year, Lawrence worked for Lou White of the Fellsburg com-

munity.

In 1893, the country was in a financial panic. Nels and a neighbor, Jonas Miller, set out on horseback to find work. Nels' youngest son, Herman, became ill and Nels soon returned home.

In the fall of 1893, Mary Russell was the new teacher at No. 12 school. She lives that year with the Jonas Miller family. The next year she lived with the Erickson family. She and Lawrence Erickson were married in Kinsley on September 19, 1897. Four children were born to Lawrence and Mary (Mae): Lloyd, Clyde, Russell, and Forrest. Lloyd, Clyde, and Russell are now deceased. Forrest lives with her husband, Gomer Williams, in Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

Mary's younger sister, Loda Russell, was married to Ed Ott, who was a land agent for the Santa Fe Railroad. He also owned and operated a lumberyard and hardware store in Offerle.



**Lawrence
and Mary
Erickson
- 1949.**

In 1906, Lawrence became a partner in Mr. Ott's lumber and hardware business. After Mr. Ott's death in 1916, he continued the business until he retired and sold the business in 1946.

Lloyd was married to Pearl Jennings. They have one daughter, Leona, now Mrs. Maynard Butler. Leona and Maynard had four children: Doris (Mrs. Avery Rutledge), Larry (who died in early childhood), Scott and Wayne.

Clyde Erickson died shortly after birth and Forrest has no children.

Russell married Mary Farmer October 10, 1944. They were parents of a son, Charles, who now farms near Offerle, and a daughter, Bronwen, who is married to Dave Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith who live south of Kinsley. They live in the Erickson home and have two sons, Russell and Michael, and a daughter, Kimberly.

Mary Russell Erickson died in 1957. Lawrence died in 1963.

Lloyd Erickson died December 24, 1962.

Mary Farmer Erickson died June 7, 1960. Her husband Russell died October 26, 1963.

PEARL ERICKSON

Pearl Jennings Erickson came to Offerle in Sept. 1922 to make her contribution in the Offerle High School as a teacher in the Commercial Department. May, 1924, she became a member of an early family of Offerle settlers, Lawrence Erickson, by becoming the wife of Lloyd. To this union was born one child, Leona. In 1939, she became a member of the High School Board. Pearl has never moved from her present home in which she now lives. She has been a booster of the Offerle community as a school teacher, a partner in the Erickson Mercantile Store, and a farmer's wife.

At the present she has three grandchildren: Doris Butler Rutledge, Scott Alan, and Wayne Arden.

Pearl has been a member of the Methodist Church all of her life, being active as a S.S. Teacher, and pianist and president of the Women's organization.

FARMER

Edna Roberts Farmer was born May 8, 1870, in Illinois to Cyrus and Isabelle Rae Roberts. Mr. Roberts was a teacher and was noted for his carriage horses. The Roberts moved to Kinsley, Kansas, in 1879. Edna taught school until she married Charles Farmer in 1908. They moved to Colorado Springs, but returned to Kinsley in 1927. Charles and Edna Farmer had two children: Cyrus born April 12, 1910, and Mary, born May 8, 1912. Charles Farmer died in 1934. Cyrus married a childhood friend in 1937, and lived in Colorado Springs until 1949, when he returned to Offerle. Mary Farmer married Russell Erickson in 1944, and they lived in Offerle. They were the parents of Bronwen (Mrs. David Smith) and Charles. Edna Farmer moved to Offerle in 1945, and lived with Russell and Mary until Cyrus returned in 1949; then she moved into a small house across the street from the Lawrence Erickson home with him. Cyrus lived here with his mother and farmed with his brother-in-law, Russell, until Nov. 11, 1962, when he moved to Dodge City and married Phyllis Williams, a one-time housekeeper for Edna. They reside in Yellville, Arkansas. Mary Farmer Erickson was killed in an auto accident in June, 1960, and Edna Farmer died April 7, 1963, in Kindar Kare Home at Kinsley. She is buried with her husband in the Kinsley cemetery. Her grandchildren, Bronwen and Charles, are residents of Offerle, and have fond memories of their grandmother.

G. C. FIELD

Grover C. Field, son of Jason and Matilda Field, was born November 6, 1884, near Terre Haute, Indiana. He departed this life on

December 12th, 1963, at Offerle, Kansas.

He moved to Kansas with his parents on October 17th, 1891, and lived near Danville, later moving to Freeport and then to a small farm at Attica, Kansas, where he grew to manhood.

After graduating from high school, he secured a teacher's certificate and taught for a few years before attending Business College in Salina, Kansas. After completion of the various courses in Business College, he accepted a position at the bank in Plainville, Kansas, and went there in 1908. On September 29th, 1909, he married Alma A. Holmes and they celebrated their Golden Anniversary on September 29th, 1959.

There were three children: Irene - now deceased; Earl Field - Hays, Kansas; and Almalee Duesing - Hollister, Missouri.

G. C. Field and family moved to Offerle, Kansas, in March, 1919, and assumed management of The Farmers State Bank, remaining there until the time of his death Dec. 12th, 1963, spending 55 years in the banking business. During the days of the depression, while many banks were forced to close, Mr. Field, through careful management and direction, kept the bank on firm foundation and the doors open.

He was a prominent Mason, having taken his first degree at Plainville in 1919, and is listed among those of the Kinsley Masonic Lodge No. 139 as a Past Master.

He loved the out-of-doors and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a member of the Offerle Lions Club and a booster of all Civic programs in the Offerle area. He served as Mayor and on the Council for many terms and retained a keen interest in the youth until the time of his death.

ALVIN FROETSCHNER

Alvin Froetschner, the son of Henry Froetschner and Pauline Schneider, was born January 12, 1878, in Caaschwitz, near Leipsig, Germany. He had two sisters, Alma and Ida. His father came to America from Germany, when Alvin Froetschner was three years of age. He settled in the Larned community and got a job with the railroad. He was making a home for his family. He made five trips back to Germany, but Alvin's grandmother on his mother's side was living with them and she had become blind and couldn't make the trip. When Alvin was 18 years of age he decided to accompany his father back to America. But the German government changed his plans — insisting that he serve in the army before leaving the country. At the end of two years, Alvin obtained a furlough to come to America.

By this time his mother and grandmother had both passed away. His sisters were married so he left his home near Leipsig, Germany, not able to speak a word of English, but he made the trip without any trouble. It took eighteen days to make the boat trip. There were 1,400 people on the "Boon", a combination freight-passenger trip. His fare was \$85. Quite a few people on the boat spoke German and on the train

from New York to Larned he found conductors who could understand enough German to know what he wanted.

Arriving in the fall of 1900, he was unable to find any work, so he worked on a farm the first winter just for his board and room. The following summer he was the "ice man" in Larned. The winter of 1902, he worked on the Fort Larned Ranch for Ed Frizell for \$16. In 1903, he started farming for himself four miles north of the Fort Larned Ranch.

In 1906, he bought his first land paying \$40 an acre for land northwest of Larned. It was this same year that Sophie Marting, daughter of Henry Marting and Leisette Schmidt, came to America with two girlfriends from Steyerberg, Germany, province Hanover. They lived with the two friends' relatives near Great Bend. Sophie did housework for other people. Alvin and this young lady met at the Lutheran Church near Albert, Kansas. They were married on January 27, 1907. They made their home on the farm that Alvin had bought. Three sons were born to them there: William, Harry and Carl.

In 1910, he sold this farm for a profit of \$2500. He purchased a half-section in Comanche county near Coldwater, Kansas. They spent nine years there. Two daughters were born on that farm — Alma and Dora. Then they moved to Edwards County, locating 7 miles southeast of Offerle on the former Jacob Gall place. This was in August, 1919.

In December, a son, Ernest, was born. He is living on the home place at present. They all became members of the Zion Lutheran church, ten miles southwest of Offerle.



Standing: Harry, Alma and Carl. Seated: William, Alvin, Baby Ernest, Sophie and Dora standing at right.

William, Harry, Carl and Alma went to school in rural district No. 4 until it consolidated with No. 43 at Offerle.

William went to Sweeney Automotive School in Kansas City during the fall terms 1924 and 1925.

Alma and Dora graduated from Offerle High School, then attended KSTC of Emporia. They both taught in Ford and Edwards County.

Alvin and Sophie went to back to Germany to visit relatives in 1926, and again in 1936.

William was married to Alma Wetzel, daughter of Bertha Ley and William Wetzel on May 24, 1936. They live on the William Wetzel farm ten miles south of Offerle.

Harry was married to Clara Wetzel, daughter of Charles Wetzel and Laura Krupp of the Windthorst community, on June 3, 1935. They live on the old R. E. Edwards ranch four miles south and three miles east of Offerle. They had one daughter and three sons. Marilyn married Jack Kersting of Derby, Kansas, and they live on the Wagner place five miles south and one mile west of Offerle. They have one son, Kenton, and three daughters, Kalen, Cheryl, and Laura.

Kermit married Nina Beth Hensleigh of Kinsley. They have two daughters, Lesa and Leana. They live on a farm north of Spearville.

James D. married Karen Katz of rural Offerle. They have one son, Clayton, and a daughter, April. They live on what was formerly the Matthew place, four miles east and one mile north of Offerle.

Jerome is at home with his parents but farms with James, his brother.

Carl was married to Cordelia Gall, daughter of Ida Kurth and Emil Gall, Sr. on September 6, 1936. They lived on the Ed Kurth place and farmed until Carl retired to Kinsley. They had one son and three daughters — John, Barbara, Lynn and Ruth.

Barbara married Bill Gastler of Martinsburg, Missouri. They live on a farm. They have seven children — Sabrina, Philip, Sam, Jimmy, Sarah, Susan and Kathleen.

John lives on the home place. He married Elaine Miller of Dodge City. They have two daughters, Tonya and Tamara, and one son, Matthew.

Lynn married Jay Schaller of rural Offerle. They live on the former Henry Schaller (Jay's grandfather) place nine miles southeast of Offerle. They have two sons, Daryl and Scott, and two daughters, Janet and Lynette.

Ruth is working for Western Power and Light in Dodge City.

Alma married Armin Gall, son of Ida Kurth and Emil Gall, Sr., on April 23, 1937. They lived on the Gall home place until they moved to Dodge City. They had four sons, Roland, Emil, Milton and Kenneth and one daughter, Sandra. All the children grew up on the farm. Alma is teaching in Dodge City. Armin passed away on November 16, 1973.

Roland married Judy Barber of Dodge City and they had one son, Dee Jay, and one daughter, Amber. Roland makes his home in Little

Rock, Arkansas, where he does accounting and trucking.

Emil married Judy Bruington of Montezuma, Kansas. They have one son, Jim, and a daughter, Marsha. They live in Dodge City. Emil and his brother, Kenneth, sell insurance through the Gall agency of Dodge City and Sublette.

Milton married Kathy Meier of near Hays, Kansas. They live in Protection, Kansas and have two sons, Stacy and Eric. Milton is assistant cashier in the Protection Bank and also sells mobile and modular homes.

Kenneth married Louise Burton of Dodge City, Kansas. They have a daughter, Gina, and a son, Christopher. Kenneth is a co-partner of Gall's Agency of Dodge City and Sublette.

Sandra is working for a commercial greenhouse in Little Rock, Arkansas. She helps with landscaping.

Dora married Harry H. Wetzel on July 27, 1941. They made their home on the Elmer Antone place seven and one-half miles south and one-half mile east of Offerle. They have three sons, LaVerne, Leroy and Steven and two daughters, Kathleen and Joanne. Harry passed away on July 28, 1971.

Kathleen married Don Pickard of Vona, Colorado. Don is a farmer and they live near Stratton, Colorado. They have one daughter, Camilla.

LaVerne married Ceil Fox of Kinsley, Kansas. They have a son, Russell, and a daughter, Melanie. He farms seven miles south and one-half mile east of Offerle, and makes his home in Kinsley.

Leroy and Steve live with their mother and farm the home place.

Joanne is a senior in Emporia State College, majoring in Home Economics.

Ernest married Gunilda Gall, daughter of Ida Kurth and Emil Gall, Sr. on January 10, 1942. They make their home on the former Alvin Froetschner farm. (Alvin and Sophie moved to Kinsley in 1945). They have four daughters, Brenda, Julie, Mona, and Cindy and one son, Richard.

Brenda married Al Hedricks of near Kansas City. They live near Kearney, Missouri. Al is working for Western Typesetting company. They have two daughters, Selena, and Sarah.

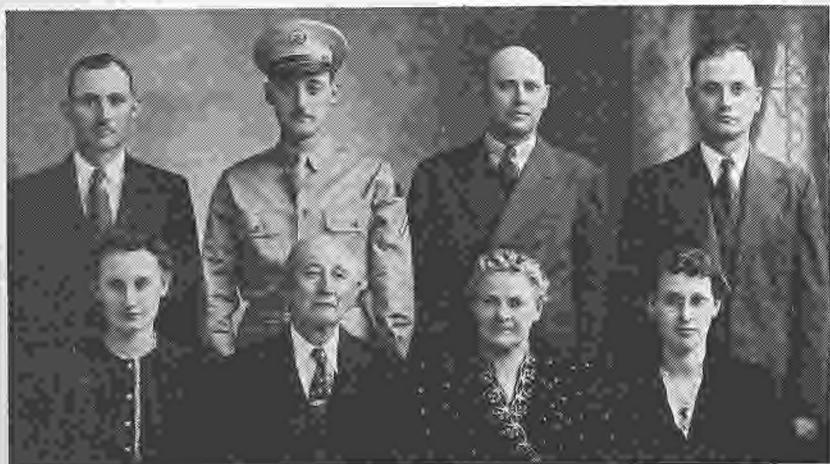
Julie married Joe Menger of the Chicago area. Joe works for the Eastman-Kodak Company. They have a son, Bradley, and a daughter, Jennifer.

Mona married Stan Manske of Oklahoma. He is a lawyer and they live in Boise City, Oklahoma.

Richard married Christie Lippoldt of Kinsley, Kansas. They live on a farm northeast of Offerle (The former Westphal home). They have one son, Jared and a daughter, Erica.

Cindy married Ross Biaggi of rural Boise City, Oklahoma. They live on a ranch and have one son, Travis.

Alvin and Sophie moved to Kinsley, Kansas in 1945, and made their



Standing L. to R.: William, Ernest, Harry and Carl. Seated L. to R.: Dora, Alvin, Sophie and Alma - 1943.

home at 117 Mass. Ave. Their grandchildren have fond memories of the family gatherings at their home which proved quite nerve-racking for Grandma Froetschner.

After a few years of failing health, Alvin became blind. He passed away February 6, 1963 at the age of 85.

Mrs. Froetschner had a stroke and couldn't talk very much for several years. She spent her last years at Kindar Kare Home in Kinley, Kansas. She passed away July 7, 1972 at the age of 93.

JACOB GALL

In 1880, Jacob Gall and his wife and three year old son left Chicago, Illinois, to "go West." Jacob and three of his brothers had come to America as young men from a small village near Marbach, Germany, where the family had been stone masons, farmers, and Burgemeisters. They settled in Chicago where they operated a meat market. There in Chicago, Jacob met and married Anna Maria Bohnet, who came to America, as a young lady, from a village near Stuttgart, Germany. They had one son, Emil, who was born January 23, 1877. Here in Kansas, Jacob bought the United States Patent on part of Section 34-25-20, which lies five miles south of Ardell, in Edwards county.

On September 12, 1901, Emil Gall married Ida Kurth, daughter of Fredrick Edward Kurth of rural Offerle. Emil and his father built an addition to the family's four-room house, dividing the two with a hallway, as was customary in Germany. In 1909, due to the ill health of Jacob, he and his wife spent most of several years living in Colorado City, Colorado. Later, upon retiring, they returned to Chicago where they lived out their lives. Jacob died in 1911, and Anna Maria in 1913.

Both are buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery of rural Offerle. In 1909, Jacob and Emil sold the farm in Edwards County to Fred Krenzlin and bought upland ground about ten miles southwest in Ford County.

In 1913, Emil, always an avid reader and an eager student took his family to Chicago during the school terms so that he could get a high school and junior college education. His family at that time consisted of four sons: Herman, born July 4, 1902; Edward, born January 1, 1904; Adolph, born December 25, 1906; Armin, born November 25, 1909. While living in Chicago the first daughter; Gunilda, was born. During these school years, Emil would return to the farm in the summer months to work the ground and do the planting.

After completing his schooling, Emil returned as a full-time farmer and in 1918, built a beautiful twelve room house for his family. Here the second daughter, Cordelia, was born.

Emil was active in community affairs, a life time member of Zion Lutheran Church. When the Kinsley Grain and Supply Company was organized on a cooperative basis in about 1904, he became a member and he maintained his connection with cooperatives all his life. At the time of his death in 1946, he was president of The Farmers Commission Company of Hutchinson. He served as board member and officer of the Farmers State Bank, Offerle, The Offerle Co-op Dairy Ass'n., and the Ford County Mutual Insurance Company. For several years he was chairman of a committee of Kansas Farm Organizations, a group which maintained a legislative agent in the state capital.

In 1937, Emil and Ida retired to Offerle. Emil died in 1946, and Ida in 1965.

Herman married Dorothy Behrhost of Brazilton, Kansas. He was a high school teacher in Webster Groves, Missouri. They have one daughter, Ivolene, who lives in a St. Louis suburb.

Edward married Tillie Merkling of Holyrood, Kansas. He farmed for several years, then took the position of manager of the Bellefont and Offerle Co-ops. Several years later he became manager of the Dodge City Co-op, a position he held until he retired. They have one daughter, Arlene, who lives in Wichita.

Adolph married Mary Bush of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is buried near a small farm which he had bought and enjoyed, located north of Milwaukee. They have one son, David, and two daughters, Jane and Susan.

Armin married Alma Froetschner of Offerle, Kansas. They have four sons, Roland of Little Rock, Arkansas, Emil of Dodge City, Kansas, Milton of Protection, Kansas, Kenneth of Denver, Colorado, and one daughter, Sandra, also of Little Rock. Alma now lives in Dodge City.

Gunilda, a registered nurse, married Ernest Froetschner of Offerle, Kansas. When Ernie returned from the service in World War II, his father, Alvin Froetschner, retired to Kinsley and turned the family farm over to him. This farm, which Mr. Froetschner bought in 1919, was the one Jacob and Emil Gall had sold to Mr. Krenzlin in 1909. They

have four daughters: Brenda of Independence, Missouri; Julie of Chicago, Illinois; Mona of Boise City, Oklahoma; Cynthia of rural Boise City, Oklahoma; and one son, Richard of rural Kinsley.

Cordelia married Carl Froetschner, who now lives in Kinsley. They have three daughters: Barbara of Martinsburg, Missouri; Lynn of rural Kinsley; Ruth of the home and one son, John who now lives on their farm.

GLEASON

Daniel Gleason came from Tipperary, Ireland.

He was married to Bridget Nolan and their children were John, Mike, Daniel, Mary and Thomas.

Thomas Gleason was born Nov. 24, 1870, at Twelve Mile Grove near Joliet, Ill. He came to Hodgeman County in 1878, and he and Nellie O'Keefe were married Nov. 14, 1892. Their children were Mary, Annie, Eva (Sister Linus) and Michael (died in infancy). Nellie O'Keefe Gleason died in 1902, and Thomas married Rosan McDermott on Apr. 28, 1908. (Rosan McDermott was the daughter of James McDermott and Mary Vincent Bresslin, who were born in Ireland.) Their children were Thomas, Theresa, Leo Vincent, John Ed and Janette. Thomas Gleason died Feb. 24, 1958.



Tom Gleason



Rosan McDermott Gleason

Mary Gleason and Leo Laudick were married Sept. 14, 1921. To this union was born: Vincent T. (wife: Imagene Tipon); Paul J. (wife: Mildred Eck); Leora M. (Mrs. Robert W. Mitchel); Mary Leah (Mrs. Walter A. Fiegel); Kathryn H. (Mrs. Richard Littleton); Lester



Tom Gleason home. Built in 1915. Burned in 1930.

L. (wife: LoRay Owen); John L. (wife: Lucille Eck); and Richard (wife: Irene Whittecar).

Annie Gleason married Robert Mooney in 1919.

Eva (Sister Linus) joined the St. Joseph Order in 1920 and resides at the Mother House.

Thomas J. married Helen Klenke. Their children are: Donald (wife: Mary Kathryn Lampe); Kathleen (Mrs. Carl Barnes); and Vicki Lynn (Mrs. Gary Bare).

Theresa married Frank Seidl and their son, Francis, is married to Eileen Kessen.

Leo married Virginia Trenkamp. Their children are: Shirley (Mrs. Floyd Quint); Shirley died in 1970; Elaine (Mrs. Mike Downey); Gary (wife: Julie Heinz); Terry Tom (died in infancy); and Sandra (Mrs. David Herman).

Vincent married Esther Liebl. Their children are Miriam (Mrs. Bob Komarek); Ronald (wife: Janice Herrmann); Layton (wife: Sue Moorehead); Carolyn (Mrs. Richard Degnan); James (wife: Phyllis Scott); Timothy (wife: Lynn Dewey); Nancy (Mrs. Ron Winget); Edward (Ted) (wife: Marlene Berger); and Mary (Mrs. John P. Smith).

John Ed married Marie Anton and their two boys are Melvin (wife: Ann Lea Hunt) and Kenton (wife: Eleanor Horton). John Ed later married Aileen Shaneyfelt.

Jeanette married Herman Sanko and their children are: Thomas (wife: Loretta Sanders); Rosan (Mrs. Jim Ensor); and Connie (Mrs. Tom Heiland).

Ronald and Janice (daughter of Carl and Martha Herrmann) are current Offerle residents and live three miles west and one-half north of Offerle. Their children are Terry, Mary (died in infancy), Mike, Beth, Scott and Karen.

THE GRING FAMILY

Carl and Wilhelmina Gring came to this country from Koenigsberg, Germany, in 1874. They lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for three years before coming to Kansas in 1877, and settling on the farm which is ten miles southwest of Offerle.

When the family came to this country they had five children: Mary who was 13; Bertha Augusta, 11; Edward, 8; Emilie, 5; and Emil, 2. They had a daughter, Theresa, who was born in their home in Kansas, in 1881.

Carl Gring was a florist by trade in Germany and loved to work with flowers and the garden. In his later years after retiring from the strenuous labors of the early farming, he kept the yard of the Gring home a show place of his talents. He lived there with his son, Emil and family until his death in 1919.

The daughter Mary was married to Jacob Rapp. They had three children, sons Edward and Albert and a daughter, Mrs. Agnes Taylor who lives in Kinsley.

Bertha (better known as Augusta) was married to Frank Davidson. They had nine children: Milton; Clara (Mrs. Norman Oliphant); Myrtle (Mrs. Williard Davison); Roy, Frank, Eva (Mrs. Bill Webb); and Maggie, who are all deceased. Their son Ed lives in Winslow, Arizona and daughter, Mable (Mrs. Max Marker), lives in Oklahoma City.

Edward Gring was never married. As a young man he traveled to Montana, took up residence and built up a ranch home on a site that he acquired. He developed it into an interesting landmark. He had an outstanding talent as a wood-carver. Many of his beautiful works of art can be seen in the homes of his nieces and nephews.

Emilie was married to Sam Coons and they had two children. Carl lives at Garnett, Kansas and Elsie (Mrs. Paul Carroll) lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Theresa married Charles MacAllister. They had four children. Arthur lives in Enid, Oklahoma; Edna (Mrs. Harold Dorsey) lives near Ashland; Williard lives near Coldwater; and Dorothy (Mrs. Gay Hughes) lives at Bucklin. Theresa was the last of the Carl Gring family to depart this life — living to the age of 94 — passing away in July, 1975.

The son Emil stayed on the land that was homesteaded by the family. He was married to Augusta Ditzges. They had four children. Carl (who died in childhood); Alfreda (Mrs. Wm. Thompson) of Dodge City, Alvin; and Eleanor (Mrs. C. G. Cunningham) of Salina. Emil farmed the land, some of the years with tenants and some of the time with his son and son-in-law. Carl and Wilhelmina lived there until their deaths. In 1919, Emil and "Gusty" moved to Dodge City to live out their retirement. He passed away July 10, 1958, and she on October 7, 1969. The Gring Farm is still maintained by the son Alvin.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hattrup

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hattrup and two daughters, Marcella and Benita, moved to Offerle from a farm near Windthorst in August, 1938. Two more daughters, Peggy and Linda were born in Offerle.

