

**FAMILY**  
**BIOGRAPHIES**

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The Editorial Staff

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

### THE ADAMS-KIMBREL FAMILIES

It has been 110 years since the Adams-Kimbrel families migrated to Kansas. The descendants of the pioneering families have only the early-day stories of the ancestors and a few land and census records to show their step-by-step migration from Virginia, in the 1700s, to North Carolina, then to Indiana in the early 1800s, to Missouri in the 1860s and on to the prairies of western Kansas in 1885.

Family stories tell of the Adams and Kimbrel families going from North Carolina to Indiana, at the same time. Both families later settled around Middletown, Missouri, in Montgomery County. It was there that Josephine and Emma Adams married Martin and John Kimbrel. In 1884 and 1885, both families, along with Emma and Josephine's brother, Terrel Adams, became restless after hearing glowing tales of the opportunities there were for free land in southwestern Kansas. Finally, in April 1885, the three men made an exploratory visit to the prairie country around Dodge City.

It had been a wet spring, and the unscrupulous land agents assured the three Missourians that the water-filled buffalo wallows were springs. Both of the



**John C. Kimbrel with granddaughter Glennis Kimbrel, Martin M. Kimbrel and Terrel W. Adams, the three pioneers who homesteaded in Concord Township in 1885.**



**Thursey Jane (Hurley) and William Wilson Adams. Thursey lived from 1820-1893.**

Kimbrels and Terrel Adams filed claims on land 15 to 20 miles southwest of Dodge City. One thing that impressed them was that there were no trees or brush to clear from the rich, black loam, so different from Missouri. All three claims were in Concord Township of Ford County.

John Kimbrel stayed on the first piece of land that he claimed. He proved it up and raised his family there. He and Emma lived on their homestead until they moved to Dodge City, in 1910. Martin Kimbrel did not stay in western Kansas. His wife, Josephine, always called "Jo," and his son Rosco's wife, Alma, hated these flat, windy plains. Both families moved to Coffeyville, in southeastern Kansas, in 1908, where many of their descendants still live. Terrel Adams moved several times before he proved up a homestead. It was the NE 1/4 S16 T28 R25 in Concord Township. Terrel and Annie lived there until their retirement in 1920.

William Wilson Adams and his wife, Thursey Jane, father and mother of Jo and Emma Kimbrel and Terrel Adams, followed their children to Ford County in 1887. They also filed on a homestead in the same area as Terrel and the Kimbrels. Thursey had poor health, possibly consumption, now called tubercu-

losis. She died December 28, 1893, at the age of 73 years and 18 days. She was buried in Concord Cemetery. After her death, W.W. lived a few months at a time with each of the three children. He died on September 10, 1902. He was buried in Concord Cemetery. W.W. was very proud of his membership in the Masonic Lodge. The times that Chalk Beeson or Ham Bell would drive out to the farm in a buggy, to take him for an overnight stay in Dodge City to attend a Masonic meeting, were very special occasions for him.

Stories of the Adams and the Kimbrel families are excerpts from the family history *A Century in Kansas* published in 1986 and written by Lola Adams Crum and LeAnn Herron Brandon.

### ARTHUR WILSON AND

### LYDIA POTTORFF ADAMS

Arthur Wilson Adams was born near Jonesburg in Montgomery Co., Missouri, on September 8, 1872. He was the son of William Terrel and Hester Ann (Reed) Adams. He was the oldest of 10 children and weighed only two and one-half pounds at birth. His mother told of the midwife wrapping the newborn in a shoe box and placing the box on the open oven door to keep him warm. His head was so small that a tea cup would fit on his tiny head. The other unusual occurrence that the family and neighbors remember is that the last three of the 10 children were triplets.

The Adams family moved to various communities in or near southeastern Missouri in the next few years, returning more than once to the area around Middletown, where most of the family had settled. Wherever they went, Arthur's father, Terrel, worked in harness shops. As a small child, Arthur had a stuttering problem.

One day, as he stood around in his dad's harness shop listening to the tobacco-chewing bench warmers spin yarns, one of the fellows said, "You know, Art, if you would learn to chew tobacco and spit, you wouldn't stutter."