Ben farmed a few years from town before selling the farm. He then opened a pool hall which he ran for about six years.

Mary had a job with the post office for a number of years hanging the mail bag for the mail train. She also helped out at the Basgall store until Mrs. Basgall closed the grocery store.

Ben Hattrup died December 15, 1967. Mary still lives in Offerle.

Marcella married Alfred Heeke of Spearville and they have four children. Benita married Bob Bullock of Kansas City. They have two children. Peggy married Fred Gilliam of Kinsley and has two children. Linda married Joe Strecker. They live at Sublette with their two children.

HENRY HATTRUP

In the spring of 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Hattrup moved, with their family of nine children, from Teutopolis, Illinois, to ten miles south of Offerle into the Windthorst community, where they built their home. Children born in Illinois were: Clara, Ed, Ferd, Cecelia, Helen Estella, Ben, Leo and Mary. Harry was the only one born in Kansas. Helen died in 1909; the others grew to adulthood in this community. Mr. and Mrs. Hattrup retired when they moved to Kinsley in 1926.

After their marriage, Ed and Ferd resided in the Sts. Peter and Paul neighborhood North of Kinsley; Mary at Stratton, Colo.; Cecelia and Ben in the Offerle community; Clara, Leo, Estella and Harry remained in the Windthorst area.

HARRY HATTRUP

Harry Hattrup and Ethel Klenke were married in 1932, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Windthorst, and resided on a farm about nine miles south of Offerle. They are the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Don (Jeannie) Kramer of Wichita, and two sons, J. Marvin of Tempe, Arizona, and Robert of Offerle. They also have seven granddaughters and one grandson.

Harry and Ethel moved to Offerle during the summer of 1974. Robert and his wife, Nancy live on the farm.

MR. AND MRS. HEDGES

Benjamin Shipley Hedges and Catherine Melinda Franklin were married November 20, 1864, in Champaign County, Ill. and to this union nine children were born.

In 1876, they moved to Eastern Kansas. In 1901, late in October,

they and their grown children moved by wagon train to Offerle. One daughter and baby, had died in a fire and were buried in Porter (ville) cemetery near Uniontown, Kan. where Mr. and Mrs. Hedges were also buried when they died.

At Offerle, the family built a home, which in later years burned and was rebuilt where Bill Rabe now has his home. Mr. and Mrs. Hedges were staunch Baptists. In 1914, October 9th, while mending fence Mr. Hedges suffered a heart attack and died.

Grant, the eldest of the children, married Frieda Franz and six children were born to them: Ernest, Bertha (Lancaster), Nell (Wiles), Earl, Henry (Hank) and one who died in infancy. Grant and his family were farmers.

Blair married Emma Schwarz and they had two children, Ruth (Rabe) and Floyd. They farmed north of Offerle.

Ernest remained a bachelor. He worked for the Santa Fe Railroad and lived with his mother until her death.

Ben, the youngest boy, married Maude Way and four children were born to them: Benny, who died in infancy; Harold (deceased); Ethel (Laudick) and Bulah (Farrell). They homesteaded in Hamilton County, Kansas. There Maude became ill and died.

Four years later, after having been in Canada for several years, Ben married a Hamilton County, Kansas school teacher, Hazel Schenck. To this union was born twelve children: Eugene; Olive (Packer); Mary (Thummel); Tom; Carol (Mathews); twins Don and Ron; Emmett and Sam.

Ben had many occupations in his life time. He owned a stone block making business, and built houses and foundations, ran a cream station, owned and edited Offerle's only newspaper, also ran the Picture show (silent) which cost 10 cents to attend. He was mayor from 1919 to 1923. He also ran a Standard Oil Bulk wagon, Dray wagon, Cafe-Bear parlor and was the town Marshall. He had a teacher's certificate. His last occupation was a plasterer. Ben died in 1954, and Hazel in 1962, and they are buried in Evergreen Cemetery at Offerle.

Cora and Loretta, two of the Hedges girls, moved to Washington State, living out their lives there.

Two other of the Hedges girls, Mary Olivia (Lucy) and Bertha taught school. Bertha married Fred Lewis, a feed and grain merchant from Kinsley. Later they had an ice house. Lucy married an Offerle merchant, Harry Offerle. They had three children: Cecil, Abner, and Katherine. Abner still lives in Offerle and is the fourth generation to run the store.

WILHELM HERRMAN I

Wilhelm Herrmann I was born in Aken on the Elbe, Germany. His wife, Sophia (Wesenberg) Herrmann was born October 18, 1834, in Aken on the Elbe, Germany. Wilhelm came to America in the early 1880's. His wife, Sophia, daughter Sophia, and four sons — Wilhelm

(William) II, August, Frederick and Charles, joined him soon, settling in Amsterdam, New York. In 1884, they moved to a farm in Edwards County, Kansas, settling near the Arkansas River south of Offerle. They lived in this vicinity until their death. Wilhelm died May 6, 1907, and Sophia died December 18, 1908.

Charles Herrmann was the youngest son of Wilhelm and Sophia. He married Elizabeth Shadwell, who had come from England with her father in 1891, on July 7, 1903. Charles and Elizabeth had one son, Harold, born February 17, 1905. Harold followed his father's trade until his unexpected death on May 3, 1956.

Charles and Elizabeth started in the hotel business soon after their marriage by buying the block of land where The New Grove Hotel is located. They put in the first electric lights in 1904. The hotel became famous for its duck dinners. In 1908, they sold the hotel to Frank Denning; after the building burned, they bought the land back in 1924. They continued in the hotel business owning one in Great Bend, 1912-18; one in Pratt, 1918-19; and the Kinsley Hotel over what is now the Sears store from 1919-39. They built The New Grove Hotel in 1939, and continued to operate it until Charles' death March 31, 1946. Mrs. Herrmann continued to operate the hotel with her son, Harold, until his death, when she turned it over to the present operator. Charles had a great interest in city affairs and served six years as city commissioner, holding the office of mayor for two years.

Frederick began his law practice in New Orleans and was a practicing attorney and judge for over thirty years in Mobile, Alabama and passed away in 1932.

Sophia, born May 19, 1869, was married in Dodge City on December 11, 1887 to Joe Kurth, a hotel chef. To this union was born four children, August, Elsa, Joe and Otto. The family was living in Seattle, Washington until the untimely death of Mr. Kurth in 1897, when she returned to Kansas with her family. Sophia married Robert Walther, a farmer south of Offerle, on January 15, 1900. Two sons were born to this union — Robert and Arno. Mr. Walther passed away January 29, 1926, and Sophia continued to make her home with her son, Robert, until his tragic death; then she lived with her daughter, Elsa, until her death on May 8, 1954.

August born February 14, 1890, was a mechanic welder by trade. He was married to Esther Davis on October 16, 1919, and their children were Marjorie, Mary and Glenn. He passed away May 16, 1970 and Esther passed away March 31, 1972.

Elsa born February 18, 1892 married Edmond Frolich on November 18, 1908. They lived on a farm southwest of Offerle and were known for their beautiful flowers. Two children were born to this union — Mabel (Offerle) and Erna, who passed away March 19, 1925. Ed passed away February 21, 1943, and Elsie passed away October 30, 1963.

Joe, born July 8, 1894, was married to Vernetta Winkler in 1924. A son Richard was born July 17, 1925. They later moved to South Gate,

California, where they still reside.

Otto, born April 5, 1896, a farmer was married to Sophia Rabe, February 18, 1921. They live in Offerle.

Robert, a farmer, born July 1, 1904, was married to Anna Merwin in 1926. Robert was killed in an auto accident April 1, 1943.

Arno, a farmer, born March 16, 1909, resides on his father's farm.

Wilhelm (William) II and his wife, Augusta (Roepka) joined his father and family near the Arkansas River, south of Offerle, in Edwards County, Kansas, in 1886. While living in Edwards County, three children were born, William, Charles and Augusta. They moved to a farm closer to Offerle, in Ford County, in 1889. This was the birth place of Anna, Paul and Harry. In 1897, they purchased the land a mile south on which they built their farm home which still stands. This home is five miles southwest of Offerle. Three children were born here, Rosa, Elsie and Albert.

In 1914, they semi-retired and wintered in San Antonio, Texas. They made this their home after 1919, accompanied by Anna, Elsie and Albert and her father, William Roepka. Mr. Roepka passed away August 27, 1924 and was buried in San Antonio. Mrs. Roepka had passed away on January 25, 1902. Wilhelm Roepka was born in Doesinti bei Coelin, Germany, on November 27, 1835. His wife was Caroline Wachholz, who was born August 14, 1822, in Wisbuhr bei Coelin, Germany.

Mrs. Augusta Herrmann continued to make San Antonio her home until her death March 5, 1954.

William Herrmann III was born November 28, 1886. He became a farmer and helped to break up a lot of virgin prairie. He was married to Dora Brehm on June 8, 1911. They had one son, Walter, who is engaged in farming on his father's farm south of Offerle in Edwards County. Walter was married to Mildred VB. Haines on April 26, 1941. William died March 24, 1919, and Dora passed away April 12, 1967.

Charles Herrmann was born December 2, 1887, and still resides on the Herrmann farm south of Offerle in Ford County. On April 23, 1919, he was married to Mary Brehm of Spearville, Kansas. His son, William, resides on the same farm, living in the original house. William married Lorena Joyce Brown, Atchinson, on May 31, 1953. Wilma Jean, Charles' daughter resides north of Offerle, in Edwards County, and is married to John H. Wagner.

Augusta (Herrmann) Offerle was born February 2, 1889, in Edwards County. On August 29, 1906, she was married to Herman Strohwitz. They had one son, William Herrmann Strohwitz, who resided in Offerle until his death November 15, 1973. William was married to Verda Parks on September 5, 1942. Herman and Augusta lived on the Strohwitz farm until moving to Offerle where he was engaged in business until his death, April 13, 1937. Later she was married to Harry Offerle, a farmer and widower, June 1, 1939, and he passed away October 31, 1959. Augusta maintained her home in Offerle until her death May 5, 1975.



Herrmann family: Charley Herrmann at right.

Anna Herrmann Schenk was born December 14, 1890, and presently resides in San Antonio. She was married to Robert Schenk in San Antonio, June 2, 1923. Robert passed away December 27, 1930. She has no children.

Paul Herrmann was born September 28, 1893, in Ford County, Kansas. He was married to Gladys Young on February 26, 1918. They lived on a farm on Mule Head Hill on the old Santa Fe Trail in Ford County, southwest of Offerle. Mabel Herrmann married R. E. Overstreet December 16, 1944, and maintains her home on Mule Head Hill. Pauline Herrmann married Leander Lightcap on September 3, 1941, and resides in Offerle. Betty Herrmann McAvoy resided in Offerle until her untimely death July 15, 1973. Paul passed away November 24, 1954.

Harry Herrmann was born November 3, 1894. He was married to Anna Lancaster, Offerle, November 19, 1919. They maintained a farm in Edward County, south of Offerle on the Coon Creek where his son, Louis, resides. Louis married LaVona Block, Offerle, on June 29, 1942. Anna preceded Harry in death on August 28, 1953, and he passed away May 9, 1961. Their daughter, Lucille Herrmann Ditges passed away September 19, 1961, and a son, Otis passed away June 12, 1929. Lucille had married Bernard Ditges December 15, 1949. Bernard and their children live in Offerle, Edwards County, Kansas.

Rosa Herrmann Krumrey was born April 22, 1898. She was married to Arthur C. Krumrey on August 8, 1917, who passed away

September 25, 1969. Rosa resides in Kinsley. Their son, Arthur Herrmann Krumrey, and his wife Geraldean Nicholson, reside on the original Krumrey farm south of Offerle, in Ford County, Kansas. Erma Lee Krumrey married Hubert Nuss April 5, 1947, and resides in Salina, Kansas.

Elsia Herrmann Willis was born January 14, 1900, and married Bert Willis on December 10, 1921 in San Antonio. She died in San Antonio, July 29, 1953, leaving no surviving children.

Albert Herrmann was born in Ford County, January 20, 1904, and was a practicing attorney in San Antonio at the time of his death on June 6, 1965. He was married to Helen Luthy on October 4, 1924 in San Antonio. Helen passed away April 15, 1974. Their children are: Ayleen Herrmann Radke, who resides in New Orleans, Louisiana; Jeanette Herrmann de Longoria, who resides in Mexico City, Mexico; Albert Don Herrmann, who resides in San Antonio, Texas; and Ronald J. Herrmann, who resides in San Antonio and maintains a residence northeast of Offerle, Edwards County, Kansas.

K. G. ISRAEL AND THE ISRAEL FAMILY

Kossuth Gustav Israel, known by his friends and neighbors as K. G. Israel, was born to Sofia and Moritz Israel on August 10, 1873, at Bradewood, Illinois, and died at his home south of Offerle, Kans., at 11:30 a.m., Wed. morning, August 12, 1942, as the results of injuries he received when his tractor ran over him an hour earlier. Mr. Israel had cranked his tractor, which was in the yard at his farm, and it was in gear. It ran over him and the steel spade lugs passed over his legs. One leg was broken and arteries cut in both legs. His cries for help brought his wife, Susie, and young daughter, Janette, to his aid. Mrs. Israel attempted to stop the flow of blood with her apron, while the little eight year old girl ran to a neighbor's, Henry Wetzel's, to call a doctor from Spearville. Dr. O. G. Spiers reached there twenty minutes after getting the call, but Mr. Israel died from loss of blood five minutes after his arrival.

Mr. Israel was the the youngest of a family of six children and was sixty-nine years and two days old at the time of his death.

Coming to Kansas with his parents in 1877, he lived first near Lawrence, Kansas. Later he moved to Ford county where he grew to manhood on the Israel homestead, which is not the Emil Gall farm. At the age of 15, he was baptized in the Lutheran faith at the Zion Lutheran church of Bellefont, where his father was one of the ten men who signed the church's first constitution.

On October 15, 1893, he was married to Rosa Christina Krumrey. To this union were born seven children: Carl, Walter, Hattie, Cecil, Edna, Lawrence and Clarence. The eldest, Carl, preceded him in death.

After living briefly at the Geo. Peintner and Edmund Weiss farms, the family moved in 1903, to the Israel farm in Ford county. Cecil

Israel is now living there. Mr. Israel lived there for twenty-five years, when he moved to his home where he died in Edwards county.

On February 23, 1911, following the birth of twin sons, Mrs. Israel died, leaving the family motherless. Mr. Israel then faithfully fulfilled the duties of both a devoted father and a mother to the six living children for many years.

On April 23, 1929, he was married to Mrs. Susie Stinson. To this union was born one daughter, Janette. She was known as "Dolly" by her much beloved father.

Always a worker and builder, Mr. Israel acquired and improved much land in this vicinity, living at the time of his death, upon one of the most attractive home sites in this area. In his later years, he had built up a good system of shallow water irrigation and did intensive farming. He had faith in the soil of southwest Kansas and knew how to make it produce and he spared neither time, labor nor money to make it do so. His knowledge of, interest in, and care of growing things manifest themselves in his fine crops, productive truck gardens, groves of trees and one of the best kept shelter belts in this section.

He took interest in the affairs of his community, having served on the District No. 6 school board for many years, was a Wheatland township treasurer for several years, and at the time of his death was a Trenton township representative on the Edwards County Farm Bureau board.

Funeral services were held on Sunday afternoon at the Evangelical church in Offerle with Rev. Mastin in charge. A quartet composed of Lawrence Erickson, Delores Renfro, Blanche Speck and Eugene Renfro sang "Face to Face", "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Good Night and Good Morning". Rev. Mastin used for his text Micah 7:18: Who is a God like unto Thee? Flower girls were Gloria Ann Riggs, Wanda Jean Weiss, Sharisla Lou Krumrey, Dorothy Wetzel, Peggy Speck and Carmen Rae Speck. Pall bearers were Earl Lightcap, Raymond Kleysteuber, Will Wetzel, Will Kurth, Grover Field and Lawrence Erickson. Burial was in the Evergreen cemetery northwest of Offerle.

Six of Mr. Israel's children are still living. Carl passed away before his father.

Walter Israel married Celia Helfrich and lived on one of his father's farms south of Offerle until they moved to Spearville, Kansas. No children were born to this union, but Walt and Celia took care of many of Celia's nieces and nephews.

Hattie Israel married Bill Schmehr and moved to Dodge City, Kansas. No children were born to this union. Hattie was living at Dodge City at the time of her death.

Cecil Israel married Sylvia Helfrich and lived on the farm where Cecil's father had lived for twenty-five years. To this union were born two boys and two girls: Cecil Israel Jr., Karen Gayle, Thiala Sue and Donald Dean. Thiala Sue and Donald Dean died as babies. Sylvia has

passed away and Cecil still lives on the farm. Cecil Israel Jr., known as "Sonny" to his family, married Evelyn Schuette and live by Windthorst. To this union were born two boys and two girls: Nike Denise Israel (Hort), Bradley Dale, Kurt Giles and Jodi. Karen Gayle Israel married Edward LeRoy Brehm and live north of Offerle. To this union one daughter was born: Tinesha RaChell.

Edna Israel married Bob Clowers and lived in several places in Kansas. Bob has passed away and Edna lives in Arkansas City, Kansas. To this union were born two daughters: LaVona and Roberta. LaVona Clowers (Duryea) has two boys: Tim and Todd. Roberta Clowers (Sparks) has two boys and two girls: Debbie, Kelly, Cris and boys name unknown.

Lawrence Israel married Maude Stegman and lived around Offerle, Kansas, before moving to Dodge City, Kansas, where they now live. To this union were born seven girls: Shirley Israel (Schmidt), Carolyn Jean Israel (Bradley), Virginia Israel, Barbara Israel (Gunn), and Judy Israel (Wilkerson).

Clarence Israel married Ruby Ryan and now lives at Severson, Oregon. To this union were born four girls and one boy: Georgia Faye, Donna Lee, Ganell Israel (Majors), Sandra, and Kent Gordon.

Janette Corrine Israel married Douglas Marcy and now lives in Offerle where Douglas is the Rural Mail Carrier. To this union were born two boys and three girls: Douglas Lynn, Janice Adell, Ronald Dean, Pamela Ann and Peggy Corrine.

JENSEN



Wogan Jensen



James (1877) and Julia Leonard Jensen (1883). Married in 1906.

Wogan Jensen, born in 1842, in Denmark, came to America in 1866. He and his wife, Bina, came to Edwards County in 1876. To this union were born James (1877), Fred (1879), Amanda (1881) and Alma (1883) (died in infancy).

James married Julia Ann Leonard. Eight sons were born on their farm northwest of Offerle: Elmer (wife: Mildred Franz); Arthur (wife: Catherine Werner); James (wife: Bridget Naab); Woodrow (wife: Marie Winkler); Leonard (wife: Magdalene Riedl); Robert (wife: Margaret Tomilson); Earl (wife: Iviline Cox); and Ray (wife: Helen Esposito). Robert, Earl and Ray served in the armed forces during World War II.

Fred married Mary C. Lauber. Their children were: Frank (wife: Louise Gosen); Elma (Mrs. Clifford Yung); Mabel (Mrs. Carl Wilson); and Florence (Mrs. Herman Katz, Jr.).

Amanda moved to South Dakota, and married Ralph Harris.

KATZ

Will Katz was born Feb. 1, 1850 in Germany, and came out to Kansas in the early 1870's, but after a big prairie fire had burned out everything, he went back to Nemeha County. Later on he returned to Kansas and stayed for while at the Herman Diers home.

He soon bought a quarter section of land with a good corn crop and livestock from Simon Regnier for around \$600, which was fifteen miles northwest of Kinsley.



Back Row L. to R.: Herman, Martha (Brehm) and Henry. Front Row L. to R.: Christ, Minnie, Will, Sr., Will, Jr., and Mary.

Will Katz was married to Martha Brehm on Jan. 9, 1878, in Benton Co. Iowa. There were eight children born to this union: Christina Elizabeth (1879) who died at age one or two; Henry J. Katz (1880 - 1964), who married Mary Nall, and were parents of six children: Martha, Josephine, Clarence, Harold, Dorothy and Robert Clifford; Mary Katz (1882 - 1971), who married James West and lived in Spearville, with their three children: James, Ruby and Alvin; Herman Katz, who was married to Mollie Nall and were parents of three children: Herman, Jr. Marie, and Agnes (twins); Chris Katz (1890 - 1976) was married to Bessie Baxter and they were parents of three children: Cleo, Christine and Vernon. Bessie died in 1947. He was later married to Marguerite Baxter Britton, who died in 1964, and then was married to Alice Lippoldt who resides in Kinsley; Minnie Katz was married to James Burke and lived in the St. Mary neighborhood and they were parents of: Mary, Odessa (died at birth), Eva Odessa, who died at age eleven, James, La Vern, who died at age two, and Leo.

"Willy" Bill Katz (1893 - 1975) was married to Meta Tuchtenhagen and were the parents of four boys: Billy Eugene, Laverne, Leonard and Gerald who died at the age of seven.

Louise was born in 1897. She was one and a half when her mother died and she came to live with her Aunt Christine Brehm who was married to Herman Diers. Louise was married to Fritz Riisoe in August, 1919, and had three children: Eila Mae, John J. and Julie.

William "Will" Katz died in March of 1930, and is buried in the Zion Lutheran cemetery south of Offerle.

KISNER

Peter Adam Kisner was born in Topeka, Kansas, on April 4, 1894. His parents were John and Marianna (Swart) who came from Pfeifer, Russia. After working for the Sante Fe Railroad in Topeka, the family moved to a farm five miles northwest of Offerle, Kansas, in March, 1901. When the train bringing the family came into Offerle, a terrible blizzard was raging and it took ten hours for the family to travel the five miles.

In 1913, Pete and his brother, Joseph, went to Plains, Kansas, to buy land which they farmed until the family joined them in 1917. Pete served in the Army from July, 1918 to January, 1919. After his discharge he was married to Emma Basgall of September 28, 1920, and settled on the family farm northwest of Offerle. In 1928, they built a home in Offerle, where they lived until 1930, at which time they moved to Plains. Pete died in 1938, and Emma moved the family back to Offerle in 1943, where she lived until 1974.

Pete was from a family of fourteen children, eight who lived to adulthood. They were: Mary, Kate, Frances, Adam, John, Joseph, George and Pete.

Emma (Basgall) Kisner was born in St. Mary's, Kansas (near Topeka) on October 15, 1893. Her parents Joseph and Catharine

(Falkenstein) Basgall came from Rothamel, Russia. She had two brothers; Joseph and George and six sisters; Kate, Magdalen, Elizabeth, Mary, Anna and Margaret.

Six daughters and one son were born to Pete and Emma Kisner: Esther (George Benish); Helen (James Borth); Mary (Alex Hedlesky); Dorothy (Sister M. Madeleine A.S.C.); Emma (Sister M. Rosaline, deceased 1973); John (Vickie Steffan); and Ruth (Wayne Batman). There are also sixteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Emma Kisner now resides at the Lone Tree Lodge in Meade, Kansas.

JACOB KONRADE

Jacob Konrade was born Feb. 25, 1858, and died July 25, 1940. He was married to Anna Mary Burghart, who was born August 18, 1862, and died August 29, 1950.

One of their children was George Konrade, who was born May 28, 1880, and died March 24, 1950. He was married to Elizabeth Allendorf, who was born Sept. 16, 1880, and died Sept. 13, 1958.

They were the parents of six children: George (deceased - wife: Mary Gethian) whose children are: Esther (Mrs. Joe Adams), Marie (Mrs. Clarence Boas), Geroge, Frances (McVay), Robert and Pete Konrade.



Back: George, Bernard, Elizabeth, Andrew, Albert and Raymond.
Front: Ralph, Emma, Jacob, Wilferd.

Elizabeth (deceased) married George Domme and they had two daughters: Georgia (Weber) and Marion Rose (Pack).

Raymond married Josephine Weber and they had three children: Gerald, James and Marvin.

Bernard married Loretta Hoag and they had a daughter who died and a son, Donald.

Ralph married Jewell Bucksin and they had: Ralph, George Thomas, Pat and Janice.