Arthur believed him and from that day until he had to get false teeth, he chewed tobacco and he didn't stutter.

The Adams family arrived in Kansas, in August. Arthur was 13 the next

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**Birthday Dinner, August 6, 1912, for W.T. (Terrel) Adams at his soddy, 11 miles south of Dodge City. Terrel and Annie Adams are marked on photo.**

month, September 8, 1885. They came by train, bringing with them oxen, milk cows, hogs, a few chickens, some farming equipment and feed for the livestock, as well as food and clothing for themselves. The John and Martin Kimbrel families came at the same time. All three families found homesteads in the same general area in Concord township, southwest of Dodge City, so three-family gatherings were frequent. Hurley Kimbrel, Arthur and Harry Adams who were close to the same age, thoroughly enjoyed hunting for prairie chickens, rabbits, and even smaller birds. Arthur used to tell of how they would make sparrow traps with a wide flat board, a string and some grain. As he remembered it, there was nothing quite so good as the sparrow breasts and dumplings that "Ma" would prepare. This was especially true when the family had been without meat for several days.

As a harness maker, Terrel had to be away from home much of the time. This left a big responsibility upon Annie Adams and her two eldest sons, Arthur and Harry. Both boys grew up feeling the weight of that responsibility. Harry was 29, and Arthur 35, when they were able to get out and start families of their own.

Arthur was always serious about education and after finishing his rural

school work, he took teaching courses at Soule College. He taught four terms of school. The first was in the west bedroom of the frame section of the Adams home in 1894, the year that the triplets were born. Arthur was first and foremost a farmer, but when crops failed and taxes were due, teaching a three-month term of school would bring in the needed cash.

When he was old enough, he filed on a homestead of his own, several miles southwest of the family home. The house that he built was known as "The Shack" but it served its purpose.



**Lydia Jane (Pottorff) Adams, 1881-1907**

The younger boys and even cousins took turns staying with him until finally the land was his.

Arthur eventually met and married a pretty school teacher, Lydia Pottorff. Lydia had come to Ford County in 1886, with her parents when she was four years old and had grown up on a homestead. She taught seven terms of rural school, driving many miles in a buggy. Arthur and Lydia were married at her parents' home north of town on April 3, 1907. Arthur decided that he wanted a fine house in Dodge City for his bride, so with the help of George Woolwine and a few relatives, he built the home that still stands at 803 Third Avenue. At that time, it was the only house on the whole block. He had seen fancy round shingles and stained glass in the upper window sashes of elegant homes in Colorado Springs, when he and Lydia were on their honeymoon, so he finished off his house in the latest style.

Although Arthur had a good job at the lumber yard in the block south of his city home, that old "farmer's spirit" began to surface. About three years of city life was all that he could take. Although their first child, Lola May was born in the house on Third Avenue, 18 months later, January 14, 1910, when their son, William Wilson, was born, they were back on the farm.

Arthur was an ambitious man and when he saw what looked like the investment of a lifetime, he sold his Kansas land and invested in newly opened irrigation land in Colorado. The land wasn't as fine as promised, and in a coming financial crisis, everything was lost.

With the help of his father-in-law, W.H. Pottorff, Arthur made a new beginning north of town. He eventually became known as one of the more progressive farmers in his community. A third son, Jesse LeRoy, was born in Dodge City, during those bad times on March 16, 1912. A daughter, Zola May (Adams) Longton, was born February 11, 1915. This was about a year and a half after they had moved to the farm, then known as the "Old Lierle Place," where they lived for the next 41 years.

In 1954, Arthur and Lydia Adams

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moved back to the home where they had begun their married life, so long ago—803 Third Avenue, Dodge City, Kansas. He died there on April 18, 1955. Lydia continued to live alone in the old home until her daughter, Lola, who had taught for 19 years in California, retired in 1963 and came home to be with her mother. Lydia lived nine more years and died at 90 years of age on May 15, 1972.

Lola Adams Crum

### THE ARTHUR ADAMS FAMILY

#### LOLA ADAMS CRUM

I was born on May 29, 1908, at 803 Third Avenue in Dodge City, a house that was new and quite modern for those days. In the 87 years since then it has become a house filled with memories of many relatives who were born or married there and even some who died in the "old home." These memories include the Kimbrel as well as the Adams families since Arthur's Uncle John lived at 803 Third Avenue for many years.