Albert Konrade married Eva Stegman and they reside on a farm

northwest of Offerle. They have five children: Alvin, Marceda, Carolyn, Gilbert, and Reginald. Alvin married Dorothy Schmidt and they are parents of: Robert, Dan, Charles, Gary, Louis, Nancy, Carol, Marlene and Colleen. Bob is married to Judy Heiland and they have two children: Kimberly and Christopher. Dan is married to Vicki Schaller.

Marceda is married to Gerald Schmidt and they have eight children: Gloria Schmidt (Weckerly) (deceased), Steve, Tom, Roger, Joyce, Marsha, George and Michael. They have a granddaughter named Paula Sue Weckerly.

Carolyn is married to Marvin Gleason and they have three children: Lynn, Shanana, and Allen.

Gilbert is married to Julene Hornung and they are the parents of Jackalyn and Larry.

Reginald is married to Janice Heine and they are the parents of Jason, Jary and Janelle.

Bill Konrade is the youngest son of George and Elizabeth Konrade. He is married to Florence Rohlman and they are the parents of: Judy (Klein), George, Roger, Karen and LeRoy. Bill resides in Offerle.

The other son of Jacob and Anna Mary Konrade was Jacob Konrade, Jr., who was born Sept. 13, 1886. He was born at Pfeiffer, Russia as was his wife. He married Katherine Barberick, who was born on Jan. 20, 1888, on January 20, 1908, in the old St. Joseph Church. After living in Topeka and Pfeiffer in Ellis County, they moved to Offerle and set up farming four and one-half miles northwest of Offerle. They had seven children: Joe, who died at age two; Mary (Mader) living at Holcomb, Kansas; Angela (Alering) who died in 1966 in Grapevine, Texas; Alexander, of Offerle; Caroline (Miller) of Dodge City; Florence (Gleason) of Dodge City; and August of Offerle.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Konrade of Offerle celebrated their 60th



**Anna Mary Konrade,
Jacob Konrade, Sr.,
and granddaughter
Mary Mader.**

wedding anniversary on Jan. 20, 1968. At this time they had five children living, thirty grandchildren, and thirty-two great grandchildren. Mr. Konrade died Sept. 20, 1973. Mrs. Konrade died Oct. 26, 1971.

KREGAR

Gottlieb Kregar was born April 4, 1888, son of Mr. and Mrs. August Kregar from Germany. The family lived northwest of Spearville, Kansas, near a creek called White Woman.

Their children were Herman and Lena, by a former marriage, Gottlieb, Fred, Henry, Albert, Ferdinand, William, Bertha and Elsie. They are all deceased, but Albert at Great Bend and Elsie at Dodge City.

Hulda Kurth was born December 30, 1883, at Manhattan, Illinois and came to Kansas with her parents, Edward and Bertha Kurth, in 1886, and moved to a farm south of Offerle. Their children were Ida, Hulda, Herman, Albert (H.C.), Bertha, Edward and Otto. Albert is the only one living.



Gottlieb and Hilda (Kurth)
Kregar - Sept. 29, 1909



Kregar children

Gottlieb and Hulda were married September 29, 1909, and lived on a farm southeast of Offerle. A daughter was born in 1910, but died at birth. They had a son, Edward, and daughters: Erna, Hilda and Bertha.

In December of 1918, Gottlieb had the flu and passed away. Hulda, and the three older children were in the Spearville hospital also with

the flu. After their return home, her sister-in-law, Bertha and brother-in-law Henry, stayed with her till in the spring when there was a farm sale, then Hulda and the three older children stayed with her sister, Ida, and her family where Bertha was born. They stayed with their grandparents at different times and also lived with a great uncle, Herman.

Later their grandfather, Edward Kurth, bought a home in Offerle and that is where Hulda and her children started a boarding house in the year 1920. At the beginning it was just for teachers, but later she served power line men and also tourists.

In October, 1921, Edwin Carper came to Offerle to run the drug store and he boarded at their place. In January, 1926, Hulda and Mr. Carper were married.

When Hulda's health failed in 1930, the eating place was discontinued. Edwin Carper, bought milk cows and the children of the family delivered milk and cream in Offerle for a number of years.

Edward (deceased) married Dortha Neier. They had three sons: Lawrence married Nancy Springer and they live in Offerle and have three children; Milton married Debbie Landheer and they live in Cincinnati, Ohio; Lyle, lives in Kinsley, Kansas.

Erna, married Rev. E. J. Bernthal and live in Twin Falls, Idaho. They had five children: John, married Marilyn Simpson, lives in Laurel, Maryland and they have two children: Frederick, married Judy Holzauer, and live in East Lansing, Michigan. They have a son: Stuart, married Katheryn Rothschild, lives in Crown Point, Indiana and they have a son; Rebecca, lives in Shenandoah, Iowa; and Christine, lives in Michigan City, Indiana.

Hilda married Herbert Wetzel and lives south of Offerle. They have three children: Virginia, married Fred Goldsberry, lives in Dodge City and they have two children; Elizabeth, married Richard Maskus, lives at Lazy Acres, Dodge City, and they have three children; and Paul, is of the home.

Bertha married Lawrence Cunningham, lives in Winfield, Kansas and they have a son Chris of the home.

KRUMREY

Charles Krumrey was born in Schenkenberg, Brandenburg, Prussia, on October 29, 1848. He was the only child born to Karl and Christina Krumrey. Charles, along with his parents, came to the United States in 1866. They settled in the Chicago area. Charles was a wainright (wagon maker) by trade and worked in Cicero, a suburb of Chicago.

Wilhelmina Christina Reppin was born in the village of Neuenkirchen, province of Pommern, in Germany, on August 20, 1852. Her mother died when she was young. When thirteen, in 1865, she came with her father, Joachim Reppin, and her sister, to the United States. They, too, settled in the Chicago area. Wilhelmina (Minnie) found



Charles Krumrey

Minnie (Reppin) Krumrey

At the time of their marriage in Chicago - 1870.

employment as a domestic in Chicago, where she met Charles Krumrey in 1867. Three years later they were married.

Charles Krumrey came to Kansas in 1877, where he homesteaded on land five miles southwest of Offerle in Ford County. In 1878, his wife and small children came. His parents also came and lived near the Krumrey homestead. The parents, Karl and Christina, are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery.

Twelve children were born to Charles and Minnie Krumrey, four of them dying in infancy and one at the age of three. The other seven grew to adulthood. They were: Emma, Rose, Frances, Benjamin, Leo, Arthur and Charles.

Emma married Hubert Holtfreich and to this union was born four children: Joseph, Sophia, Charles and George. Rose married Kossuth



**Charles and Minnie Krumrey
in their later years.**



**Back row: Leo and Ben; front row:
Arthur and Charley about 1908.**

(K. G.) Israel and to this union was born: Carl, Walter, Hattie, Edna, Cecil, Lawrence and Clarence. Frances married Fred Weiss and to this union was born Carl, Esther, Luella, Zelma and Edmund. Benjamin married Inez Leonard and to this union was born Hazel and Orval. Leo married Kate Warner and to this union was born Betty Lorraine and Sharisla Loo. Arthur married Rose Herrmann and to this union was born Arthur Herrmann and Erma Lee. Charles married Pauline Spahn. No children were born to this union. He was a director of the Farmers State Bank at Offerle for several years.

The elder Charles Krumrey was a progressive farmer in Wheatland Township in Ford County and spent forty years on the farm he had homesteaded. He served for many years on the local school board and was the first president of The Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company in 1891.

The Krumreys (Charles and Minnie) moved to a home in Offerle in 1917, where Minnie died on December 4th, 1932, and Charles died on March 12, 1939. Both are buried in the Offerle Evergreen Cemetery west of Offerle.

WENDEL KUHN

Wendel Kuhn was born in Germany. When he came to the United States, he settled in Illinois. In 1878, he came to Edwards County and took a timber claim and a homestead on the W half of Section 22, Township 24, Range 20. Since the patent was issued, only two transfers are recorded on this land, his son W. O. (Bill) is the current owner.

Wendell and his wife had two children: Louie and Tillie. In 1903, Louie married Margaret (Maggie) Heinz, Louie died in 1951. Maggie died on April 15, 1974. In 1903, Tillie married Ed Barnes. They had four



Wendell Kuhn



Emma Kuhn

boys and five girls. Both Tillie and Ed are deceased.

After the death of his wife, Wendel Kuhn married Emma Muichow in 1901. She migrated from Koeslin, Germany, in 1900. Wendel Kuhn died in 1923, and Emma Kuhn died May 13, 1958. They had three children: Bertha, who married John Wagner; Bill who married Icie Barnett; and Helen who married Harry W. Wetzel. Bertha and John had four children: John H., Richard, Elmer and Irene. Bill and Icie had two children: Kenneth and Myrtle. Helen and Harry had five children: Robert, Elvira, Bonnie, Alan, and Louis.

EDWARD KURTH

The parents of Edward and Wm. Kurth were Gottlob and Tresase Kurth. They were immigrants from Germany coming to America in 1868, to begin a new life in a new country. They settled at Manhattan, Illinois, where they made their home until death. They were farm people.

Their son, F. Edward, who was born Feb. 3, 1854, was 14 years old when they came to America. He married Bertha Wagener, who was born on April 11, 1854, and whose parents were also immigrants from Germany.

Edward and Bertha lived at Manhattan, Illinois, until 1886, when



Standing: Ed, Bertha, Hermann, Ida Otto, Hulda and Albert (A.C.);
sitting: Bertha and Edward.

they moved to a farm south of Offerle, Kansas, bringing their team of horses with them. They had three children at that time: Herman (1885), Ida (1882) and Hulda (1883). After moving to Kansas, they had four more children: Albert (A.C.) (1888), Bertha (1890), Edward (1893) and Otto (1895). They left the farm moving to Offerle, Kansas in the year of 1918. Their son Otto, took over the farming operations and lived there until 1943.

Herman, is deceased. His wife, Hannah (Galyardt) died in Kinsley, Kansas in 1976. They had one son, Lawrence. He married Marie Stanley of Trousdale, Kansas. They have two boys and one girl and now live in Elsmore, Kansas.

Ida married Emil Gall.

Hulda married Gottlieb Kregar. They are both deceased. They had four children: Edward, Erna, Hilda and Bertha. Edward, now deceased, married Dortha Neier. They had three sons: Lawrence, Milton and Lyle. Lawrence married Nancy Springer. They live in Offerle, Kansas, and have two sons and a daughter. Milton married Debbie Lanheer. They live in Morrison, Illinois. Lyle is a student and lives at home. Erna (Mrs. Bernthal) lives in Nebraska and has five children. Hilda and husband, Herbert Wetzal, have three children: Virginia, Elizabeth and Paul, and live on a farm south of Offerle, Kansas. Virginia and husband, Fred Goldsberry, have three children. They live in Dodge City, Kansas. Elizabeth and husband, Richard Maskus, have two children and also live in Dodge City, Kansas. Paul is of the home. Bertha and husband, Lawrence Cunningham live in Winfield, Kansas, and have one son.

Albert (A.C.) and his wife, Lena Weiss, who is now deceased, had seven children: Woodrow, Homer, Reinhart, Gerhart, Gertude, Vera and Wilma. Woodrow married Lucille Tolsen. They have three children and live in Concordia, Missouri. Homer married Evelyn Weber. They have five children and live in Alma, Missouri. Reinhart married Myra Blehm. They have seven children and live in Offerle. Gerhart makes his home with his father. Gertrude and husband, Louis Witte, had six children. He was a Lutheran minister and was killed in a car accident. Gertrude and family live in Bertrand, Nebraska. Vera and husband, Edgar Buss, have four children and live in Woodward, Oklahoma. Wilma and husband, Duane Lancaster, have four children and live on a farm south of Offerle, Kansas. Homer and Woodrow are Lutheran ministers and each has a son that is also a minister. A.C. Kurth is the only living child of Edward and Bertha Kurth. He is quite active and alert at the age of eighty-eight. He lives one mile from the farm where he was born. He has taught a Bible class for 45 years in the Zion Lutheran Church located south of Offerle, Kansas.

Bertha married Edwin Weiss. They are both deceased. They had six children: Viola, Orville, Arnold, Meta, Elda and Herman. Two sons, Orville and Arnold are also deceased. They each had two children. Viola married Carl T. Schmidt, who is a Chaplain. They live



A.C. and Lena on their wedding day. A.C. is living and is a very remarkable man in many ways. He is also an author of a book on his family and their experiences.

in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and have two children. Meta and husband, Albert Mehl, live on a farm north of Offerle, Kansas. They have four children: Eldon, Lois, Doris and Eileen. Eldon married Joyce Hamm. They live in Liberal, Kansas, and have four children. Lois and husband, John Haslinger, have three children and live in WaKeeney, Kansas. Eileen is a program analyst and lives in Minneapolis, Minn. and is married to Gary Hansen. Elda married Elmer Wetzell. They live at Dodge City, Kansas, and have three children: Deanna, David and Debra. Deanna and husband, Roger Drach, have one child. They live in Hutchinson, Kansas. David married Cheryl Lippoldt. They live in Kansas City and have two children. Debra lives with her parents. Herman married Virginia Hickman. They live in Farmington, New Mexico, and have three children: Nancy, Janice Sue and Keith.

Edward married Amalia Henning. Edward is deceased. They had nine children: Roberta, Howard, Loretta, Margaret, Gilbert, Beatrice, Ivalene, Geneva and Eulalia. Roberta (Busse) and Harold have three children and live in Alva, Oklahoma. Howard married Dorothy Johnson. They have one boy and live in Alva, Oklahoma. Loretta (Mrs. Art Polson) and husband have six children. They live on a farm south

of Kinsley. Margaret (Mrs. Jack Coles) and husband have three children and live in Coldwater, Kansas. Gilbert married Bonnie Johnson. They have two children and live in Neodesha, Kansas. Beatrice (Mrs. Dick Wheatly) and husband have four children and live in Cambridge, Ohio. Ivalene (Mrs. Bill Pippen) and husband have three children and live in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Geneva (Mrs. Milton Peters) and husband have two children and live in Moore, Oklahoma. Her mother, Amalia, makes her home with them.

Otto married Ellen Simpson. Otto is deceased and Ellen lives in Wichita, Kansas. They had six children: Avanelle, Nora, Otis, Dolores, Leona and Willadean. Otis, a war hero, was killed in action in Germany during World War II. Avanelle and husband Edmund Weiss, have three children: Wanda Jean, Patricia, and Arthur. Wanda Jean and husband, Gerald Stegman, have five children. They live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Avanelle and Edmund live on the home place where Edmund was born. Patricia and husband, Tom Gannon, have three children. They live in Plantation, Florida. Arthur married Shirley Stinson, and they have two boys. Arthur and the two boys live on the home place now. Nora and husband, Andrew Snow live in Maywood, California, and have three children. Dolores (Mrs. Bland Hetzel) lives in Wichita, Kansas, and has two children. Willadean (Mrs. Addis) lives in Wichita, Kansas, and has three children.

THE JOSEPH KURTH FAMILY STORY

Mr. Joseph Kurth was born in Germany and came to America in the early '80s and settled in Dodge City, Kansas, where he was employed as a chef.

In 1887 he married Sophia Herrmann of Offerle. Sophia was born in Auchen, Germany, on May 19, 1869 and migrated, when 16, along with her parents, to America, settling on a homestead ten miles south of Offerle.

Joseph Kurth and Sophia Herrmann were married in Dodge City in 1887. Later they moved to Seattle, Washington, where three sons and one daughter were born. They were August, Elsa, Joseph and Otto.

Joseph Kurth Sr. passed away in Seattle in 1898. The young mother then brought her four children back to Kansas where they lived on a farm south of Offerle.

In the fall of 1900, Sophia married Robert Walthers of Green Bay, Wisconsin. After a short time, in which they made their home in Wisconsin, they returned to a farm a miles and a half southwest of Offerle where their son, Arno, now lives. Robert Walthers Sr., born in Germany, had come to America with his mother. Children born to Robert Sr. Walthers and Sophia Kurth Walthers were Robert Jr. and Arno. Mr. Robert Walthers, Sr. passed away at the Spearville Hospital in 1925. Following her husband's death, Sophia Walthers made her home with her daughter, Elsa Frolich, where she passed away on May the 8th, 1954.



Joe, August, Sophia (Herrmann), and Elsa Mr. Walthers' mother, Robert Walthers holding Ott.

Her son, August had married Esther Davis, a native of Offerle. To this union were born: Marjorie and Mary, both now of California and Glen, now of Wichita, Kansas.

Her daughter, Elsa, had married Edmond F. Frolich. To this union were born two daughters, Mabel and Erna. Mabel married Cecil Offerle and to this union were born three daughters, Marilyn, Maurine and Dolores and one son, Cecil Jr. Marilyn married Robert Wagner and the family lives in Bucklin, Kansas. Maurine married Clarence Jenkins and the family lives at Greensburg, Kansas. Dolores married Tom Moss and this family lives at Steele, North Dakota. Cecil married Linda Green and they live on the farm where his grandmother had lived.

Joseph Kurth married Vernetta Winkler of Offerle. They have one son, Richard. They have lived in California for many years.

Otto Kurth married Sophie Rabe of Offerle.

Deaths occurring in this family over the years, have been: Edmond Frolich on February 19, 1943, Robert Walthers Jr. in 1943, Erna Frolich — as a child of eight years — in 1926, Elsa Frolich on October 30, 1963, August Kurth on May 19, 1970, and Esther Kurth on March 31, 1972.

The only descendents of the Sophia Herrmann Kurth Walthers and Joseph Kurth Sr. now living in the Offerle area are: Otto Kurth, who, with his wife, Sophie, having retired from farming, now lives in Of-



Standing L. to R.: Elsa, Joe, Ott; seated: August.

ferle; Mabel Offerle lives on a farm two and a half miles west of Offerle; Arno Walthers lives on a farm one and a half miles southwest of Offerle and Cecil Offerle Jr. and family live on a farm, the home of Ed and Elsa Frolich family for years, about ten miles southwest of Offerle.

Among the descendants of the original Joseph Kurth family, the majority have chosen farming as a profession. However, several have been teachers, several mechanics, one an electrician and one a horticulturist. Each did well in his or her chosen line of work.



Erna and Mable Frolich



Edmond and Elsa Frolich

WILLIAM J. KURTH

William John Kurth was born in Manhattan, Illinois, the son of Gottlob and Tresase Kurth on March 5, 1872. He was united to marriage to Anna Dornburg, February 19, 1896, at Union Hill, Illinois. She was born in Koren, Germany, June 26, 1877. She was six years old when she came to America with her parents. The Dornburg family was heir to a castle in Germany which was named the Dornburg Castle. It is located in East Germany and has been made into a museum.

When William and Anna Kurth moved to Kansas in December of 1908, there were six children: Laura, Elda, Alma, Minnie, Pearl and Walter. Four more children were born after moving to Kansas; Alva, Mervin, Helen and Clara Mae. When Laura and Elda started to school, they could only speak German. The parents decided then to only speak English and consequently the younger children did not learn to speak German.

Wm. Kurth purchased the farm, where they lived south of Offerle, from Phillip Molitor. It was a homestead and timber claim. The original homestead patent and deed was signed in 1898, by President McKinley. Mr. and Mrs. Phillip H. Molitor lived on a homestead until 1903. In 1908, William Kurth purchased the farm and moved his family

from Manhattan, Illinois, to Kansas. The farm is located seven miles south of Offerle, Kansas.



William and Anna Kurth



Back Row: Alva, Mervin and Walter. Middle Row: Pearl, Helen, Laura, Alma, Elda and Minnie; seated: William, Clara and Anna.

Laura married Edmund Boehme. Shortly after their marriage, he was drafted and sent to France in World War I in 1918. A daughter, Laurine, was born while he was serving in France. After his return, they moved to the Al Ott farm southwest of Offerle. Three more children were born here: Ernest, Ada Mae and Oma Jean. Ernest served in the Navy in World War II. A grandson, Laurine's son, Wayne, was killed in action in Vietnam, November 12, 1965.

Elda married Carlisle Scott in 1924. He was a teacher in the Offerle School system. They later moved to California. Elda moved back to Offerle in 1947, and now lives on the farm south of Offerle.

Alma married Ralph White. They moved to Larned, Kansas, where he was in the grocery business, later moving to Liberal, where he had his own refrigeration and air-conditioning business. They have retired and now live in Clarksville, Arkansas. They have three children: Vinita, now deceased, Robert and William.

Minnie married Abner Offerle. Before her marriage Minnie taught in one-room grade schools south of Offerle and later in the Offerle Grade School. Minnie died in September, 1947. They had two children: Alan and Patricia. Alan died August 8, 1946.

Pearl married Logan Meade. They live north and west of Jetmore on a farm which has been in their family for many years. They have two boys, Charles and Eldon.

Walter married Thelma Kleysteuber. They have five children: Ronald, Beverly, Kay, Maxine and Walter Wayne. They farmed for several years south of Offerle and south of Syracuse, Kansas. They now make their home in Offerle.

Alva married Beulah Elmore and lived in Offerle for several years before moving to Liberal, Kansas, where he was engaged in farming. They had three children: Robert, Jerry and Janice Sue. Alva passed away October 16, 1973.

Mervin served in World War II in the Guam area. Upon returning home, he lived with his parents and cared for them until they passed away. He is still living on the "home place" and Elda makes her home with him.

Helen married William Leith. They lived on a farm south of Offerle two years, then moved to a farm south of Garden City, Kansas, where they lived four years. They then returned to their farm south of Offerle, where they now live. They have four children: Marlene, Larry, Roger and Lana.

Clara Mae married Harold Feldman. She also taught school at the Offerle Grade School. Harold also served in World War II. They live in Great Bend, Kansas, and are owners of an oil drilling company. They have two children: Richard and Deanna.

The family keeps in touch by having a family get-together each year, usually the last Sunday in August.

LANE LOUIS LANCASTER

Lane Louis Lancaster, son of Benjamin and Isabelle Lancaster, was born in Knox Co., Ill., on Feb. 15, 1868. He came to Kansas with his mother, brothers and sisters in a covered wagon in 1885, and settled for a time near Kinsley, until he moved south of Offerle and homesteaded 160 acres. Here he spent his life until his death on March 19, 1927.

He was united in marriage to Louise Strohwitz in March of 1894. There were no children after four years of marriage when his wife died suddenly. In July, 1898, he married Anna Strohwitz, sister of his first wife and to this union four children were born. One daughter died soon after birth, leaving Anna, Louis, and Hulda.

Mr. Lancaster bought other discouraged homesteaders rights and added to his 160 acres, to make the present farm now being farmed by his grandson Duane Lancaster.

Lane and Anna lived on the home place until Nov., 1925, when they moved to Offerle and his son Louis and his wife Bertha Hedges Lancaster moved on the farm. They had two children: Duane and Bonnie. Duane marrying Wilma Kurth and Bonnie married Paul Burkhart. Duane had four children and Bonnie five children, four being born here and one in Pueblo, Colo. where they make their home now.

Anna married Harry Herrmann and had two children born to them: Louis and Lucille. Louis Herrmann now lives on the farm one mile west of his mother's home.

Hulda, the youngest girl, lived only long enough to graduate from high school.

Mr. Lancaster loved the land, taking pride in keeping his horses and cattle in fine shape. Raising plenty of feed was his first concern and wheat next. He loved to hunt and fish, spending all of his spare time at this pass time. In a good many of the early years, the wild game came in handy for food.



Isabelle Lancaster and her family and their spouses and children.

WILLIAM AND HELEN LEITH

"Bill" came to Kansas in 1926, from Sandoval, Illinois. He was born there on May 7, 1905. After finishing school in Sandoval, he worked in the Signal Department for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Illinois, for several years. He then came to Kansas and was a farm laborer.

Bill and Helen Kurth (daughter of William and Anna Kurth) were married May 6, 1935, at Cimarron, Kansas. Helen was born on the farm south of Offerle, November 27, 1917, where the Leith's currently live.

They lived on a farm south of Offerle for two years, then moved to a farm south of Garden City, Kansas, where they lived for three years. In 1941, they returned to the same farm south of Offerle where they still reside.

Bill and Helen have four children: Marlene, Larry, Roger and Lana.

Marlene was born June 20, 1936, at Spearville, Kansas. She attended District 47 country school south of Offerle for four years, then went to the Offerle School when she was in the fifth grade. She graduated from the Offerle High School in 1954. She was married to Robert Fulls (son of Ray and Phoebe Fulls, Kinsley, Kansas) on December 28, 1954, at the E.U.B. Church in Offerle. She now resides in Offerle. She has eight children: Rachel, Chance, Desra, Heath and Jason of the home, Becky, Dallas and Billy live in Dumas, Texas.

Larry was born December 23, 1942, at Spearville, Kansas. He attended all of his school in Offerle, graduating from Offerle High School in 1960. He attended Dodge City Junior College and graduated in 1962. In 1964, he went into the armed forces and was discharged from the Army in February, 1966. He was married to Rachel Johnson (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Johnson, Enid, Oklahoma) March 12, 1965, in the Pentacostal Church at Enid, Oklahoma. They have two sons, David and Troy. They have lived in Dodge City since 1966.

Roger was born in Dodge City, on November 23, 1945. He attended school at Offerle, graduating from Offerle High School in 1963. He attended the Dodge City Vo-Tech School, graduating in 1965. He enlisted in the Air Force in July of 1966, and was discharged in May, 1970. He then attended Dodge City Junior College and graduated in 1972. He was married to Patricia Headrick (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Schaller, Offerle, Kansas) March 11, 1972, at St. Nicholas Church in Kinsley, Kansas. They have two children, Robert Headrick and Amanda. Their home is in Offerle.

Lana was born in Kinsley, Kansas, January 25, 1956. She attended Offerle Grade and Jr. High School and Kinsley High School, where she graduated in 1974. She is attending Salt City Business College at Hutchinson, Kansas.

THE LEY FAMILY

Gottlieb Ley was born March 14, 1833, in East Prussia, Germany.

Just what he did in Germany is uncertain. It has been said he was a gardener in the royal gardens. He was also in the German army.

Gottlieb met Marie Gring, who was born March 7, 1838, in Arklitten, East Prussia, Germany, the place of her birth. They were married there in 1864.

Five children were born, two girls passing away of diphtheria before they left Germany.

Carl Gring, brother of Marie, had come to America in 1874. He had written that the Kansas climate might help Gottlieb's health. He had contacted T.B. in the German army.

In the spring of 1883, at the age of fifty and with financial help from Carl, Gottlieb, came with his Marie and three children: Frieda, thirteen, Fredrick, eleven, and Bertha, seven. They arrived the 3rd day of April, 1883.

At first they stayed with Marie's brother while they had a small house built on their homestead land, nine miles south of Offerle and one and a half miles east of Carl Gring.

The Kansas climate didn't improve Gottlieb's health and he died eight years after coming to America in February, 1892. He was the only Ley that came to America from his family.

Marie (Mary) Ley, with the help of her children continued on the homestead until her death on April 3, 1926, at the age of eighty-eight years and forty-three years to the day she came to America. She had never really liked America and always wanted to return to her beloved Germany.

Frieda found work in Dodge City shortly after coming to Offerle, where she met and later married Joseph Converth in 1896. They had seven children. She lived on a farm north of Dodge until her death in 1929. Two of her children still live in Dodge City.



**Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ley
on their wedding day.**

Bertha married William Wetzel Nov. 8, 1896, and moved to a farm a mile straight west of her parents' home. They had two children:

Charley and Alma. Bertha passed away July 29, 1942. Wm. had died September 17, 1927. Their son, Charley passed away May 19, 1969. Alma married William Froetschner in 1936, and they still live on her parents' farm.

Fredrick Wilhelm, the only son of Gottlieb and Mary, took over the farm, after his father's death, and made a home for his mother. He married Theresia Helmer on November 3, 1897. A bigger house was built and it burnt to the ground in 1923. They then built the present house. They had four children: Lillian, Fredrick Jr., Esther and Edward.

Lillie married Edward Wetzel in 1920. She lives on a farm two miles east of the Ley place. They had a boy and two girls: Raymond, Loretta and Hazel.

Esther married Edward Weiss in 1925, moving two miles west and four south of her home. Three girls were born to them: Leona, Maurita and Norma. Esther passed away July 18, 1943.

Ed married Mary Pivonka in 1930. He moved to a farm a mile south of the Ley's, until in 1957, when they moved to Offerle. They have two girls, Donna and Linda.

Fred Jr. (Fritz) helped his parents on the farm until his father, Fredrick, died on August 10, 1927. Then he took over the farm and made a home for his mother. Theresia died September 1, 1943, six weeks after her daughter's death. Fritz still lives on the old homestead.

LIEBL

Joseph Liebl was born in Bavaria, Germany, on May 6, 1838. He and his first wife came to Reading, Pennsylvania, when he was twenty-one years old. He was a stonemason and a Catholic. Joseph had three daughters by his first wife, who died in Penn. The daughters were Theresa Losey, Mary Dressen and Annie Wirthman. Joseph Liebl then married Elizabeth Ehly, who was born in Lorraine, France, on May 7, 1843, to Conrad Ehly (1811) and Catharian Schneider (1913). Joseph and Elizabeth Ehly Liebl had six children: Conrad (1875), John (1876), Joseph (1878), Catherine Donlinger (1881), Flora Kliesen (1883) and August (Gus) Liebl (1885). About 1875, Joseph Liebl came by train to Kinsley in Edwards County, then walked back to a German settlement at Ellinwood. He purchased railroad land north of there for fifty cents an acre, and Gus Liebl was born on this farm January 15, 1885.

Anton Feisst was born Nov. 22, 1807, to Joseph F. and Theres Feisst. Anton married Maria Anna Kranz (born June 9, 1817). Leo Feist (born July 3, 1839) was the third child of their eight children. George Geppert was born in 1807, to Joseph Geppert and Anna Marie Schapacher. George married Theresia Mueller born Aug. 10, 1810, daughter of Andreas Mueller and Ottilia Echle). Theresia Geppert (born Feb. 16, 1843) was the second child of their four children. Leo Feist and Theresia Geppert were married Nov. 8, 1864. They had 13

children: Leo (1865), Mary Helfrich (1866), Frank (1869), George (1870), Theresia Wolfe (1873), Ida Helfrich (1875), Josephine Bellinghausen (1876), Sophie Koehler (1878) — all born in Germany, and Joe (1881), Lucy Wilkes (1883), Mathilda Liebl (1886), and John (1891) were born in America. Mathilda Feist was born Aug. 15, 1886, in Barton Co., on a farm adjacent to the Liebl farm.

Gus Liebl and Mathilda Feist were married at Sts. Peter and Paul church, North Ellinwood on May 4, 1909. They had eight children: Elmer (1910-died in infancy), Conrad (1911), Esther (1913), John H. (1914), James (1918), Harold (1920), Elwyn (1923), and Celestine (1927), all born on the Liebl farm at Ellinwood. The family moved to a farm northwest of Offerle in August, 1929. Esther, John and James graduated from the Offerle High School. Gus and Mathilda Liebl lived on this farm until he retired in 1957, and they moved to Wichita. Gus died Dec. 31, 1964, and Mathilda died May 13, 1960.

Conrad married Charlotte Laudick. Their children are Maryann (Mrs. Wayne Woodworth), John C., Mark (wife: Debbie Lapetina), Jane (Mrs. Mike Donaher) and Leon. Esther married D. Vincent Gleason. Their children are Miriam (Mrs. Bob Komarek), V. Ronald (wife: Janice Herrmann), Layton (wife: Sue Moorehead), Carolyn (Mrs. Richard Degnan), James (wife: Phyllis Scott), Timothy (wife: Lynn Dewey), Nancy (Mrs. Ronald Winget), Edward (Ted) (wife: Marlene Berger) and Mary (Mrs. John P. Smith). John H. married Lois Golob. Their children are John J. and James P. (Jamey). John H. died in 1969. James (Jim) married Velma Tasset. Their children are J. Michael, C. August (Gus) (wife: Robenette Weber), Laurie (Mrs. Carl Kistler), Lynda and Peter. Harold is single and lives in Wichita. Elwyn (Gus) married Beatrice Wald. Their children are Barbara, Stephen, Thomas and Susan. Celestine (Letty) married Dick Pickens and their



Elwyn and Jim Liebl - Fulda, Germany 1945



Jim and John H. Liebl near Nancy, France - 1945.

children are Stan (wife: Karen Courdin) and Sarah. Jim and Velma and two of their children, Lynda and Peter, are current Offerle residents.

THE LIGHTCAP FAMILY

As far as we know, there were three Lightcaps who came to this country from Germany. Gottfryd Liebgieb came to Germantown, Pa. in approximately 1724. Gottfryd's 1st wife, Anne Elizabeth, was the mother of Agnes, Solomon, Christina, and Elizabeth. Gottfryd's second wife, Christiana Gremelin, was the mother of Mathias and Sophia. Gottfryd was a landowner in Germantown. He died in 1749, when he fell off a wagon in Germantown and broke his neck. Paul Leibgeb arrived in Philadelphia on Sept. 15, 1729, on the ship "Allen". Paul married Christina. Solomon Leibkap arrived before 1743. Solomon married Catherine and had the following children: Jacob, Michael, Solomon, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth, Hester, Magdelene, Mary and Catherine. Solomon purchased land from John Penn in 1743, and was a land owner in Bucks Co., Pa. Solomon died in 1781. (These men are all Lightcaps — there are at least thirty-seven different spellings of the name).

The Lightcaps of Offerle descend from one of the above men — at this time positive identification has not been made. Our positive line of descent begins with Solomon Lightcap, son of one of the above men. He was born around 1729. He spent his early life in Bucks Co., Pa. According to a religious census in 1789, Solomon and his wife Mary had the following children: Samuel, Solomon, Levi, Nancy, Elizabeth, William, Godfrey, and Thomas. Solomon raised his family in Cumberland Co., Pa. and died there in 1894. Solomon's three older sons fought in the Revolutionary War.

Samuel Lightcap, son of Solomon, was born around 1756, in Bucks Co., Pa. He served four tours of duty in the Revolutionary War. He was the only Lightcap to receive a Revolutionary War pension in later life. Samuel was living in Cumberland Co. with his parents when he was drafted for the War. After the war he settled in Westmoreland Co., Pa. In 1789, he married Rachael Craighead. They had the following children: Samuel, Solomon, John, William, Gilson, Mary, and James. Samuel Lightcap died in 1840, in Westmoreland Co., Pa.

William Lightcap, son of Samuel, was born in 1800. William married Susan McClarren. They had the following children: Samuel, Gilson, Rachael Mary, Robert Caskey, Catherine Eliza, William More, Mathew McClarren, John Craighead, and Martha Marie. William Lightcap lived in Westmoreland Co., Pa., his entire life. He died in 1851.

Samuel Gilson Lightcap, son of William Lightcap, was born in 1828, in Westmoreland Co., Pa. He and his 1st wife, Sarah Elizabeth McChesney, had the following children: Mary, Sarah, William McChesney, Robert, Susannah, Margaret Emma, Clara, Samuel, Belle, and John Steele. Mrs. Lightcap died the day John Steele was born.

Later Samuel Gilson Lightcap married Margaret E. Walker and they had the following children: Amanda Jane, Harry Gilson, Della Mae, and Laura Ferguson. Samuel Gilson Lightcap lived his entire life in Westmoreland Co. He died in 1905.

William McChesney Lightcap, son of Samuel Gilson Lightcap, was born in 1854, in Westmoreland Co. Within one or two years after his father's marriage to Margaret Walker, William McChesney Lightcap and his sister Susannah left home. They headed west. They arrived at Offerle in 1878. William McChesney married Sarah Catherine Hixon in 1881 at Offerle. The Hixon family arrived in Offerle in 1878, from Lanark, Ill. William Lightcap farmed near Offerle. In 1897, the farm was in the path of a prairie fire. Everything but the house was destroyed. William and his wife had five children: Robert Earl, Cleveland Leroy, Luella, Reuben Gilson, and Harry Lester. William McChesney Lightcap died in 1908, at Offerle. Robert Earl married Anna Boehme and live in Offerle. Cleveland Leroy (now deceased) married Grace Naomi Showers and lived in Dodge City, Ks. Luella married John Boehme (brother of Anna Boehme) and live in Offerle. Reuben Gilson (now deceased) married (1) Mildred Orr (2) Anne and lived in Garden City, Ks. Harry Lester (now deceased) married Lela I. Newby and lived at Hugoton, Ks.

Robert Earl Lightcap, son of William McChesney Lightcap, was born Feb. 19, 1882 near Offerle. He married Anna Marie Boehme, from Fairgrove, Mo., in 1910, at Kinsley, Ks. In 1915, they bought Charlie Windmill's farm. Robert Earl and Anna Lightcap had five sons: John Ernest, Leander Harold, Melvin Elroy, Earl Junior and Gerald Lee. John died at the age of 20. Leander married Pauline Herrmann and lives in Offerle. Melvin married Maxine Trahern and now lives in Leavenworth, Ks. Earl Junior married Ruby Neal, Earl Junior now lives in Offerle and Ruby lives in Kinsley. Gerald Lee married Patsy Scarbrough and lives near Satanta, Ks. Robert Earl Lightcap retired from farming in 1944, and moved to Offerle. He is a charter member of the Offerle Co-op, he has been a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge for over fifty years. He is a past member of the Trenton Township Board and of the Offerle School Board. Mrs. Lightcap has been an active member of the Rebekah Lodge for over fifty years. Mr. and Mrs. Lightcap have been active members of the E.U.B. Church in Offerle.

Leander Harold Lightcap, son of Robert Earl Lightcap, was born in 1913, at Offerle. He married Pauline Herrmann of Offerle in 1941. They have the following family: Linda Joy, Dee Arlin, Lyle Dean, and Kim Leann. Linda Joy married William C. Armstrong and have three girls, Wendy Gail, Joy Michele, and Heidi Marie. They live in Leucadia, Cal. Dee Arlin married Catherine Delaine Fisher and have two children, Rachel Jane and Glenn Ethan. They live near Offerle. Lyle Dean lives in Kinsley. Kim Leann married Denis Schutte and live in Knowles, Okla. Leander has served on the Edwards County Conservation District Board of Supervisors, the Offerle school board, the

Co-op board, and the Kinsley Hospital board. He is an active member of the Offerle Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges and of the Masons. Pauline belongs to the Rebekah Lodge and Past Noble Grand Club. Leander and his sons, Dee and Lyle, farm near Offerle.

Earl Junior Lightcap, son of Robert Earl Lightcap, was born in 1918 at Offerle. He married Ruby Lorene Neal from Oklahoma. They have the following family: Catherine Erlene, Lorene Kay, Jerry Wayne and Tracy Ann. Catherine Erlene married William Rentfrew and has two children, Kristin Michele and Aaron Dwight. Lorene Kay married Olin Ray Hanes and has two children, Sharla Rae and Kalyn Kae. Jerry Wayne married Ramona Ann Wolfe and they have two children, Hayle Marie and Heather Ann.

Melvin Elroy Lightcap, son of Robert Earl Lightcap, was born in 1916 at Offerle. He married Maxine Trahern. They have one daughter Brenda. Brenda married William Benson and they have a child, Anthony Bret. Melvin teaches school at Leavenworth, Kansas.

Gerald Lee, son of Robert Earl Lightcap was born in 1929, at Offerle. He married Patsy Scarbrough. They have one son and three daughters: Kenneth James, Karen Annette, Stacey Rene and Trudy Lynn. Gerald farms near Satanta, Kansas.

LOIBL

Mollie Burghart was born in 1893, in Topeka, Kansas, to Andrew and Katherine Burghart. In 1901, she moved with her family to Offerle, and here she was married to John Loibl in October of 1914. To this union were born three children: two girls who died in infancy and one son, John, Jr. of Dodge City. They also raised their nephew, Herbert Greenstreet.

John and Fred operated a blacksmith shop in Offerle for many years. In the early 1940's John bought Fred's interests and Fred went to Wichita. In 1947, John was killed in a welding accident in this shop.

John had four brothers and one sister: Fred (wife: Emma Stegman); Henry (wife: Minnie Seith); Maggie (Mrs. Charles Greenstreet); Frank and George. They lived on a farm northwest of Offerle. Frank and George were not married and in their later years they moved into Offerle.

ALBERT MEHL

Albert Mehl, son of Mike and Kathryn Mehl was born in Ellsworth County, in 1906. In 1929, Albert, his sister Bertha, and brother Rhiney moved to the farm west of Offerle. In 1933, Albert and Meta Weiss, daughter of Edwin Weiss, were married. Meta was born just north of Zion Lutheran Church in Ford County. Bertha and Rhiney lived with them for several years.

Albert and Meta have four children. Elden married Joyce Hamm, and they live in Liberal, Kansas, here Elden is employed in the ap-

pliance and television dept. for Otasco. They have four children: Dene, who graduated from high school this Bicentennial year; Mike, Dan and LaRonda. Lois married Gene Feldman and now lives at Troy, Idaho where Gene farms, and Lois is employed at the First Bank of Troy. They have two children: Keith who graduated from high school this Bicentennial year; and Beth who is a Sophomore. Doris married John Hafliger whom she met while teaching school at WaKeeney, Kansas. They now live on a farm there, and have three children, Fred, John and Mark. Eileen married Gary Hansen and lives in Minneapolis, Minn. where they are both employed by Control Data Corp.

Albert and Meta built a new home on the farm in 1947, where they still live. Albert retired from farming in 1974.

MOLITOR FAMILY

The Molitor's live ten miles south of Offerle along the Arkansas River. Our paternal ancestors originated in Germany.

Joseph Molitor from Winnweiler, married Frances Sauer from Hoehstein, two small villages in the southern part of Germany, on or near the French border. They were united in marriage in the early spring of 1861. Our family has the original marriage contract drawn between the young couple written long hand in the German script. We were not sure of the contents until Miss Julia Weiss of Offerle was kind enough to translate and transcribe this into English. The document gave the vocation of the couples' parents and Joseph Molitor's occupation as a carpenter and cabinetmaker. It also specified the dowry paid in Dutch Gulden by the bride's parents.

The young couple emigrated to the United States in April of 1865. They came into New York when the city was in mourning for President Lincoln, who had just been assassinated. They settled in Joliet, Illinois, where friends and relatives helped them get established. Joseph Molitor first came to Kansas in 1874, and returned in 1875, to establish a homestead on the southeast quarter of section 26, township 26, range 21. He built a sod house and planted a tree claim. He returned to Joliet, and during the spring of 1876, brought his wife and five children to this community. Several years later they bought the land adjoining the east of them and established a home and farmstead on this site. The couple had eight children.

Catharine, born 1861, married Frank Trimpa. Their children were: Frances, Mary, Thomas, Liz, Susie, Jeff, Frank, Allen, Bessie and Ted.

Elizabeth, born 1863, married George Lightner. Their family consists of John, Frank, George, Maude and Margaret. John Lightner's sons live in the Garden City area.

Phil Molitor, born 1871, married Maude McDaniels, and their children are: Beulah, Myrl (deceased) and Jack all of Kinsley.

George Molitor, born 1873, never married and was a rancher of the

Spearville area.

Coraline, born 1876, died at age eight years in a diphtheria epidemic.

Mary Molitor, born 1873, married M. W. Oliphant. Their children were: Lucille, Gladys, Vernon and Cora.

Frances Molitor, born 1882, died at the age of one in 1884, of diphtheria.

Charles Molitor, born 1883, married Leonora Baier. Their children are: Helene, Frances, Irma Beth and Edwin.

Edwin Molitor and Peggy Herzog were married in 1953, and live south of Offerle, and still farm the original Molitor homestead. Their children are Kirk, Eric, Aaron and Sarah.

NALL

Mike Nall (1841-1925) married Sally Loibl (1842-1933). They were the parents of nine children: Frank (1866-1954) married Sophia Goeble and they are the parents of three children: Martha (Domme) 1892-1957; Mary (Katz) 1892-1928; and Willie (married Amelia Kringle) 1894. Bill (1868-1937) single; Lizzie (1871-1949) married Will Mellecker and they were parents of Mary (Mrs. Guy Young); Tony (married Leona May); Joseph (married Agnes Young); Agnes (Mrs. Allan Reeves); and Anna (Mrs. John Koch). John (1873-1937) married Mayme Trenkamp, and they were parents of: Ben (married Florence Pierce); Stella (Mrs. Jack Davis); Alfred (married Mildred Davis); Lucille (Mrs. John Jackson); and Mike (1908-1915). Teresa (1876-1960) married Bill Crocker. Mike (1879-1940) married Goldie Reidl and they had no children. Anna (1882-1960) married John Walters and they were parents of: Wilbur (married Josephine Riedl); Edith (married C.J. Vesper); Marion (Mrs. Ned Walker); Sarah (Mrs. Jasper Guthridge); Della; Emma (Mrs. Harold Schiefelbein); and Tommy (married Norma Lee Schawe). George (1882-1963), single; and Molly (1883-1968) married Herman Katz and they were parents of: Herman (married Florence May Jensen); Agnes (twins) (Mrs. Shelby Wilson); and Marie (Mrs. Richard Palmer).

Mike Nall's parents were George and Clara (Novak) Nall. They were married in Austria and George died there. Klara (1812-1895) is buried in Old St. Joe Cemetery. They had three children: Mike, Lizzie (1847-1899) and Rosalia (1856-1940) who married George Benish (1857-1942).

LAWRENCE OFFERLE

Lawrence Offerle was born May 28, 1932, to John Jacob and Salome Peter Offerle, in Alsace, France. He came to America in 1847, settling in Warren, Pennsylvania. In 1849, Lawrence went to Chicago and worked in the mercantile business. On May 3, 1852, he married

Mary Ursula Ott. She was born in Warren, Pennsylvania, on January 20, 1833. In 1853, he started his mercantile business in Chicago. The building which housed his store is still in use there today. In 1860, this couple moved to Geneseo, Illinois, and started another mercantile business. In 1875, Simon Ott, a friend, was land agent for the new Santa Fe Railroad. He wrote Lawrence to come to Kansas. In 1876, Lawrence went West during the land boom which resulted when the Santa Fe Railway was built across Kansas. He laid out a town which was named for him, Offerle, Kansas. He then went to Minnesota — bought lumber from the saw mills, shipped it down the Mississippi river to St. Louis, then by boat up the Missouri river to Kansas City, then by rail to Offerle. At this time he sent his two oldest sons, Abner and Edwin, to Kansas to start the town.

The lumber was used to build a two and half story hotel and a general mdse. store. The two men started the general store and hotel and had them operating for business by the time the homesteaders and land seekers came to Kansas. Offerle was an outfitting post for many families coming west to start their new homes. The general store was located on the east side of Main street where the Speck Cafe is now. The hotel was across the street west, where the present Offerle store building is today. He returned to Geneseo and continued his mercantile business there. He left his three older sons to take care of things in Offerle.

The general store was just that — the sign on the front of the old building read — General Mdse. — Boots - Saddles - Dry Goods - Provisions. The store was used as a meeting place for the community and also as a church. Homesteaders and farmers were coming to Kansas and Offerle became a busy place to outfit the new settlers for their new homes.

Harry Offerle and Will Sand became partners with Abner Offerle in 1908. In 1912, they built the two story brick building where the present Offerle store is now. In 1925, Abner Offerle retired from the business he had started in 1876, leaving the business to his son Harry. Harry Offerle retired from the business in 1935, and his son Abner, Jr., better known as Abe or A. B., became owner and has operated the business to the present time. He also bought a ranch on the west edge of what is now Commanche County. His sons, Abner and Norman, worked the ranch while Edwin took care of the store and Post Office. Oscar, who was only 13 when he came to Offerle, helped his brother Edwin, in the store. These four boys kept things going until Lawrence moved to Offerle with the rest of his family in 1882.

The Lawrence Offerle's had seven children — Abner, born March 3, 1855; Edwin Eli, born September 15, 1856; Norman Jacob born July 6, 1859; Minerva Clara, born February 15, 1862; Oscar born August 13, 1864; Amanda Eleanora, born May 8, 1868; and Russell Alvin, born January 22, 1871. Mary Ursula Offerle died on July 16, 1895, and Lawrence died on April 14, 1906.

Edwin Eli Offerle married Jessie Taylor. Their children were: Edna, Lester, Gertrude, Verna, Mollie and Edwin, Jr. They left Offerle before the children were grown. Gertrude, Mollie, and Edwin Jr., are now living in California.

Norman Offerle married Kate Snyder. They had three children: Lawrence, Jr., Ralph and Laura.

Minerva married Wilbert Barnes and they had three children: Elmer, Vera, and Marie.

Amanda married Louis Alber and had two children: Herbert and Vera.

Russell married but they had no children. Russell died August 16, 1940, in Oregon.

Oscar married Minnie Bastain on May 5, 1886, at Milan, Illinois. They moved to Offerle to make their home. They had four children: Iva, Clarence, Blanche and Elma.

Abner Offerle married Mary Hines Sand, a widow with two children: William Obed and Harriet (Hattie) Ellen. They lived on the farm northwest of Offerle. Later they moved to town where Abner operated the grocery store. Mary and Abner had two children: Harry Abner and Florence. Abner died July 21, 1930, and Mary April 17, 1938.

Harry Abner Offerle was born March 17, 1883. He married Mary Olivia Hedges (Lucy) on March 7, 1906. She was born February 14, 1871, at Atlanta, Illinois. Lucy Hedges had been a school teacher at Offerle before her marriage. Harry and Lucy Offerle had three children: Abner Benjamin, born February 8, 1907; Cecil Harry, born April 8, 1909; and Kathryn Mary, born on June 2, 1911. Harry and his father, Abner Offerle, built a large new store building next to the highway going through town, (present Offerle Grocery Store). Harry operated the grocery store until 1927, when he sold the store and moved to Dodge City. In 1932, they moved back to Offerle. Harry did some farming until retirement but did not go back into the store, as his son Abner, was operating the grocery store by this time. On December 18, 1937, Mary (Lucy) Offerle died. Harry later married Augusta Herrmann Strohwitz, a widow. Harry died at his home October 31, 1937. Augusta Herrmann Offerle died in 1975.

Florence Offerle, daughter of Abner and Mary Sand Offerle, married Royl Sherman Gunn. They had a son, Roland Sherman Gunn. Florence died August 18, 1967, and Roy died October 15, 1969.

Roland Gunn married Evelyn Hassler. They live in Hutchinson where they operated Gunn Music Company. They had two children: Sherman Dale and Roberta Annette, now Mrs. Lonn McCurdy of Wichita. Sherman married Gay Schaffer. They live in Las Vegas and have two children, Doria Jean and Dale Rob.

Abner Benjamin Offerle married Minnie Kurth. Abner operates the grocery store in Offerle at present. He and Minnie had two children: Alan and Patricia Ann. Alan died an accidental death in 1946. Minnie died soon after. Sometime later Abner married Delveta Hedges

and they have one son, Howard Harry. Abner and Delveta are still living in Offerle. Patricia married Harold Hood and they live in Ellinwood. They have four children, Michael Scott, Douglas Alan, Becky Sue and Brian Wayne. Howard is in Topeka.

Cecil Harry Offerle and Mabel Frolich were married June 10, 1931. They had four children: Marilyn, Maurine, Dolores, and Cecil, Jr. Cecil died on June 2, 1972. Mabel still lives on the farm. Marilyn married Robert Wagner of Kinsley. They live in Bucklin. They have two children: Kent Robert, and Elaine Christine. Maurine married Clarence Jenkins. They have five children: Nancy Jo, David Lee, Betty Lynn, Mary Ruth and John Alan. Dolores married Dr. Thomas Moss, Veterinarian, from Hoxie. They live at Steele, North Dakota, and have two children: Stanley Allen and Steven Brian. Cecil Jr. married Linda Green of Offerle. They live on a farm southwest of Offerle (Mabel Offerle's parents farm). They have two sons: Cecil Wayne and Michael Lane.

Kathryn Mary Offerle married John McMasters. They have now retired to a small acreage near Claremore, Oklahoma. They have three children: Robert E., who is a ministerial student at SMU; Myrna Kay, who married Van Vick, living at Irving, Texas, and has two sons: Gary Don and Bryan Paul; and Lucy Claar, who married Stanley Goletz, living now in Oklahoma City, and has one son, Terrance Jon.

Oscar and Minnie Bastain Offerle lived in Offerle until 1898, when Oscar clerked in his father's store. Then they bought a farm. In April, 1910, Oscar, Minnie, and their two youngest children, Blanche and Elma, moved to Wichita. Minnie died June 3, 1926, and Oscar died December 24, 1955. The two older children, Iva Berniece and Clarence, were grown when the family moved to Wichita.

Clarence had two sons, Irvin Oscar, who died in a prison camp in Burma during World War II, and Roy Maxwell, who lives in Laredo, Texas. Blanche married Edwin Wheeler and now lives in McPherson, Kansas. Elma Offerle never married and died in Wichita. Iva Berniece Offerle married Joseph Alphonso Herron on May 25, 1909. They lived on a farm northeast of Spearville until 1949, when they moved to Kinsley. They had two sons; Glenn Emerson and Joseph. Joseph Herron died at Kinsley on March 17, 1951. Iva Herron died at Spearville on December 24, 1963. Glenn Herron and his family live at Lexington, Kentucky. Cecil Herron lives on a farm northeast of Spearville. He married Hazel Lou Rethorst and they have six children: Linda, James, Nancy, Janet, Patricia and Debra.

THE OLIPHANT FAMILY STORY

No history of Offerle, small town in western Kansas, would be complete without the addition of the name, Oliphant. The family has been in the area since 1878, and in the Offerle area since 1901. From that early day to this day of the Centennial year, the name Oliphant

has been associated with the growth and development of the community. In church, school, civic and other community projects for the uplift of humanity in this new land; the Oliphants were contributing to it in some way.

Marcus Wilbur Oliphant was born in Osceola, Iowa, in 1876. He was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Bartus Oliphant. The family moved to this area in 1878. Twenty years later M. W. Oliphant and Mary Molitor were married.

Mary Molitor was the second to youngest of twelve children born to Joseph and Frances Molitor of Bavaria, who had arrived in America on the day of Abraham Lincoln's funeral in 1865. In the early seventies they had migrated to this area and by the mid-seventies had built a home in the far southeast corner of Ford County, southwest of Offerle.

M. W., better known as Wilbur, and his wife, Mary, moved south of Offerle in 1901, where Mr. Oliphant farmed and built a Hardware Store. In 1911, they moved to Offerle which at this time, 65 years later, is the Offerle Cafe. Mr. Oliphant operated the Hardware and Implement Store close to fifty years. He also farmed. His store was always a friendly place of business where one could buy the best and latest equipment or spend time in a social visit.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Oliphant: Lucille, Gladys,



Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Oliphant, Gladys and Lucille.

Vernon and Cora. Lucille married Homer Richter and has lived in Dodge City during most of the years since her marriage. To this union were born two children, Mary Ellen and Wilbur. Mary Ellen and Ross Frederick were married and have a daughter. Presently, they live in Denver. Wilbur is married and lives at Ft. Worth, Texas and they have several children.

Gladys married Wilfred Riggs. She died in 1922. No children were born to this union.

Vernon married Marie Rabe, who was a school teacher, in the year 1926. Vernon was engaged in the Hardware and Farming business with his father until the Depression years, when he went into the cattle business and farming for himself. He was a prosperous farmer and rancher. He served on the school board for 19 years and as mayor of Offerle for many years. The Vernon Oliphants were the parents of three children: Gladys, Mark and Rodney.

Gladys married Carl (Bernard) Brecheisen of Offerle. The now live at Savannah, Missouri, where Carl is a State Farm Manager. They have three sons: Steve, Brian and Scott.

Mark married Phyllis Garman, a school teacher from Courtland,



Standing: Wilbur Oliphant; seated: H. B. Marcus, and Vernon - 4 generations of Oliphants

Kansas. They live at Clay Center, Kansas, where Mark is the purchasing agent at the Hutchinson Manufacturing Company, a Division of the Royal Industries. They have two boys, Jeff and Doug. Jeff is on the Oliphant farm near Offerle and Doug is still in high school at Clay Center.

Rodney Oliphant, D.V.M. graduate from Kansas State College in Manhattan, married Kay Kurth, daughter of Walter and Thelma Kurth. She is a graduate nurse. The Rodney Oliphants live at the farm site northeast of Offerle, where he has built a Veterinary Clinic and has a large practice in the area. They have two children, Debra and David. Rodney is president of the Kinsley-Offerle School Board. He continues with the live-stock business and farming which his father had begun. His father, Vernon, died on the 13th of Nov. in 1971 at KU Medical Center in Kansas City. Services were held at the United Methodist Church in Offerle, burial in Offerle Cemetery.

Cora, youngest of the M. W. Oliphant children, was a talented young lady, a fine musician, good in sports and was a 4-H club member. She was a graduate of Kansas State College in Manhattan. She married Lawrence (Boots) Norton. His business took him to several foreign countries in the interest of Agriculture. Four sons were born to this union. They were: Harold, who is with the State Department in Washington, D.C.; Bruce, who is with the Hesston Corporation at Newton, Kansas; David, who is an Instructor at Texas A and M College in Texas; and Colburn, who is in college at Austin, Texas. Cora, following the death of her husband in an airplane accident, married Dr. Emil Mostek and lives at Arlington, Virginia.



Rodney, Marie, Vernon, Gladys and Mark Oliphant.

Now, back to the pioneer hardware and implement dealer of Offerle, Mr. M. W. (Wilbur) Oliphant, who was engaged in the hardware

business for more than forty years. He served as mayor of Offerle for several terms, built Cottage Courts in the west part of town, and donated land for the Offerle City Park. In 1916, when the first rural high school in the state of Kansas was built in Offerle, Mr. Oliphant was elected as director on the school board, and a few years later, his eldest daughter, Lucille, was among members of the first class to graduate from that school. He lost his wife, Mary, by death in 1945. During his declining years, Mr. Oliphant spent many of the winters in Florida. At the age of 90 years, he departed this life in 1966, at the Spearville Hospital. Fitting services were held at the United Methodist Church in Offerle and burial was in the Evergreen Cemetery west of Offerle. So ended the rewarding life of a true pioneer who gave much of his life to the growth and development of the small western town of Offerle.

THE OTTS AND RUSSELLS OF OFFERLE, KANSAS

The stories of the founding of Offerle as they were passed down through the Offerle and Ott families contain remarkably few major variances. What follows is the Ott family version as gleaned from family documents and old newspapers, also from stories told by Martha Loda Ott and Ralph L. Russell, and members of the Lawrence Erickson family.

Simon S. Ott was a Santa Fe Railroad official. He evidently was involved in the building of the Santa Fe at least as far west as Dodge City. An interesting anecdote about him was told by Ralph Russell who knew Simon well and liked him. Much of the railroad bed was built by two-man teams of laborers. Each team had a box with shafts attached fore and aft by which one man in front and one at the rear could carry the box. The procedure was to go down into the pit alongside the right-of-way, fill the box with dirt dug by shovels, carry it to the road bed, turn the box over to empty it and then return for another load.

During one of Mr. Ott's inspection trips the road bed was built to about the present Ford-Edwards county line. While watching the workmen the idea struck him that they could get twice as much work done if each laborer was equipped with a wheelbarrow. He had the Topeka office ship out a carload of wheelbarrows, instructed the local overseer to replace the boxes with wheelbarrows when they arrived and then left for business elsewhere. He looked forward with great anticipation to returning to the site, expecting of course, to see if progressing at double the former speed. Imagine his surprise and disappointment upon his return to find that it was moving at the same old rate. The wheelbarrows had arrived and the crews were equipped with them. The crews would fill them as they did the boxes. But what slowed down the operation was this: When the wheelbarrow was full one laborer would grasp the handles, the other would pick up the wheel and carry it to the road bed as they had the box. He had forgotten to

leave instructions for the use of wheelbarrows. The immigrant laborers had never seen one before and did not know how to use one.

Another of Simon Ott's duties was to dispose of the land which was given to the railroad company as an incentive to build the road. For reasons unknown, Mr. Ott was of the opinion that the site which became Offerle, was the best remaining site for a city between Hutchinson and Dodge City. He had an agreement with his brother, Edward Philip Ott, and with members of the Offerle family back in Geneseo, Illinois, that when he found the perfect town site, he would send for them. If all agreed, they would found a town. Edward Ott and Lawrence Offerle, came to inspect the site. They evidently agreed with Simon that this was the place and founded the town in 1876.

My family tradition says that the Otts were agreeable to naming the town Offerle because it would not be proper to have Ott in the name because of Simon's connection with the railroad. Records indicate that the Offerles took title to all the property north of the track and Otts took title to the property south of the tracks.

Just how the early development of Offerle was financed is a little confusing. Phillip Russell has a stock certificate No. 6 for 37½ shares of "Offerle Town Company" stock issued to E. P. Ott. Issue date was 10-20-1885 and the certificate is signed by Lawrence Offerle, President. It is embossed with a corporate seal that bears the date 1877. Probably they did not get around to the formality of incorporating immediately and issued stock progressively as capital was needed, at least for nine years!

The Offerles were evidently merchants in Illinois. They built a store, one of the first, north of the tracks. Probably this was Lawrence, although it was operated by his sons Abner and Edwin. It is still in the family and is operated by Lawrence's great-grandson, Abner Offerle.

Edward Ott went south of the tracks and built a lumber, coal, hardware and machinery business. Little by little he sold lots south along Main Street and elsewhere in the south side of town. At first he lived in a house on the north side of town, just east of the Evangelical Church which he helped to found. In 1905, he moved to his showplace home in the south end of Offerle which he had just completed. Ralph Russell, worked for Ed Ott during this time. He told of picking out the best yellow pine flooring boards from each car of lumber for several years and laying them aside for use in this house.

Edward Philip Ott was born in Cook County, Illinois, in 1844, served in the 3rd Illinois Cavalry during the Civil War and married Miss Sarah Sommers of Henry County, Illinois, in 1869. Their two oldest children, Almon C. Ott and Hazel Ott Rethorst, were evidently born in Illinois, and came to Offerle with their mother. Another son, Leroy was born in Offerle, but lived only a short time. Sarah died in 1894. In 1898, Ed Ott was united in marriage with Miss Martha Loda Russell. A child, Effie, was born to this union, but died in 1910.

In the early days of Offerle, also Edwards, Ford and Hodgeman



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ott in front of their house in Offerle.

counties, Ed Ott was very active in community development and in building business. He had land holdings in all three counties. He was a stockholder in the "Edwards County Agricultural & Industrial Association." Two stock certificates, No. 9, dated 11-16-1885 and No. 222 dated 12-7-1885 were signed by J. M. Lewis, President. He was an early Kinsley pioneer and publisher of the Kinsley Graphic. One purpose of this association was to bring water, taken out of the Arkansas River west of Charleston, by canal to Edwards County for the purpose of irrigation. The canal site was acquired to the Ford-Edwards County line. The ditch was dug at least as far east as Cimarron. It can still be seen easily north of Highway 50 between Ingalls and Cimarron.

Mr. Ott was also a prime mover in the formation of the Farmers State Bank, the Evangelical Church, Evergreen Cemetery, and many other enterprises. His buggy horses were all descendants of "Dan Patch," the famous Chicago trotting horse, whose track records stand to this day. But at the age of 71 years, one month and 26 days on April 11, 1915, Mr. Ott died in a Dodge City hospital.

During the early days of Offerle, the Ott and Russell families were so involved with each other through marriage and business that it is virtually impossible to separate them. As mentioned previously, E. P. Ott's second wife was Miss Martha Loda Russell. Her friends and relatives called her Loda because she preferred it to her first name. The Russells also originated in Illinois, in Shelby County, very near to Geneseo, where the Ott's and Offerles resided. It is not believed, however, that they were acquainted there. Financial reverses caused Daniel Russell to sell his Illinois farm, salvage what he could of his goods and money and for reasons unknown, move to Arkansas, in 1884. In 1888, he died there. In 1890, his widow Isabella and seven of her

thirteen children moved to a 160 acre farm, the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 6-24-20, about a mile and one half north of Offerle. The probable reason for selecting this site was the fact that Mary Alice Russell, one of the older children had secured a teaching position at School District No. 10 near Offerle.

As the children grew up, many wandered away. In 1897, Mary Alice married Lawrence Erickson, a farmer north of Kinsley. In 1898, Martha Loda married Edward P. Ott. Only Ralph, the youngest, remained at home with his mother. About 1900, they moved to town into a small house that still stands. It is the first house north of the depot, just behind the abandoned filling station.

Ralph worked as an employee of Ed Ott for several years. Later he went into business for himself in a red grain elevator that stood approximately where the west portion of the Farmers' Elevator now stands. Following the death of his mother in 1906, he was engaged in the grain business in Kinsley. Here he met his first wife, Carrie A. Boody, a first grade teacher. He became a State Grain inspector and moved to Hutchinson about 1915, and spent most of his life ther.

Sometime about the turn of the century, Lawrence Erickson, husband of Mary Alice Russell, became a partner in business with Edward P. Ott. Following Mr. Ott's death, the business continued as Ott & Erickson, a partnership between Lawrence Erickson and Mrs. E. P. Ott until it was sold to the Offerle Co-op during World War II.

POLLOK FAMILY

Susan Steele Buchanan Pollok was born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, April 7, 1843. She and Israel Hamilton Pollok lived on a



Mr. Pollok on the front porch of his new home, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Don Strong.

farm west of the Evergreen Cemetery. In or near 1910, they moved into Offerle and built the home across the street and west of the Catholic Church.

They had two children, Henry Clair Pollok and Jennie E. Pollok. Jennie later married F. A. Diers, who lived in Offerle about the time the cyclone struck.

Mrs. Pollok died in 1910, while painting a bedstead in their new home in Offerle.

Very little is known of Mr. and Mrs. Pollok's background. Both came from the eastern states and had ten children, all deceased but Harry C. and Jennie E.

Mrs. Pollok attended church at the Evangelical Church (that the tornado struck) and also taught a Sunday School Class there. Mr. Pollok was employed at a drug store of Mosher and Deter.

QUASEBARTH

Heinrich L. A. Quasebarth came from Germany in the middle 1870's. He homesteaded six miles south of Offerle in Ford County in the northeast quarter of section 12, and tree claimed the southeast quarter of section 12. In the late 1870's he married Wilhemine Haman who came from Ill. They had nine children: Minnie (deceased) married Lou Fahlsing (deceased); Henry (deceased) married Anna Hink (deceased); Wilhelm (died in infancy); Dorthée (died in infancy); August (died in infancy); Ludwig (died in infancy); Sophia (deceased) married Fred Fahlsing (deceased); Amelia (deceased June 1976) married Claude Livengood and lived in Bethany, Oklahoma; Maria (deceased) married Dave Cassel (deceased).



Heinrich L. A. Quasebarth



Wilhemina (Haman) Quasebarth

Henry and his wife, Anna, raised their family on the homestead. They are Margaret, Martha, Esther, Ellen (deceased), Harold, Henry, George, Marion (deceased), Lavada married Elmer Engelhardt, Izola married Reinhardt Jorns, and Raymond.

Harold, Henry, George, Martha, Margaret and Esther are now

living on the homestead.

RABE HISTORY

Henry Rabe and Elisa Hunecke were born in a village of Brebber, Germany, near Ausendorf. They were married in 1890. They decided they wanted to raise their family in a country where they did not have compulsory military training and where their family would have better opportunities.

In 1892, they sailed for America. They came to Claytonia, Nebraska, where there was a German Lutheran settlement, where they joined Mrs. Rabe's brother, Fred Hunecke who came from Germany previously and had settled there. Another brother, William Hunecke, joined them later. Mr. Rabe's brother, John, came to America earlier before the age of military training.

Henry and Elisa Rabe raised a family of nine children. In the spring of 1902, they moved to a farm near Gaylord, in Smith County, Kansas. In 1904, they moved to a farm west of Vassar, Kansas. In 1918, the family moved to a farm east of Offerle. Mr. Rabe preceeded his wife in death. She continued to live on the farm until her death in 1929.

The two oldest children, Fred and William, were twins. Fred Rabe married Minnie Tarver of Cordel, Oklahoma. They had three children, Alfred, Marcella, and Fred Jr. Minnie died in 1970, and Fred and his daughter live in Missouri. Alfred has two sons Terry and Allen. Alfred is retired from the Gleaner Baldwin Company and lives in Loveland, Colorado. Marcella has three daughters, Maxine, Charlene and Linda. Fred Jr. has five children, Dianna, Genie, Mary, John and Kay. Junior is a truck driver for the Yellow Lines and lives in Grove, Oklahoma.

William Rabe married Ruth Hedges in 1921. They lived on a farm south of Offerle, where they raised their three children: Elaine, Ethan and Wilda. They retired and moved to Offerle, where Ruth died in 1970. William still lives in Offerle. Elaine Rabe married Vernon Katz who farms north of Offerle and they live in Kinsley. They have four children, Lyle, Carol, Jeana and Thane. Wilda Rabe married Kenneth Bartman, who is employed at the Edwards County Hospital. Wilda works for Bill Dark Motors. They have two children Kent and Ronda and live in Kinsley. Ethan Rabe lives on a farm south of Offerle. He farms and is engaged in carpentry.

Henry Rabe married Bertha Roepka in 1921. They lived on a farm south of Offerle, where they raised five children. Vinita Rabe married Ralph Strain of Larned. He was a carpenter. Ralph died in 1972. Vinita had six children: Mike, Wayne, Terry, David, Barbara and Steven. Mike was killed in an automobile accident in 1966. Ada Lee Rabe married Bert Kennard of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Bert is a mortician and Ada Lee is vice-president of a Tulsa bank. Ila Mae Rabe married Kenneth Buckley of Dodge City. He is employed as a Maintenance Supervisor in Westminster, Colorado. They have four children: Sheryl, Kathy, Kenneth Jr. and John and live in Westminster,

Colorado. Marvin Rabe married Agnes Arnsdorf of Willowdale. Marvin manages the Co-op at Bellefont. Marvin and Agnes have eight sons: Terry, Gary, Randy, Timmy, Kevin, Kenneth, Tommy and Bobby. They live at Windthorst. Verla Rabe married Rolland Leaf of Garfield. He is employed at the Offerle Co-op and Verla works for the Kinsley Automotive in Kinsley. They have two daughters: De Anna and Janet and live in Offerle. Bertha Rabe died in 1957. Henry later married Marie Quasebarth. Henry died in 1965, and Marie died in 1972.

In 1921, Herman Rabe married Mabel Duffield of Missouri. They live on a farm west of Jetmore. Herman was a farmer and auctioneer. They have three children, Glenn who married Betty Randel of Jetmore. They have three sons: Neil, Dale and Larry and live in Springfield, Missouri. Glenn has an upholstery and cabinet shop. Naomi married Dale Allen of Burlington, Kansas. Dale is manager of the Co-op elevator at Montezuma. They have two sons: Rodney and Terry. Naomi also works for the Co-op in Montezuma where they live. Clema Rabe married Donald Rhoades of Jetmore. He is employed in the U. S. Postal Service in Springfield, Missouri. They have three children: Vindy, Damon and Adena and live in Springfield. Herman died in 1973.

Emma Rabe taught school for several years and married Luther Vogelgesang who was a barber at Spearville. They had one son, Calvin, who married Jeanette Lutz at Spearville. He is superintendent of the Goddard school system. They live in Wichita with their three daughters: Kim, Lori and Lynette. Barbara Vogelgesang married Ted Ganske and they live in Hillsboro, Oregon. Luther Vogelgesang died in 1959.

Dora Rabe married Dewey Refro of Offerle in 1927. Dora taught school for thirty years and Dewey is employed at the Farmers State Bank. He has worked for the bank for over forty years. They reside in Offerle.

In 1921, Sophia Rabe married Otto Kurth. They made their home on a farm south of Offerle. Sophia worked as a nurse aid in the Edwards County Hospital in Kinsley. They are now retired and live in Offerle.

John Rabe married Bernice Simmons of Jetmore. John farmed a number of years, then operated a filling station in Offerle and Jetmore. Bernice taught school and now is employed in the bank at Jetmore. They had three children. Jack has an air force career. He married a German girl, Ruth. They have two daughters: Rita and Judy. James Rabe married Sharon Brothers of Sterling. They have two children: Jeffery and Joanna and live in Wichita. Jim was a pharmacist at the Wesley Clinic until his death in 1974. Janis Rabe married Royce Carder of Jetmore. They have one son, Jody and live in Jetmore, where Royce farms.

Marie Rabe taught school several years. In 1926, she married Vernon Oliphant who was employed in his father's hardware and

machinery business. They also installed many of the first radios in this area. He then went to farming and stock raising. They have three children: Gladys, Marcus and Rodney. Gladys married Carl Brecheisen. He is a agent manager for State Farm Insurance and live in Savannah, Missouri, with their three sons: Steven, Brian and Scott. Marcus married Phyllis Garman of Courtland, Kansas. He is assistant manager of the Hutchinson Manufacturing Company in Clay Center where they live. They have two sons: Jeffrey and Douglas. Rodney married Kay Kurth of Offerle. Rodney is a veterinarian and also a farmer and stockman living northeast of Offerle. Kay is a registered nurse. They have two children: David and Debra. Vernon died in November, 1971.

THE REGNIERS

As we recall, we were told that Great-grandfather Lambert Regnier lived in Koblenz, Germany, having emigrated there from France and-or Alsace-Lorraine; and that four of his sons, among them Simon, our grandfather, and Michael, came to this country, in the middle of the 19th century, all locating in Chicago. Simon, thought to be the first of the four to arrive here, fought in the Union Army during the Civil War, and spent his latter years in the Old Soldiers' Home, Fort Dodge, Kansas.

Simon (also spelled Simeon) Joseph Regnier, 1834-1907, and Michael Regnier, 1845-1906, brought their families to Kansas in the late 1870's or early 1880's, lured by the placards of the AT&SF Railroad and the glowing reports of its agents. Both settled in Hodgeman County, Michael two and one-quarter miles east of St. Mary's Church, Simon three-quarters further east and one mile south.

The children born to Michael and his wife were: Katherine; Gertrude; Elizabeth; Frank, Peter; Joseph, father of Lucille (Regnier) Uden and Leora (Regnier) Evans; Mary; and Anna (Regnier) Ellis, presently living in St. Alvans, New York. With the exception of Frank who died in his teens, these brothers and sisters grew to adulthood in this area; but only two were to live their entire lifetimes here: Mary (Mrs. Ole Olson) who died without issue in 1968; and Peter (better known as Pete), who passed away in 1966 and whose widow, Mrs. Martha (Burkhart) Regnier, lives in Spearville.

Only the two eldest of Pete's children have remained in this area: Cecil (unmarried, who lives on the home place east of St. Mary's; and Adrian, who married Elizabeth Fischer, and lives in Offerle. The others are: Fermin, Dighton; Mary "Lou" Elizabeth (Regnier) Henry, Belton, Mo.; and Cora (Regnier) Briggs, Osage City.

Keith, the oldest of Adrian's three children, lives in Russell and has two children; Marilyn (Regnier) Welsch, Kinsley, has three boys, Troy, Mark and Brian; Kenneth, the youngest, married Sharolyn Lancaster of Offerle where they reside with their son, Kenny Wayne.

By his first wife, Simon Joseph Regnier had two children, Mary

Anna and Hubert Bernard. Hubert was about 8 or 9, Mary Anna a few years older, when Simon brought them to Kansas along with his second wife and his stepdaughter Elnora (Nora)—who, a few years thereafter, married George Schmidt and lived in Seward, south of Great Bend.

Mary Anna Regnier wed Anthony M. Hines and they lived in Chicago a number of years before settling on the farm west of the old St. Joe church (where today, only the cemetery remains), where their children grew to adulthood: Theresa, Mrs. Henry Trenkamp, Spearville; Hettie, Mrs. Lloyd Dawley, deceased; Anna Mary, Mrs. Francis Ryan, Spearville; Clara, Mrs. John Slattery, and Joseph Hines, Spearville; Margaret, Mrs. Herbert Heskamp, Downey, Calif.; and William Hines, deceased.

Hubert Regnier married Minnie Alvina Wiese, sister of Laura and Wm. N. Wiese, in the old St. Joe Church on February 26, 1895. They set up housekeeping in a "sodie" on the old Southworth place, one mile south of the Wiese farm. Later on, they acquired and moved to the half-section west and two miles south of the Wieses. In 1915, a new home was built there — a large, two-story frame house with plumbing and a Delco system — that was destroyed by fire in January, 1933. They then bought the old Coffman farm, a mile west of Wieses, and there waited out the dust bowl years. In January, 1940, Hubert was killed when he fell from the tower of the windmill he was repairing. Minnie continued on at the farm alone until moving to Spearville in the late 1950's, where, in 1965, she passed away just under 90 years of age.

Their children and their children's "begats" are: Harry Lee Regnier, who died in infancy; Arthur W., who died in 1956, father of Mrs. Gladys Regnier Block (3), Topeka, and Ruth, Mrs. Fred Thodes (5), Emporia; Carl H., Kinsley, father of Robert H. Regnier (2), Sioux City, Ia.; and Earl H., Urbana, Ill., father of Jon Regnier (3), La Habra, Calif.; Phyllis, Mrs. Don Gettenby (1), Konawha, Okla.; Mary Alice, Mrs. Norman Necht (2), Sudbury, Mass.; Rachael, Mrs. Lawrence Smiley, Louisville, Ky.; and Emily, graduate student, University of Illinois.

The Hubert Regniers ardently supported projects designed to benefit or improve their community and they participated actively in its social life. For years, H. B. was expected to call the square dances and play the harmonica at house and barn warmings. (Later, his sons Arthur and Earl, with George Nall, provided much of the fiddling and string music for dancing. This "ensemble" would be joined by other instrumentalists in various community halls and barn lofts, and at house parties, in the Northeast Spearville, Windthorst and Offerle neighborhoods.) In great part, because of the Regniers, School District No. 9 (northeast of Spearville) was considered to be among the most progressive in Ford County. They both served on its school board, Minnie as clerk for many, many years, up to the time it was closed.

Originally, No. 9 schoolhouse was a one-room building. I don't

know quite how, but it was able to accomodate 30 or more pupils; and on many nights, all the parents, brothers and sisters would be crowded into it for "literary" and box suppers. The fall term of 1917 opened in a new, 3-room, brick building with Agnes Swartley (Mrs. Horace L. Fry) as teacher. No. 9 sponsored a 4-H Club, thanks to Hubert and the county agent Harry C. Baird. (Carl Regnier taught there the term of 1921-22.)

RIEDL FAMILY

Late in 1800's, two members of the Riedl family and their wives left Austria-Hungary for the new country. Pete settled in the Kansas City area, while John and his wife journeyed to Western Kansas to file a homestead claim north of Spearville, Kansas. It was here that he carved his homestead from native stones from the Point of Rocks. The rocks were dragged by a horse sled and laid in place. Some of the original homestead can still be seen.

It was here that John and Magdelene Riedl began their family, which eventually numbered ten children. Only two of the family are still living — Frank and Martin.

Life on the homestead was not an easy one. In addition to farming, John picked up odd jobs. He sometimes worked on a Section Gang with the railroad. He would walk cross country from the homestead site to Offerle in the morning, and home at night often carrying a sack of sugar, flour or other needed food items. The children were put to work as soon as they were able. Martin went to work for a sheep herder at



John and Mary Magdalene Riedl

the age of ten.

School for the children was a hit-and-miss proposition in a one-room country school about two miles away, but the German farmers insisted on education. They spoke only German and the children taught them the English they learned at school. The parents liked children to use English and discouraged using German.

In this atmosphere of a homestead, the ten members of the family grew up and began to develop their talents. Three of the boys became quite mechanical and went on to develop this field as their life's work.

In the later years John and the boys built a house in Spearville which became the home of his widow in the final years of her life and the life-long home of Katherine until her recent death. The home was built with the same native rock, loaded on a wagon and hauled to Spearville, unloaded and laid in place.

Martin began farming in the area, and became friends with Joe DuLac, who came from Eastern Kansas and had a farm on the Sawlog. It was through Joe that Martin began to correspond with Mary DuLac whom he eventually met and married. Joe also met his wife, Theresa, one of the Riedl girls. All families began on a farm. Joe later went into business in Spearville — The Planter's Hotel and Restaurant. Eventually Joe and his family migrated to California where his two sons, Xavier and Leo, are still living.

During World War I, young John and Mike went to serve their country. Johnny was killed in action and Mike was in a gas attack which affected him the rest of his life.

Katherine taught school for a short while and later moved to Spearville to take care of her mother until her death. In the 1940's she met and married Ed Griffith, a railroad employee, who spent his retirement years with his wife.

Rosa married a local farmer, John DeMuth. They spent their life on the farm. Their son, Carl, took over the farm after his father's death and resided there until his death. Marie, their daughter, married Boyce Grissette and resided in Oklahoma until their deaths.

Margaret married Adam Kisner and they lived their life in Offerle where Adam spent most of his years working for Gano Elevator. Their daughter, Margaret, married Urban Klenke and they reside in the Spearville, Offerle area. Katherine and Frances moved to California and still reside there. Bill was called to service during World War II and was lost on maneuvers in El Centro, California, in a desert area.

Lawrence Riedl moved to Wisconsin and we are not too familiar with their history.

Mary died early in life and left two sons, Francis Wilberding and another son with relatives. Francis lived with Theresa DuLac until his death. The other son died in infancy with Martin and Mary Riedl.

In 1918, Martin bought an old livery stable in Offerle to go into the automobile repair business. He sold out his farm interests and moved into a house just north of the Abe Offerle Store. At first the business

was a partnership with Frank and Mike and the shop was known as Riedl Brothers. Each brother developed his own talent. Martin and Frank became the mechanics and Mike began working on radios. Mike stayed in the radio repair business and later moved to Kinsley and worked in the Gambles Store. Mike's two children, Billy and Esther, are now residing in California.

Frank also left the partnership and moved to California where he ran his own automobile repair shop for a good many years. His family resides in California and near Jetmore, Kansas.

Martin remained in business by himself and the garage was renamed Offerle Garage. For a few years the Sanko brothers were the main mechanics until they opened their own shop. At this time the decision was made to do only minor repair work on automobiles and specialize in selling automobile parts. So the name was changed again to Offerle Auto Supply. Many of the area farmers repaired their own automobile and machinery, so the business continued to prosper.

At one time the shop was a new car dealer selling Ford and Star cars. Martin became associated with the Phillips Petroleum Company and sold their products better than thirty years.

Martin and Mary bought the property directly in back of the garage, and a house from the south end of town near the school building was moved to this location. This became their final home in Offerle.

Martin and Mary Riedl had five children, three of whom died while quite small. The remaining two sons grew up in Offerle. Andrew married a local farm girl, Eleanor Gring, and after World War II settled down in Dodge City, Kansas, until his death. Andrew and Eleanor had three children — James who now teaches at a Lutheran School in Kansas City, Missouri; Jolinda who teaches nursing in McPherson; and Janita who is now in college.

John Riedl attended college, went to service and taught a few years before he met his wife, Daisy. They now reside in Kansas City, Kansas, with their four children, Wayne, Debra, Dale and Cheryl. He is currently working with an insurance firm.

Martin retired from business and sold his home and is now living in Kansas City with his son, John.

The latest member of the Riedl family joined the clan recently, which brings the number of Great Grandchildren to two. These are the sons of James and Arlyce Riedl. Their sons' names are Marc and Matthew.

CHARLES EDWARD RIGGS FAMILY

Charles E. Riggs was born Aug. 8, 1875, in West Virginia. He moved with his family to Pawnee Rock, Kansas, when he was a young child. He married Maude Quincy who had been born in Quincy, Ill., but was living at Pawnee Rock at the time. She died Feb. 6, 1918. They

moved to Offerle in 1909. Vincent Riggs was a section foreman for Santa Fe Railroad. From 1911 to 1919, he worked for the Offerle Mercantile. In his later years, he worked for Joe Basgall and Loyd Erickson in their stores. He spoke Indian Spanish so was able to converse with the Mexican people that worked on the Railroad. There were three children born to his first marriage. They were Wilfred Edward Riggs, Harold Charles Riggs and Vincent Wm. Riggs.

Later Charles E. Riggs married Etta Schoofstall. She died July 10, 1938. There were no children born to this marriage. Charles E. Riggs passed away May 4, 1943.

1. Wilford Edward Riggs was born at Pawnee Rock, Ks. Dec. 14, 1900 and died March 7, 1968. He married Gladys Oliphant who died just three months after they were married. Later he married Nellie Hurd from Belpre, Ks. To this union two children were born: Donald Riggs and Mary Beth Riggs. Wilford was a depot agent for Santa Fe Railroad for 43 years. They lived in several towns, but he was living at Halstead when he retired. His wife Nellie is still living there.

Donald Riggs married Anne and they have no children.

Mary Beth (Riggs) VanBlarcum has two daughters Mary Lou, and Linda.

2. Harold Charles Riggs was born May 15, 1905. He married Clara Garner, who was born May 10, 1910, and died July 4, 1969. To this union three children were born: Harold Wilford Riggs, Janet Riggs and Susan Ann Riggs. Wilford went to California in 1927, and has lived there ever since. Harold was an electrical administrator for the 12th Naval District and is retired.

Harold Wilford Riggs married Nancy and they have two sons; Russell Vincent Riggs and Steven Douglas Riggs.

Janet (Riggs) Heater married Drexel Heater and they have one daughter: Katherine Marie Heater.

Susan Ann (Riggs) Mason married Larry Mason and they have two sons: Keith Allen Mason and Lance Everett Mason.

3. Vincent Wm. Riggs was born June 4, 1907. He married Annie Jewel Stinson July 24, 1930. She was born Aug. 28, 1914. They have lived in Offerle all of their married life. Vincent worked for Lloyd Erickson on the farm for many years. Annie worked in cafes for years and still is at present. Annie and Vincent owned the A & V Cafe until Oct. 1, 1972. To this marriage three children were born: Gloria Ann Riggs, Charles Allen Riggs and Gordon Vincent Riggs.

Gloria Ann (Riggs) Bowles was born Dec. 3, 1931. She married Merlin C. Bowles. They had two girls: Merlinda Kay Bowles and Debra Ann Bowles.

Merlinda Kay (Bowles) Herrmann married Jon Herrmann and they have one son: Jon Herrmann, Jr.

Debra Ann (Bowles) Lippoldt married William Lippoldt and have three children: Stacey Lippoldt, Angela Lippoldt and Brian Lippoldt.

Charles Allen Riggs was born Dec. 10, 1933. He married Dorthea

Beall and they have three children: Charles Allen Riggs Jr., Stephen Riggs and Russella Faye Riggs.

Gordon Vincent Riggs was born Jan. 26, 1941. He married Kaye Roark and they have one son: Eric Michael Riggs.

ROEPKA HISTORY

Wilhelm (William) Roepka was born in Doesinti bei Coelin, Germany, on November 27, 1835, and was married to Carolina Wachholz, who was born in Wisbuhr bei Coelin, Germany, on August 14, 1822. They had two children: Augusta; and Frank, who was born April 19, 1865. They came to America in 1882.

Carolina died January 25, 1902, and is buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery at Offerle.

Wilhelm died August 28, 1924, and is buried at Hermann Son's Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

At the age of 17 years, Frank left Germany with his parents and sister and came to America locating at Buffalo, New York. While there he was married to Louisa Drier and to this union were born two children, Minnie and Mary (Mamie). After a few years this home was left without a wife and mother and he later was united in marriage to LaVina Schwanz. In 1898, they left Buffalo to come west, settling on a farm near Offerle, Kansas. To this union there were born six children: Frank, Harry, Bertha, Charles, Fred and Edward. LaVina passed away in 1911, and Frank passed away on February 19, 1945. Both are buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Minnie married Frank DeMoss and they had four children: Albert, Elmer, Bertha Loretta and Elsie. Later Minnie was married to Archie Pawsey and they had one daughter, Erma. She was married to Harry Brown later on. Minnie died in 1971, and is buried in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Mary (Minnie) was born in 1892, and died in 1907, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Frank married Viola Goad in 1918, and they had six children: Lewis, Margaret, Harold, Betty, Gerald and William. Viola died on January 26, 1945. In December of 1952, Frank married Elizabeth Ellis and they reside in Kinsley. Viola is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Lewis married Gertrude Shiner and lived in Liberal, Kansas. Lewis died on May 2, 1975, and is buried in Denver, Colorado.

Margaret married Lawrence Hahn in 1938, and they live at Friend, Kansas. They had ten children: Mary, Leonard, Elaine, Stephen, Marion, Anita, Rose Marie, Joyce, Louise and Norbert. Norbert died in 1962. Lawrence farms and works for the school system. Margaret also works for the school system.

Harold married Elizabeth Snyder of California. They had three children: Donna Kay, Shelia Jean and David. Harold died December 11, 1954, and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery at Offerle.

Betty married Gene Scheer. They live in Garden City and have three children: Betty Ann, Jean Andrea and Mark Eugene. Gene is a mechanic.

Gerald married Gladys Mettling. They live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They have three children: Rita, Brenda and Byron. Gerald retired from the United States Air Force in January, 1972, and now works for the City of Colorado Springs.

William (Bill) married Judy Bentley and they had four children: William Jr., Gregory, Cynthia and Thomas. William (Bill) lives in Nickerson, Kansas, where he owns and operates an air-conditioning and plumbing business.

Harry married Wilma Cash. They lived in Offerle, Kansas. They had five children, Raymond, Joyce, Darlene, Donald and James. Donald died in 1932. Harry farmed and worked for the Offerle Co-op. Harry died July 19, 1960, and is buried at the Evergreen Cemetery at Offerle. Raymond and wife Jean have two sons, Paul and Tim. Ramond farms and lives in Offerle. Wilma, Joyce, Darlene and James live in Kinsley. James works for Kinsley Automotive.

Bertha married Henry Rabe on April 18, 1921. They lived on a farm south of Offerle and Henry farmed until moving to town in 1947. They had five children: Vinita, Ada Lee, Ila Mae, Marvin and Verla.

Venita married Ralph Strain of Larned. Ralph was a carpenter. He died in 1972. Vinita had six children: Mike, Wayne, Terry, David, Barbara and Steven. Mike was killed in an automobile accident in 1966.

Ada Lee married Bert Kennard of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Bert is a mortician and Ada Lee is vice-president of a Tulsa bank. They also own two funeral homes, one at Broken Arrow and one at Catoosa.

Ila Mae married Kenneth Buckley of Dodge City. They now live in Westminster, Colorado, where Kenneth is employed as a maintenance supervisor. They have four children: Sheryl, Kathy, Kenneth Jr. and John.

Marvin married Agnes Arnsdorf of Willowdale, Kansas. Marvin managed the co-op at Bellefont. They have eight sons: Terry, Gary Randy, Timmy, Kevin, Kenneth, Tommy and Bobby. They live at Windthorst.

Verla married Rolland Leaf of Garfield, Kansas. Rolland is employed at the Offerle Co-op and Verla works for the Kinsley Automotive in Kinsley. They have two daughters: De Anna and Janet. They live in Offerle. Bertha died in November 1957, and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery at Offerle. Henry later married Marie Quasebarth. Henry died in 1965, and Marie died in 1972.

Charles was born in 1905, and worked for the Offerle Co-op for many years until his death on December 20, 1953. He is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery at Offerle.

Fred married Helen Smith and they have one daughter, Gloria June. They live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Fred retired from the Wolferrmann's Stores after 40 years service. Helen passed away in

1966. Gloria works for the Boulder Bank and Trust in Tulsa.

Edward and his wife Edith live in Coalinga, California. Ed is now retired from working for the Dodge Company.

JOHN P. SCHMIDT AND KATE BASGALL

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Schmidt were married May 18, 1897. Their son, Marcus, married Mary Suppes of Topeka and they had eight children. Marcus passed away in 1953. Paul Schmidt married Anna Marie Suppes of Topeka, Kansas. They had eight children. Anna Marie passed away in 1947. Frank Schmidt married Kathryn Urban of Pfeiffer, Kansas. They had four children. Frank lives in Sharon Springs, Kansas. Mary Schmidt married Ben Hatstrup. They had four daughters. Ben passed away in 1967. Edward Schmidt married Mary Burke. They had two children. Ed and his wife live in Dodge City, Kansas. Marcus married Mary Suppes and they had eight children. Marcus passed away in 1953. His wife still resides at Spearville. Mr. Schmidt died on Oct. 30, 1963. Mrs. Schmidt died three years later on Oct. 19, 1966. They had celebrated sixty-three years of marriage together before his death.



Standing: Frank, Paul, Edward, Marcus; seated: Kate, J.P. and Mary.

PAUL H. SCHMIDT

Paul H. Schmidt, son of John Peter Schmidt, (better known as J. P. Schmidt) and Catherine Basgall, was born in Pfeifer, Kansas, on

January 24, 1904. His family migrated to a farm house two miles north and four miles west of Offerle in 1906. Paul was raised there and went to school at No. 4 School in Hodgeman County. This school is better known as the Benish school.

Paul married Anna Marie Suppes on August 12, 1926, at Topeka, Kansas. They lived north of Spearville just south of the Hodgeman County line for approximately twenty-two years. Paul then lived on the old farm home north of Offerle until about six years ago. He moved to Offerle where he still resides.

Children of Paul and Anna Marie are: Gerald, Bernadine, Donald, Dorothy, Pauline, Mary, John and Gertrude Ann.

Gerald married Marceda Konrade on August 22, 1950. They live at Syracuse, Kansas with their eight children, Gloria Jean (now deceased), Steve, Tom, Roger, Joyce, Marsha, George, and Mike.

Bernadine (deceased) married Pete Burkhart September 8, 1953. They lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and had five children: Joe, Barbara, Tim, David and Allen.

Dorn married Jeane Kopsky January 10, 1956. They have six children: Matthew, Mark (now deceased), Anita, Luke, John and Paul and live in Offerle.

Dorothy married Alvin Konrade on November 14, 1950, and lives two miles west of Offerle on a farm. They have nine children: Bob, Dan, Nancy, Carol, Charles, Gary, Louie, Marlene, and Colleen.

Pauline married James Schaller on June 15, 1954, and they live in Erin, Tennessee, with their six children: Bruce, Jeneice, Doug, David, Kenny, and Brenda.

John married Mary Ann Mages on May 5, 1960. They have four children: Anna Marie, Jane, Kent and Marvin and live south of Spearville on a farm.

Gertrude Ann married Louis Wetzel on October 26, 1963. They have two children: Ronnie and Scott, and live on a farm southwest of Offerle.

Anna Marie Suppes Schmidt was born May 7, 1907, and died April 25, 1947. She is buried in the St. Joseph Cemetery at Offerle.

Paul and Anna Marie Schmidt had eight children, thirty-seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

SCHWARZ

Konstantine Schwarz was born May 21, 1845, in Arch Stockack Balen, Germany.

Ludwina Schrott was born April 14, 1848, in Badere, Germany. Konstantine and Ludwina were united in marriage in Detroit, Michigan, on June 26, 1873. They came to Kansas, between 1876 and 1879 to a farm $\frac{3}{4}$ miles southeast of Offerle. To this marriage were born five children: Charles, Helen (Harp) in Detroit, Anna (Alumbaugh), Fred and Emma (Hedges) in Offerle, Konstantine was a farmer and a blacksmith.



Konstantine Schwarz



Ludwina (Schrott) Schwarz

Fred Schwarz was born July 28, 1881, in Offerle, and Katherine (Katie) Burghart was born Oct. 1, 1894 at Topeka, Kansas. Fred Schwarz and Katie Burghart were united in marriage on April 30, 1912. They were the parents of Marie (Mrs. Jay Schmitt), Ludwina Butler (died at age 27), Charles (wife: Ann Hartman), Edward (wife: Joan Gerber), Herman (died in infancy), Herman (wife: Dorothy Hartman) and Emma (Mrs. Carl Hemken). Fred was a farmer and a



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schwarz and family

business man. He operated a feed mill, sold oil and was an implement dealer, which he purchased from John Kimes in 1914. He continued operating the feed mill until 1930 — when the gas tractors came into use, the horses went out; however, he stayed in the oil and implement business until retiring in 1950. Fred died April 24, 1965.

Edward, son of Fred and Katie Schwarz, was born in Offerle, Feb. 26, 1918. He was married to Joan Gerber (daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Huelskamp Gerber) Nov. 8, 1944. To this union was born three sons: Thomas, Gene and Joseph. Ed has farmed at Offerle since 1943.

Thomas was born Feb. 16, 1947, at Spearville. He was married to Mary Ellen Stanislawski, at Milwaukee, Wisc. on Nov. 26, 1966. To this union were born Brian and Robert. Mary Ellen passed away July 22, 1972. On June 30, 1973, Thomas married Yvonne Klumb and he adopted her daughter, Robin. Tom and Yvonne also have a daughter, Beth Ann. Tom and his family live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Gene was born in Dodge City, June 15, 1954, and he is making his home in Dodge City.

Joe was born in Dodge City, July 8, 1958, and he resides at home with his parents in Offerle, Kansas.

SEITHS

Mr. and Mrs. August Seith were both born in Germany. They were married in Cleveland, Ohio, and started their homestead Northwest of Offerle in the year 1884.

Mr. August Seith died in 1894, at the age of 39, leaving Mrs. Seith with four children: Carl, Minnie, Bill and Anna. Carl, who was the oldest, was only twelve at this time. With help from the Almighty and some very fine neighbors, they managed to live and grow in the community.

Mrs. August Seith died in 1934. Carl, her oldest son died in 1962. Carl had never married. During his lifetime Carl drilled many water wells in this community. His drilling wells were made by Allie Hines and Lew Kuhn. He also helped build a few grain elevators and many barns.

Minnie, the oldest of the girls married Henry Loibl. She is still residing in Dodge City, Kansas, and is eighty-nine years old.

Bill Seith is still living on the old homestead and Bill is eighty-six years old. Bill never married, but looked after his mother and did most of the farm work.

Their youngest sister, Anna, died in 1952. Anna was never married. She lived near the homeplace all her life.

Bill can still recall working for the neighbors after he finished his work at home to help keep his mother and the family going. Bill recalls when he moved cattle in his younger years with no horse and no shoes. Then he had a good cattle dog and often rode an old steer home at

night. Much of the grass grew to be four foot tall. Many prairie dog colonies covered ten acres or more, prairie chickens were plentiful and quails even more so.

Bill also remembers his dad finding his cattle south of the railroad tracks after a blizzard and their neighbors' cows were found in the Coon Creek frozen stiff.

The Seith had a neighbor by the name of Thomas Southworth, who lost four of their children before the turn of the century, from scarlet fever. They buried their children on their own farm. The childrens' bodies were later moved to the Evergreen Cemetery, the ground which was donated by Bill Sanders.

Bill can still remember Mrs. John Reidl (Martin Reidl's mother) pushing a wheel barrow loaded with a barrel of molasses from the old Reidl Homestead east of Point of Rocks all the way to Dodge City, Kansas.

The death of Bill's father still stands out in his mind.

SPAHN

John and Mary (Amerine) Spahn and their four children, Katie (Stegman), Adam, Pauline (Krumrey) and Rose (Riedlinger) came to Western Kansas, in 1900, from Topeka, Kansas. Bill Spahn was born on the home place in 1902.

They purchased 160 acres of land at that time. This is the Spahn home place at the present time. At a later date the rest of this section was purchased as they reaped their harvest from the land. There were no buildings on this land. They built a two room house of stand up timber, plastered it with cow chips and straw. They purchased two



Standing: Lena, Katie and Rose and Adam; seated: John and Mary Spahn with Bill between them.

work horses and a walking plow and this is how he tilled the soil for planting and cultivating.

John Spahn and his family attended church at the first old St. Joseph church which was located two miles north and one mile east of the Spahn farm. They attended Mass at this church until the parishioners decided the church was too small and wanted to build a larger church. The Irish parishioners built St. Mary's and the German descent established a new church which was located where the new St. Joseph Cemetery is at the present time.

Mr. Adam Stegman donated 10 acres of land and \$1000.00 to build the new church. Also each family donated \$100.00. Father Disselkamp was the priest at that time. The two story parish house was also built on this land.

In 1927, the St. Joseph church was then built in Offerle, Kansas, and the parish house was moved from the ten acres to Offerle and used as a parish house for a number of years. Later it was converted into a Catholic School.

The Spahn family travelled to Mass in a horse drawn lumber wagon when first arriving in western Kansas. They purchased a spring wagon as they progressed. As time went on they purchased a surrey to travel to church and later when the automobiles were built, John Spahn drove a Hupmobile to Mass in Offerle.

In 1928, Mary and John Spahn moved to Offerle to make their home. They purchased their home just three blocks from the Catholic church. In 1938, the new Offerle church was gutted by fire and had to be completely remodeled.

Adam Spahn, their eldest son built his home on the corner of the section of the Spahn land and, in 1926, he and his wife Josephine with their first born, Betty, moved into their new home. Their second daughter, Rosemary, was born on this farm in 1932.

Bill Spahn and his wife Gertrude, established their home in the house which was built in 1907, "The Home Place", and Bill has resided there all of his life.

John Spahn died in March, 1936.

Mary Spahn died in May, 1948.

Josephine Spahn died in January, 1965.

Gertrude Spahn died in January, 1972.

Adam and Bill Spahn still reside on their respective farms and are parishioners of the St. Joseph church in Offerle, Kansas.

THE RICHARD SPECK FAMILY

Richard Randall Speck was born at Westchester, Ohio, in 1875. When three years old he came with his family to Great Bend, Kansas, where they homesteaded near the town of Galatia, and there he grew to manhood. In 1897, he married Ethel Gill of Great Bend. He then purchased land in Stafford County. It was here his two sons: Harry and

Marion were born. He lived there for nine years. He then sold this farm and moved to Ford County, coming there by covered wagon. This farm was nine miles south of Offerle.

In 1909, he built a home and moved into Offerle. Here their only daughter, Ethel Mae was born in 1913. Harry, the oldest son, married Blanche Brumfield in 1919. Harry lived on this farm for fifty-four years. It was here their children were born: Maxine Hamilton, Las Vegas, Nev.; Peggy Stinson, Ponca City, Okla.; Harriet Housman, Dodge City, Kansas; Chas Richard Speck, (who spent 20 years in Navy); Franklin Speck, (who is with Texas Oil Co); Gerald Speck, who lost his life in World War II in 1945.

Marion Speck, who married Leota Ray of Lewis had two girls: Carmen Ray and Marion Lee. Mrs. Marion Speck and the two girls live at Hot Springs, Ark.

Ethel Mae Hankins, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, married a retired Navy man and they had three sons: Lynden of Denver, Colo.; Gary of Portland, Oregon, and Mike of Idaho Springs, Ida.

In 1928, Richard Speck moved to Johnson, Kansas, where he lived for seventeen years. In 1941, he returned to Offerle, to live and his son Marion farmed the land in western Kansas. In 1952, his wife Ethel passed away.

In 1955, he married Susie Israel, who still lives at Offerle. Richard Speck passed away in 1962. A true Pioneer, a lover of the soil who had broken prairie sod in five different counties.

STEGMAN



Mr. and Mrs. Adam Stegman, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Stegman Jr. were the parents of: Ed Stegman (now deceased); Geo. M. Stegman of Colorado Springs; Mrs. Lena Herman (now deceased); Barbara Stegman (now deceased); Veronica Burghart, Kinsley; John G. Stegman (deceased); Emma Loibl, Wichita, Kansas; Agnes Burghart, Hanston, Kansas; Frances Struthers, Larned, Kansas; Leona Lampe, Spearville, Kansas; and Sylvester Stegman (deceased).

GEORGE STEGMAN FAMILY

George Stegman was born in Pfeiffer, Kansas, on March 2, 1880, and died on May 29, 1949. His parents were Adam Stegman and his mother was a Kisner.

George married Elizabeth Urban (July 21, 1880) in the church in Pfeiffer, Kansas. She died on March 11, 1962. Her parents were Stephen Urban and Eva Meier from Kaminka, Russia.

Their children were: John (1899), Katherine (1900), Appolonia (1901), Jacob (1904), George Jr. (1906), Benhart (1908), Eva (1910), William (1912), Jerome (1913), Regina (1915), Matilda (1917), Richard (1919), Julius (1921), Madgaline (1923).

John died in infancy. Katherine married David Galyardt. Their children are: Vernon Edward, Henrietta Martha, who married Paul Capps. Katherine died in 1929.



Standing: Eva, Richard, Jerome, Appolonia, George, Jr., Matilda, Julius, William and Regina. Seated: George, Magdalene and Elizabeth.

Applonia married Raymond Stegman on November 25, 1919. Their children are: Angela, who married Louis Schaapveld in April, 1949; Robert, who married Rosaline Polson in December, 1951; Melvin, who married Norma Lewis in November, 1949; Delores, who married Wilfred Heiland in August, 1949; Lorraine, who married Leland Kincaid in October, 1956; Elaine who married Marion Harper in December, 1956; and Hillarian (Larry) who married Joan Eslinger in February, 1963.

George Jr. married Izetta Mack in February 1936. Their daughter, Suzanne, married Melvin Busch in July, 1954.

Benhart died at the age of twenty-four in 1932.

Eva married Albert Konrade in April, 1929. Their children are: Alvin, who married Dorothy Schmidt in November, 1950; Marceda, who married Gerald Schmidt in August, 1950; Carolyn, who married Marvin Gleason in April, 1957; Gilbert, who married Julene Hornung in November, 1961; Reginald, who married Janice Heine in August, 1970.

William married Margaret Schulte in February, 1936. Their children are: Donald, who married Kathleen Green in March, 1959; Janice, who married Donald Reidlinger in April, 1962; Wayne, who married Judith Burghart in June, 1964; Patricia, who married Lesley Coates in May, 1970; Bernadette, Evelyn, Dean and Rean.

Jerome married Josephine Katz in June 1934, she died in 1951. Their children are: Mary Ann, who married Carl Smelker in October, 1950; Kenneth; Andrea, who married Claude Maxin; Connie, who married David Baker in May, 1961; Kathleen, who married Glen Leavitt; Colleen, who married Raymond Stuzman in December, 1966; and George.

Jerome then married Dorothy Katz in November, 1952. Their children are: Virginia, who married Allen Dobler in October, 1964; Patricia, who married Jim Riddle in January, 1972; Robert, who married Lynnette Allen in November, 1967; Linda, who married John Johnson in April, 1969; Delmar; Theresa, who married Mark Amos in January, 1972; Stephen, who married Connie Livingston in December, 1974; Elizabeth, who married Timothy Pautler in August, 1975; Cynthia; Rita Francene; Jeannine; Jacqueline; Bernard; and Julene.

Regina married Lawrence Israel in January, 1936. Their children are: Shirley, who married Arnold Schmidt in August, 1956; Carol Jean, who married Dick Gaddret; Virginia, who married Larry Downing; Barbara; Lauray; Mary Kay, who married Randy Funn in July, 1969; Judith, who married David Hilker in June, 1971.

Matilda married Joseph Schaller in February, 1936. Their children are: Gerald, who married Benita Warkentin in September, 1974; Ronald, who married Dorothy Slattery in August, 1959; Linda, who married Frank Taggart in November, 1965; David, who married Debra Disney in September, 1969; Maurice; Marlene; and Susan, who

married Kenneth Setzkorn in November, 1975.

Richard never married.

Julius married Alice Frick in August, 1943. Their children are: Allen who married Nancy; Diane who married Arthur Florio in May, 1970; Gregory, who married Nancy; Michael; and Scott.

Magdalene married Floyd Haslett in November, 1946. Their children are: Timothy; Rebecca, who married Clifford Hobson in August, 1970; John, who married Patricia Walkinshaw in July, 1970; Jim; Norman, who married Holly Lovejoy in November, 1974; Phyllis, who married Kevin Horning in March, 1976; and Floyd, Jr.

JOHN H. STEGMAN

John H. Stegman and Barbara Schlitter were married in October, 1906, at Pfliefer. They moved to a farm three miles southeast of Offerle. Later buying the farm one miles east of Offerle from his father Adam Stegman. They took Eugenia Kaller to raise as their own daughter when she was five years old. Her parents died in 1918. Barbara Stegman died in September, 1939. John H. Stegman died in November 1969.

Eugenia Kaller was married to Joe Rosproy Jr. of Spearville in Sept. of 1936. They were parents of three daughters: Dolores, Dorothy, and Wilma. Joe Rosproy died in December, 1953.

Dolores Rosproy married Doyle Jones of Kinsley in July, 1956. They have two children: Jessica and Jeff. They live on the farm east of Offerle.

Dorothy Rosproy married Gene Putter of Kinsley in June of 1955. They have four children: Debbie (Mrs. Daniel Laufenburg), Lyle, Chris, and Howard. They live in Kinsley.

Wilma Rosproy married Jack Lorenzen of Kinsley in August of 1957. They have four daughters: Brenda, Becky, Kim and Jackie. They live in Dodge City.

MATTHEW STEGMAN

Matt Stegman was born in Topeka, Kansas, the son of Adam Stegman. He married Barbara Stegman on June 8, 1903. They first lived in Park, Kansas, and later moved to a farm one-half mile west of Offerle. Their daughter, Rose, was born on the farm near Park in 1919 before moving to Offerle. The rest of the children were born near Offerle. They were: Tony (1912) deceased 1961; Clementine (1914) Schmidt; Irene (1917); Marie (1920); Leo (1922) deceased 1969; and Dorothy (1923).

In 1947, Matt and Barbara Stegman moved to Dodge City. She died June 5, 1956, and he died Feb. 8, 1971. They are both buried in the St. Joseph's Cemetery near Offerle.



Back: Leo, Rose, Marie, Clementine and Tony; front: Irene, Matt, Barbara and Dorothy.

STEGMAN

Raymond Ramus Stegman was born Jan. 26, 1896. He married Applonia Stegman on Nov. 25, 1919. He died Feb. 16, 1963.

He was the son of John and Barbara Stegman. They were originally from the Volga. They had fourteen children. Some died in Russia. It is not known when they came to the states. They settled in Salina and moved to Offerle in 1904 after the flood in Salina. Their home was where Bill Stegman now lives. Some of their children were: Barbara Lowery; Alex, who married Francis Kisner; Lena Welsch; Joe; Mae Willis; Raymond; and Johnny, who married Tracy Schaller.

Children of Raymond and Applonia were: Robert Stegman, Offerle, Kansas; Ann Schaapveld, Dodge City, Kansas; Melvin Stegman, Salina, Kansas; Delores Heiland, Denver, Colorado; Lorraine Kincaid, Dodge City, Kansas; Elaine Harper, Tribune, Kansas; and Larry Stegman, Offerle, Kansas.

WILLIAM R. STEGMAN FAMILY

William R. Stegman, son of George and Lizzie Urban Stegman and Margaret Schulte, daughter of Rudolf and Francis Droste Schulte of Spearville, were married on Feb. 11, 1936, at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Offerle. This was a double ceremony with Mathilda Stegman (William's sister) and Joseph Schaller being married, too. Father Francis Huppertz performed the marriage rite. William and Margaret became the parents of eight children: four boys and four girls. They have fourteen grandchildren. Donald born Sept. 10, 1937; Janice born July 6, 1939; Wayne born Feb. 23, 1943; Patricia born Nov. 28, 1946; Corrine born Jan. 26, 1949; Evelyn born May 23, 1951; Rean and Dean (twins) born Oct. 8, 1954.

Donald married Kathleen Green on March 30, 1959. Their six children are: Katrina, Louis, Cynthia, Brenda, LeRoy, and Lance.

Janice married Donald Reidlinger on April 28, 1962. They have three children: Lynnette, Lori and Billy.

Wayne married Judith Burkhart on June 6, 1964. They have three children: Dale, Beth Ann and Steven.

Patricia married Lesley Coates on May 21, 1970. They have two boys: Lesley and Lonnie.

Corrine teaches 3rd grade at St. Mary's School in Salina, Kansas.

Evelyn teaches 3rd and 4th grades at St. Nicholas school in Kinsley, Kansas.

Rean and Dean are of the home.

STROHWITZ

August Strohwitz was born May 31, 1848, at Calbervish, Germany. He came to America in 1882, where he married Fredericka Oppitz, who was born on June 2, 1848, at Osterberg, Germany. To this marriage was born six children. Five were born in Germany and one in America.

Emma Strohwitz was born on June 11, 1873, at Osterberg, Germany. She married Henry Wetzel on April 6, 1890. She died Oct. 23, 1963.

Louise Strohwitz was married to Lanes Lancaster. She died Jan. 1898.

Minnie Strohwitz was born on March 2, 1878. She married Montz Averill. She died Aug. 17, 1932.

Anna Strohwitz was born on Oct. 24, 1879. She married Lanes Lancaster. She died Jan. 19, 1943.

Herman Strohwitz was born Dec. 7, 1883. He married Gusta Herrmann and died Aug. 13, 1937.

August Strohwitz, Jr. died as a child in 1882, shortly after coming to America.

August Strohwitz worked on the Santa Fe Railroad and then homesteaded the farm home five miles south of Offerle, which Albert Wetzel owns at the present time. August and Fredericka Strohwitz moved to Offerle from the farm in 1910. He died June 15, 1917. She died Dec. 31, 1932.

The families suffered many hardships, prairie fires, droughts and the big blizzard of 1886.

TASSET

John Tasset was born June 22, 1815, to Christian and Helen Maas Tasset at Antwerp, Belgium. John married Anna Ruberg in 1836, at Sage, Germany, and they were the parents of Henry (1837), Bernard, Mrs. Bernard Tepe, Mrs. Barney Thesing and a Mrs. Gleholt. Bernard stayed in Germany, but Henry and the three daughters came to America.

Henry (1837) married Caroline Roesner (1837) in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He first came to Kansas in 1876, to look for land to settle; then on Feb. 24, 1878, he and Caroline, along with six other families and three single men, arrived in Offerle by Santa Fe with a carload of possessions to begin the Windthorst settlement about ten miles southwest of Offerle. From Offerle, they hauled their possessions to the settlement in a wagon pulled by oxen.

This Henry and Caroline Tasset were the parents of John (about 1860), who went to Denver, Colo., Anna Nau (1862), several children who died in infancy, Emma Peppercorn (1877) and Harry F. Tasset (Oct. 9, 1879) — these three settled in Kansas. (It was at this time - 1884 - that Barnard's son, Henry Joseph (1866) also came to America - coming first to Windthorst to stay with his Uncle Henry - then settling in Edwards County; married to Mary Schmitt, and they were the parents of the late Peter, Nicholas and Mary (Hirsh) Tasset of Kinsley.)

Harry F. Tasset married Elizabeth Duesing (1879), daughter of Joseph and Anna Wolbers Duesing, on June 8, 1904. They had two sons: Karl (1905 - died the same year) and Everett (1906). Elizabeth died in 1906, and Harry married her sister, Clara Duesing (1884) on Oct. 26, 1909. To this union were born: Clarence (1910 - wife: Margaret Klenke); Alfred (1913 - wife: Martha Hornung); Norbert (1917 - wife: Rosa Nall); Claud (1919 - wife: Clarentine Blasi); Velma (1922 - Mrs. James P. Liebl); and Paul (1926 - first wife: Mary Jo Kaiser and second wife: Barbara Craig). Clara died in 1926, and Harry married Evelyn Schmitt in 1929. They had one son, John Henry (1930 - wife: Lois Vanlandingham).

Presently retired in Offerle are Everett and Justine Hornung Tasset (daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Droste Hornung). They live with their son, Mark, who drives a semi-truck for the Farmers Co-op, Offerle. Their other children are: Bibiana (Mrs. Fred Thomas); Valeria (died 1937); Quentin (wife: Delphine Downey); Damian (wife: Alvina Gregorsky); Rosalia (Mrs. Bob Lawrence); Anita (Mrs. Dale Ball); Carl (wife: Mary Chiapetta); Glenn (wife: Geraldine McLinden); Harry (wife: Peggy Wyrsh); Lorraine (Mrs. Jerry Coose); Barbara, Emmett and Regina (Mrs. Joey Hessler). Regina and Joey, who works at CrustBuster, Spearville, live in Offerle, and their son, Joey III, is a great-great grandson of pioneer Henry Tasset.

Velma, who married James Liebl, also lives in Offerle and their children are listed under the "Liebl" family history in this book.

Brick obtained in Offerle by Henry Tasset in the late 1800's for his house chimney at Windthorst, is now incorporated into the fireplace built by Everett here in Offerle in 1975; and a marble-topped dresser and a plantation desk that were among the things brought by Henry and Caroline Tasset to Offerle from Ohio, one hundred years ago to be used at Windthorst, are also now back in Offerle and used in Velma's home here.

ALBERT E. WEISS

Albert, son of Herman and Christina Weiss was born on the homestead in eastern Ford county on December 30th, 1913. He married Mary Ruden in Joilet, Illinois. They made their home one-half mile north of Zion Lutheran church. Mrs. Weiss passed away March 22,



Albert and Mary Weiss

1928. Mr Weiss continued to live on the farm. His niece Luella Weiss lived with him until his death April 1st, 1970. Mr. Weiss was on the Church council many years. He also was on the board at the Ford County Mutual Insurance Co. and a number of years on the township board.

MR. & MRS. ALVIN P. WEISS

Alvin P. Weiss, son of Harry and Martha Weiss, was a long time resident of the Bellefont community. He was baptized and confirmed in Zion Lutheran Church and was a member of Zion until they moved to Garden City.

Alvin and Edna Rau were married June 16th, 1929, at Atchinson, Kansas. They had three children: Earl, Mildred and Alvin Philip, Jr. Earl married Dolores Mathes and is a veterinarian in Garden City. They have four daughters and one son. Mildred married Marion Quasebarth. They have two daughters and two sons. Mr. Quasebarth died in 1972. Mildred and family are living in Irving, Texas. Philip married Cora Buchholz, and is teaching in Burbank, California. They have a daughter and a son.

Alvin held various offices in the church. He was on the Board of Directors of the Edwards County Hospital, Kinsley for twenty-two years, and was for many years on the board of the Ford County Farmers Mutual Insurance Co. and on the Board of District 14 until it was closed.

They sold their farm to Alvin's brother, Edward Weiss and his daughter, Norma, and her husband, and moved to Garden City in 1972. Mr. and Mrs. Weiss joined Trinity Lutheran Church in Garden City. Alvin died April 20, 1975. Mrs. Weiss still resides in Garden City.

EDWARD H. WEISS

Edward H. Weiss, son of Harry and Martha Weiss, was born on the home farm, Feb. 22, 1903, south of Offerle in Wheatland township.

He married Esther Ley, the daughter of Fred and Theresa Ley. Esther was born Sept. 19, 1903 in eastern Ford county. They were both baptized and confirmed in Zion Lutheran Church and both attended Dist. 14, where they became childhood sweethearts. They were married Aug. 18, 1925, at Zion Lutheran Church. They bought a farm in Pleasant Valley 3½ miles south of his father's farm. They had three daughters: Leona, Maurita and Norma. Esther passed away July 18, 1943.



Esther and Edward Weiss
and daughters.

Leona, now Mrs. Frank Anderson Jr., farms southeast of Dodge City. They have two sons and two daughters and two grandchildren. Maurita married George Fowler Jr. and they had two daughters. George was killed in an automobile accident on Sept. 7, 1961. She later married Tom Johnson and they live in Rockford, Ill. and have two sons. Norma is now Mrs. Maurice Holtfrerich of Tempe, Arizona. Maurice teaches in Jr. College in Phoenix, Arizona. Norma is a housewife and they have two sons.

Ed attended the Hutchinson Vocational School where he studied mechanics. He operated his first repair shop on his father's farm and later moved his shop to his farm.

Edward has been active in his community by serving 26 years on the Pleasant Valley School board, 25 years on the Pleasant Valley township board and a number of years on the Offerle Co-op board. He

has also always been active in the Lutheran Church by serving as the first financial secretary, being on the church board and many other communities.

Edward is still active in farming and cattle raising and his repair shop. In 1972, he and daughter Norma and her husband bought the home place from his brother Alvin.

EDWIN WEISS

Edwin Weiss was one of 11 children of Herman and Christina nee Seibert Weiss. He was born on a farm southwest of Offerle on the family homestead in 1884. Early in the 1900's, he went to Kansas City and worked for the Santa Fe Railroad but was required to come home and help his father on the farm. He became the steam engine operator for his father's brother Harry's threshing crew, and did this for a number of years. At one time the engine blew up and he was badly burned. He was an active member of Zion Lutheran church all his life. He was a farmer and a carpenter. He and Fred and Will Torline built many of the homes south of Offerle, also some in Offerle. He belonged to the Ford County Mutual Insurance Co. and was an adjuster for this company.



Edwin and Bertha
Weiss on their
wedding day.

August 26, 1908, Edwin married Bertha Kurth, daughter of Frederick and Bertha Kurth, of rural Offerle. Their home was one-half mile north of Zion Lutheran church. Their first house was a five room frame house. Later in 1926, a new 10 room modern stucco home was built. They made this their home until 1943, when they moved to 1100 Ave. A in Dodge City, Kansas. There he worked as a carpenter and cabinet maker until ill health caused him to quit working. Bertha died

in 1953, and he lived with Arnold in Rangely, Colo. for awhile, then with Viola in Sacramento, Calif. and in Montgomery, Ala., but maintained his home with Elda in Dodge City, Ks. He died in 1969, and both he and his wife are buried in Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, south of Offerle.

Three generations worked on the Zion Lutheran Church. Herman Weiss helped build it in 1878, Edwin helped raise it and put a basement under it and his son Herman helped remodel it in 1951 and 1952.

Edwin and Bertha had seven children: Viola, Orville, Arnold, Meta, Elda, Herman and Jerome who died in infancy.



Back Row: Meta, Orville, Viola and Arnold; front row: Edwin, Elda, Herman and Bertha.

Viola married Rev. Carl T. Schmidt, now a retired Air Force Chaplain living in Colorado Springs, Colo. They have two daughters, Delores of Breckenridge, Colo. and Elizabeth of Valpariso, Ind. They have eight grandchildren.

Orville married Milda Mehl of Holyrood, Kans. and lived in Bucklin. Milda died in 1966, and Orville a year later in 1967. They had two children, Gary of Wichita, Ks. who has two sons, and Delma of Phoenix, Ariz.

Arnold married Florence Werner of the Sts. Peter and Paul community, north of Kinsley. They lived in Rangely, Colo. They had two sons: Walter of Idaho Springs, Colo.; and Anthony, of Breckenridge, Colo. They have four grandchildren. Arnold died in 1968, Florence is living in Rangely, Colo.

Meta married Albert Mehl, originally from Holyrood, and lived on a farm northwest of Offerle. They have four children and nine grandchildren. Elden lives in Liberal, Kans. Lois lives in Troy, Idaho, Doris lives in WaKeeney, Kans. and Eileen lives in Minneapolis, Minn.

Elda married Elmer Wetzal and moved to Dodge City. They have three children: Deanne of Hutchinson, Kans.; David of Breckenridge, Colo.; and Debra of Dodge City, Kans. They have four grandchildren.

Herman married Virginia Lou Hickman of Spearville. He was in

the service in World War II. After his discharge he moved to the home place, then to Rangely, Colo. and Grand Junction. They have three children: Janet Sue and Keith of Grand Junction, Colo.; and Nancy of Albuquerque, New Mexico. They have four grandchildren. Herman is now married to Evelyn Browning and they live in Farmington, New Mexico.

FRED WEISS

Fred Weiss, son of Herman and Christina Weiss, was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania. He came to Kansas with his mother and brother, Harry in 1877, where they joined Mr. Weiss who came earlier to Kansas.

On May 6, 1902, Fred Weiss and Frances Krumrey were married. They made their home four miles southwest of Offerle. Here they raised a family: Carl, who passed away in 1939; Esther, who lives in Dodge City; Luella of Offerle; Zelma of Long Beach, Calif. and Edmund, who lives on the homeplace.



Fred and Frances Weiss.

Fred served on the Co-op board for a number of years and also on the District No. 2 school board. He passed away Sept. 9, 1939. Mrs. Weiss passed away Feb. 27, 1971.

HARRY G. WEISS

Harry Weiss, son of Herman and Christina Weiss, was born February 14th, 1875, in Butler County, Pennsylvania. He came to

Kansas with his mother and brother, Fred, in 1877, where they joined Mr. Weiss, who came earlier and resided where the present Lamplighter Club at Dodge City is now. In his boyhood days, he hauled coal to Fort Dodge with his father. He told of living in a dugout, with his Uncle George Siebert on the bank of the Coon Creek and had to live there a year in order to claim a homestead. Later the family moved to the present homestead in Wheatland Township.

He also told of the 1886 snowstorm. They would tie a rope to the house and make their way to the barn to feed the livestock and then follow the rope back to the house.

As a young man he operated a threshing machine in Russell County, also for the Dunker and Hermann Company. Later he and his father purchased a threshing machine of their own and he threshed for 52 seasons. He spent many a night sleeping in the haylofts and strawstacks.

In early infancy he was brought into covenant relationship with the Triune God by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. On April 14, 1889, Harry Weiss renewed his baptismal covenant by the rite of Confirmation at the altar of Zion Lutheran Church, and remained a staunch member of this church till the day of his departure, March 20, 1963. He attended school at District No. 14.

On May 29, 1902, Mr. Weiss was married to Miss Martha Brandel in the home of the bride's parents in Gray County, Kansas, near Ensign. This union the Lord blessed with two sons, Edward and Alvin, and one daughter, Elsie. The Weiss' operated a farm southwest of Offerle from 1902 till 1945, when they retired to Offerle.

Martha Augusta Weiss was born at Chicago, Illinois, on August 10, 1882, the daughter of Philip Brandel and his wife Albertina Gauger. The gracious God of heaven received her into the membership of His family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, performed by the Rev. W. Bartling on August 27, 1882.

In 1886, her parents moved to Kansas where they homesteaded a farm north of Ensign. There Mrs. Weiss grew up and lived her life until the time of her marriage.

On April 3, 1898, Mrs. Weiss was received into the adult membership of Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle by the solemn rite of Confirmation, performed by the Rev. Louis Eschbach. She remained a faithful and active member of this church during her whole life. She was a charter member of the congregation's Ladies' Aid Society in which her talents and energies found uncounted opportunities for service until advancing age and physical disabilities made further activity impossible.

Two members of her immediate family preceded her in death. Her husband died on March 20, 1963, and one son, Alvin, on April 29, 1975.

Mrs. Weiss departed this life in faith of her Savior and was called by Him to her eternal home February 1, 1976. She attained the age of 93 years, 5 months, and 21 days.



Alvin, Martha, Edward, Harry and Elsie Weiss 1912.

HERMAN WEISS PIONEER FAMILY 62 YEARS ON THE HOMESTEAD

Herman Christian Weiss was born April 28, 1852, in Muelsen St. Michlen, at Zurickau Saxony, Germany. In 1872, at the age of 20, he came to America. He first settled in Butler County, Penn. He married Miss Christina Siebert in June, 1874. This union was blessed with seven sons and four daughters.

In September of 1877, he came to Kansas to settle on a homestead. His first night in Kansas he slept in the luscious grass on the prairie. On awaking in the morning, as if a miracle he met several men who proved to be real friends and helped him get somewhat settled. The mother, with two small sons, joined him in December that same year. Like all pioneers they had hard times. Farming was the aim, but difficult to get started. They had a few cattle, hogs and chickens. Mother made butter which she sold in Dodge City also took some eggs. Traveling across country also on the egg and butter road. They raised their own vegetables to live on. It was really trying for them: the years of drought, grasshoppers, the blizzard of 1886, fire hazards, too. In 1891, they lost their home by fire. It was at this time The Farmers Mutual Insurance Company was organized of which he was an active member. The first of his community activities was the organizing of Zion Lutheran Congregation in September, 1879. The Farmers State Bank was organized in 1913. He served as director and president of the Bank twenty odd years. He was one of the organizers of the Offerle Co-op Grain and Supply. And served as one of the directors for thirty years.



**Mr. and Mrs.
Herman Weiss.**

The eleven children are Harry and Fred, born in Penn. The others were born in Ford County, Kansas. Harry married Martha Brandel. They had three children. Fred married Frances Krumrey and they had five children. Etha married Rev. L. Eschback and they had six children. Albert married Mary Ruden and they had no family. Edwin married Bertha Kurth and they had six children. John died as a baby. Walter died in 1924. William married Lucy Wetzel and they had three children. Lena married A. C. Kurth and they had seven children. Two



Top: Walter, Tina, Harry, Fred, Lena and Bill; bottom: Julia, Edwin, Etha and Albert.

of their sons are in the Lutheran Ministry. Christina married Arthur Libhart and they had one daughter. At last, Julia, who owns the original homestead. A nephew, Everett Weiss, lives on the place and farms for her.

All of the married children settled near the parental home to rear their children with the exception of Etha, who lived most of her married life in Iowa.

Mother Weiss died in the spring of 1910, and Father in the fall of 1939. Only two of his family are still living, namely William and Julia.

HISTORY OF WILLIAM WEISS AND FAMILY

William M. Weiss was born September 18, 1890, in eastern Ford county. He is the youngest son of Herman and Christina Weiss. He has lived his entire life in the Zion Lutheran Church community. His younger days were spent herding cattle and helping with the farming. He served in the infantry in World War I during 1918 and 1919. He was stationed at Camp Funston, near Fort Riley, Kansas.

On April 6, 1921, William Weiss and Lucy Wetzel, daughter of Henry and Emma Wetzel, were married in Zion Lutheran Church. In April, 1976, they were able to celebrate their 55th anniversary with a family gathering. They have many memories about their lives and their farm. One they recalled was of course in the "dirty 30's" when they put the children to bed and used a vacuum cleaner to suck the dust from the room so the children could sleep.



**William and Lucy Weiss
on their wedding day.**

They have three children: Everett, living on the original Weiss homestead. He served in World War II in the Army Air Force. He married Phyllis Maskus, December 1, 1946. They have two sons, Alan, an X-ray repair specialist, living in Wichita; Greg, a carpenter and craft enthusiast, living in Cascade, Colorado.

Irene, their daughter, graduated from St. John's Lutheran College at Winfield and taught school at Oberlin, Kansas. On October 24, 1948, she married William Maskus and lives on a farm near Jetmore,

Kansas. They have three children: Bill, a graduate of Kansas State University and employed by Right Coop; Stan, a student at Fort Hays and a Hays Coop employee, and Shirley, a student at Kansas State University.

Donald, their youngest son, lives in Dodge City. He is head maintenance engineer at Trinity Hospital. He also enjoys carpentry, camping and fishing. He married Gloria Bradley, May 23, 1953. They have three children all at home; Brad, a junior at Dodge City Senior High School; Billy Brent, in grade school and a daughter "Chrissy".

William and Lucy Weiss now live in retirement on the farm, which has been their home for 55 years. (Through good and bad times!)

WESTPHAL

Julius Westphal was born January 7, 1829, in Schoenlanke Province, Posen, Germany. He came to America on Aug. 7, 1852, and settled in Chicago, Illinois. He was a cabinet maker by trade. He remained in the Chicago area until 1877, when he came to Kansas. He asked for and received his naturalization papers on February 28, 1857.

He was married to Ernestine Schulz in 1855. She was born around 1837 in Chicago. To this union six children were born, all near the Chicago area: August (Dec. 13, 1856); Lucy (1860); Matilda (Nov. 7, 1863); Julius (May 28, 1866); William (Sept. 27, 1868); and Herman (April 15, 1877).

In Julia Westphal's remembrances of her father telling her of their history, she recalls that they first settled about fifteen miles northeast of where they finally settled. After living there a few years, a claim



Grandpa Westphal

was taken on a new piece of land six and on-half miles west and five miles north of Kinsley. Here they built a home and other farm equipment. The rest of the children went out to make their own homes, while Aunt Tillie never married and remained with her parents until their death, when she bought a home in Kinsley of her own. Julius Westphal died in August, 1916 and his wife died in 1893.

August was married to Henerette Cassels in 1890, and they had four children. He died in 1838, in Island Grove, Florida where he had made his home.

Lucy was married to August (G.E.) Matthews in 1935, and they had five children. She died in 1935, after having lived all her life in Chicago.

Matilda never married and cared for her parents until their deaths and then moved to Kinsley where she died in 1954.

Julius married Minnie Willoughby and they had two children: Julia (1890), who was never married and lives in a rest home in Haviland; and Earl, who was married but had no children, and died in 1965. Julia and Earl lived on the homestead for many years. The original house burned down several years ago.



Westphal family—Julius, Minnie, Julia, Tillie, Grandma, Grandpa, Herman, William.

William J. married Elizabeth Wetzel in 1896. They were the parents of three children: William J. "Bill" (1897) who resides now in Offerle; Robert Henry (1899), who died in 1928; and Ernestine Matilda (1901). Bill married Angie Fullerton and they had six children. Robert married Persis Dixon in 1920 and they had four children. Persis still resides in Kinsley. Ernestine Matilda married Karl J. Karstensen in 1930 and they had two children. Karl is a retired Lutheran minister and they live in Hutchinson.

Herman married Ethel Ann Dixon in 1910 and they had three children: Edith (1913) married to John Brack in Kinsley and they had

two children: Emma Mary (1915) married Roy Ware and had two children; and Esther May (1916) married Leo Stach of Kinsley and had four children: Charlene, Virginia, Linda and Neva Jo.

CHARLEY WETZEL

Charley August Wetzel was born at Willow Springs, Kansas, Sept. 25, 1877, to Louis and Christina (Lang) Wetzel. He died near Offerle, Kansas, Dec. 7, 1957.

As a small child he was brought by his parents to the land they homesteaded eight miles southwest of Offerle. Here he grew to manhood with two brothers and four sisters. He later took over the farm where he spent the remainder of his life with the exception of about seven years when he and his wife and two children lived in Kinsley, Kansas.

He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church and served as treasurer during the remodeling of the church in 1920, which his father helped build in 1898.



Charley Wetzel's Golden Anniversary.

He was married Jan. 12, 1903, to Laura Krupp, daughter of Gottfried and Eva Krupp, early settlers living north of Kinsley.

Laura Krupp was born April 7, 1880 in Chicago, Illinois. She died Jan. 20, 1973.

Five children were born to them:

Harry W. (married Helen Kuhn) their children: Robert, Elvira (Mrs. Delbert Setzkorn), Bonnie (Mrs. Clarence Drewes), Alan and Louis.

Clara (Mrs. Harry Froetschner) their children: Marilyn (Mrs.

Jack Kersting), Kermit, James and Jerome.

Charley and Laura Wetzel also had twin daughters and a son who died in infancy.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary Jan. 12, 1953.

HENRY G. WETZEL

Henry G. Wetzel, and Emma W. Strohwitz were married April 6, 1890. They moved to the farm south of Offerle, which was homesteaded. The claim was signed by President Grover Cleveland. A document which is still in Albert Wetzel's possession. Besides farming, Henry Wetzel worked at Dodge City, hauling mail from Dodge to Fort Dodge. He also served on the Dist. 47 School Board from 1904 till 1940. He was on the Offerle Co-op board of directors for 15 years. A Township Trustee (treasurer and clerk), and a member of the Lutheran Church for 58 years (an elder for 9 years) were other activities important to him.

To this union was born eleven children:

Edward H. Wetzel married Lillie Ley. Their children are Raymond, Loretta and Hazel. Raymond married Ruth Leonard, they have five children: Ray Jr. (married Doris Rush), Glenda (married Mike Stout), and Wayne, Nancy and Dale.

William A. Wetzel married Lucy Demain. Their children: Vernon (married Marie Ziesch) live at Ponca City, Okla, Edith (married Chester Larson), they have three children: Diana, Herry and Lois; Velma (married Clarence Williamson), they have four children: Larry, Bob, Tom and Anita; Erna (married Herman Sanko), they have four children; Eugene (married Ruby Janke), they have three children; Dorothy (married Cliff Riddle), they have three boys; Merlyn (married Mary Ellen Whitton), they adopted twin sons; Carolyn (married Jim Langley), they have five children.

Lucy Wetzel married Wm. Weiss. Their children are: Everett, Irene Maskus and Donald Weiss.

Harry Wetzel (deceased) married Dora Froetschner. Their children are: La Verne, Kathleen, Richard, Stratton, Colo.; Leroy, Steven, and Joan.

Herman Wetzel married Elsie Weiss. Their children are: Carol of Spearville and Edgar of Great Bend.

Emil Wetzel (deceased) married Bertha Wagner. Their children are: Walter of San Francisco, Calif. and Kenneth (deceased).

Elmer Wetzel married Elda Weiss. Their children are: Deanne Drach of Hutchinson, David of Breckenridge, Colo. and Debra West of Dodge City.

Herbert Wetzel married Hilda Kregar. Their children are: Virginia Goldsberry of Dodge City, Elizabeth Maskus, Dodge City and Paul of Offerle.

Ella Wetzel married Ervin Schneidewind. They live at Ness City. Francis Wetzel and Albert Wetzel live on the original farmstead.



Standing: Herbert, William, Frances, Emil, Ella, Albert, Herman and Elmer. Seated: Harry, Emma, Henry and Edward.

HERMAN AND ELSIE WETZEL

Herman, the son of Henry and Emma Wetzel, and Elsie, the daughter of Harry and Martha Weiss, were married May 18th, 1926, in



Zion Lutheran Church. They were both baptized and confirmed in Zion Lutheran Church. They have lived all their life in this community. Herman graduated from Kinsley High School in 1923, went to Hays college for the summer session, then taught school for three years at District 14 in Ford County, and taught at District 47 in Edwards County the first year they were married, then devoted his time to farming. They bought the Mark Renfro farm. When they started farming it was after they started to use tractors. Their first tractor was a Wallis tractor that they bought in 1927, and a Chevrolet truck. Their first combine was a Case they bought in 1928. In 1942, they bought a M & M combine and Farmall tractor. In 1948, they bought a Dodge truck. In 1952, they bought a John Deere self-propelled combine and later another Dodge truck and a Case Deisel tractor and used these implements until they sold the farm and retired from farming in 1974.

They have two sons: Carol and Edgar. Carol married Erna Dierolf, June 2, 1948. Herman and Elsie moved to Offerle in May, 1949. Carol and Erna lived on the farm until 1974. They had a Grade A Dairy for a number of years and Carol worked in Dodge City. They had four children, Joyce, Joleen, Warren and Juanita. Joyce married Valere Orebaugh, June 7, 1969. They live north west of Dodge City. They have a daughter, Jacqueline Sue, born June 17, 1975. Joleen married Dale Stein, July 15, 1972. She is teaching in the Kinsley High School. They live in Spearville. Warren married Marlene Eining, June 6, 1975. He is working for CrustBuster Mfg. in Spearville. Juanita is attending High School in Kinsley, Erna is teaching in the Spearville-Windthorst School District. Due to a heart condition, Carol isn't doing full time employment.



Standing: Erna, Carol, Helen and Edgar. Herman and Elsie are seated. Taken at their 50th anniversary celebration on May 23, 1976.

Edgar spent four years in the Air Force and now owns Ed's T.V. and Air Conditioning service in Great Bend. He married Helen Anne Maskus, December 28, 1952. They have two children: Randy and Renee. Randy went to Barton County Junior College and is in his senior year at St. Mary of the Plains College at Dodge City. Renee graduated

from Great Bend High School, May 18th of this Bicentennial year and also her grandparents Golden Wedding day. Helen is busy with her house work and keeping books for Edgar.

Herman served as treasurer of Zion Lutheran Church for forty-three years, and also served on the co-op board a number of years. Herman served on the School board at District 14 until it was closed. Three generations went to District 14, Elsie's father — Harry Weiss, Elsie, and both sons, Carol and Edgar.

They celebrated their wedding anniversary on the 23rd of May, 1976, with a service at the church and open house at the V.F.W. at Kinsley.

They think Offerle is a great little city and are glad to be living here.

LOUIS WETZEL

Louis Wetzel was born March 7, 1843, near Grofenvert, Saxony, Germany. He died at Kinsley, Kansas Dec. 1, 1923. He came to America with his parents when he was two years old. They settled in Butler County, Pennsylvania. As a young man he worked in the coal mines and foundry. He was married on Feb. 25, 1865 to Christina Lang in Pittsburg, Penn.

Christina Lang was born May 25, 1843, in Weisdarf, Bavaria



Standing: Katie, Elizabeth, William, Henry, Charley, Anna and Mary.
Seated: Louis and Christina Wetzel.

Germany. She died at Kinsley, Kansas, on Jan. 21, 1925. She came to America when she was seven years old with her parents and other immigrants in a sail boat. After many hardships they landed at New Orleans, La. A short time later, they took the water route to Pennsylvania on a steam boat. Her mother died enroute and was buried along the Mississippi River. Her father worked as a blacksmith and later remarried in Pennsylvania. After several years her step-mother also died. Christina took care of her step-brothers and step-sisters until her marriage to Louis Wetzel.

Several years after their marriage the Louis Wetzel family, five children at that time, came west to Douglas County, Kansas, in 1877. The next year they came farther west to Ford County. The mother, three girls and the baby came by train, while the father and two boys brought their possessions in a wagon with three cows along side. They established a homestead eight miles southwest of Offerle. They lived in a sod house and later built a frame house.

Times were very hard so the parents worked at Dodge City. The father hauled freight and coal and the mother worked for a well-to-do family for \$15.00 a month. During this time the three older children took care of the homestead.

Louis Wetzel was a charter member of Zion Lutheran Church when it was organized on Sept. 29, 1878. He was also a member of the building committee of the church which was completed in 1898. In 1915, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Their youngest son, Charley, later took over the farm and his grandson, Harry W. Wetzel and wife, Helen, now live on the land.

Because of ill health, the Louis Wetzels moved to Kinsley, Kansas, in 1920, and spent the remainder of their years with their daughters Elizabeth Westphal and Mary Taylor. Louis died Dec. 1, 1923 and Christina died on Jan. 21, 1925.

Seven children were born to them, five in Pennsylvania and two in Kansas.

Mary (Mrs. Louis Taylor) had three children: Louis, Walter and Alice (Mrs. Fred Quasenbarth) all now deceased. Mary died Feb. 22, 1954.

Henry married Emma Strohwitz and both are deceased. Eleven children: Edward, William, Lucy (Mrs. Wm. Weiss), Frances, Harry H. (deceased), Albert, Herman, Emil (deceased), Elmer, Herbert and Ella (Mrs. Ervin Schneidewind). Henry died April 9, 1940.

Elizabeth married Wm. Westphal and both are deceased. Three children: Robert (deceased), William and Erna (Mrs. Karl Karstensen), Elizabeth died March 11, 1966.

Katie married Henry Henning and both are deceased. They had six children: Anna (Mrs. P. G. Krause) deceased; Rose (Mrs. Earl Dixon); Mollie (Mrs. Ed Kurth); Alice (Mrs. Grant Powers); Dorothea (Mrs. Ted Boger) deceased; and a boy who died as a child. Katie died April 30, 1960.

William married Bertha Ley and both are deceased. They had two children: Charley (deceased), and Alma (Mrs. Wm. Froetschner). William died Sept. 17, 1927.

Charley married Laura Krupp and both are deceased. They had five children: Harry W., Clara (Mrs. Harry Froetschner), twin daughters, and a son who all died in infancy. Charley died Dec. 7, 1957.

Anna married Herman Kregar. They had two children: Elsie (Mrs. Ernest Genthe) and Leonard who are all now deceased. Anna died June 14, 1929.

WILLIAM WETZEL

The is a brief history of William Wetzel (also known as Will) A story on the Louis Wetzel family appears elsewhere in this book.

Will, who was a son of Louis Wetzel, married Bertha Ley in 1896. They lived on a timber claim one mile east of Zion Lutheran church, which is ten miles southwest of Offerle.

They were the parents of Carl H. (also known as Charley) and Alma. It was not easy in those days to make a living, but with much hard work and contentment they always managed to get along.

Will's first car was a Reo bought in about 1911. His first tractor was a Bull tractor bought in about 1912, then there was a Hoke tractor bought in about 1915, which is still on the same farm now.

People were very neighborly in those days, helping each other for miles around, especially in the threshing times.

My father never worked with a combine, as he died in 1927.

My mother died in 1942, and Charley, my brother, died in 1969.

I, Alma, married Wm. Froetschner (also known as Bill) and we still live on the same (timber claim) farm, one mile east of Zion Lutheran church.