As I recalled childhood memories, the two most vivid were of the two things that I feared the most—cyclones, and Grandpa Pottorff's cattle!

The most frightening was the summer "cyclones." All summer long I would search every little cloud for that ominous funnel. To this day, I have not seen an actual funnel cloud, a real tornado, even though I have lived in Kansas most of my life. The other fear was of cattle, Grandpa Pottorff's gentle old milk cows in particular. Walking to and



Adams Family, summer of 1908. Back row, from left: Arthur Adams, William Shepard Adams, Harry Adams, Charlie Adams, Florence Adams, Ezra Knoy, Dennis West. Adults center: Lydia Adams, Lillie Adams, Lizzie Adams, William Terrel Adams, Annie Adams, Jennie Knoy, Hallie West. Children center: Lola Adams, Stewart Adams, Harold Adams, Irene Adams, Maye Knoy, Margaret Knoy, Genia West. Front row: Cecil Knoy, Mary Adams, Roy Adams.

from school my vivid imagination could see those quietly grazing cattle storming toward me at any minute, bawling and pawing, like the wild bulls in my dreams. It was a painful and agonizing fear, thankfully never realized.

The year before I was old enough to start to school, the Arthur Adams family made their move to the farm north of Dodge City. I began my schooling at age six in the old Prairie View School. It is often referred to as the Pottorff or "Putoff" school. It was a typical one-room school where one teacher taught all eight grades and the students carried their lunches to school in a tin pail. It was approximately 1/2 mile west of where the new school was built three years later. The new building, now converted into a home, still stands about four miles north of Dodge City, at the end of 14th Avenue. All of our family, my two brothers, Will and Jesse, and my sister, Zola, and I received our grade school education in this school.

After four years of high school in Dodge City, where at that time teacher training was taught, I graduated with a Normal Training Certificate. At age 18, I began a 32-year teaching career in September 1926. After three years in the rural school, I taught in Dodge City; Kansas City, Kansas; Arizona and Cali-

fornia. I retired in 1963, after 19 years in California, always knowing that someday I would come home to Dodge City. I was able to be with my mother for nine years before her death in 1972.

My marriage to Robert Carter in 1939 ended in divorce. I married Lloyd Harper on September 1, 1962. He died on October 22, 1962. In 1974, I married an old-time acquaintance, Len Crum, December 29, 1974. We are still making our home at 803 Third Avenue in 1995.

Lola Adams Crum.

### JESSE LEROY "DET" ADAMS

Jesse LeRoy "Det" Adams was born March 16, 1912, the third child of Arthur and Lydia Adams. He was born in the drafty little house in Dodge City, always referred to as the "Mouse Hole" by the family. He was a healthy 12-pound baby at birth, but he got pneumonia the winter after his birth while living in the drafty old house on Dodge City's famous Front Street.

Jesse had arrived when the family finances were at their lowest ebb. Arthur had lost everything in an unfortunate land deal in the San Luis Valley of Colorado. In desperation he took the only job available—a pick and shovel job on the "rip track" of the railroad. With no



The Arthur Adams Family, 1953. Back row: W.W. Adams, Lola (Adams) Crum, Zola (Adams) Longton. Front row: Jess Adams, Lydia (Pottorff) Adams, Arthur Adams.

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money for hospitalization, the sick baby's mother sat and bathed him day after day to control the fever of the pneumonia. Recurrence of this sickness continued for the next three years. It wasn't until after the Adams family moved to the farm north of town that Jesse regained his health.

Jesse, known to the family and friends as Det, grew up on the farm. Times were hard and so was the work that involved all the family. As a small boy, he herded the family's cattle, first with his sister, Lola, and later his brother, Will. As soon as he was big enough to sit on a tractor seat and reach the operating levers of one of the first tractors in the country, Det became a "regular farmer" during the summer months.

The beginning of the Great Depression found Det in high school. The first of seven years of crop failures followed. Det refused to do his senior year while his mother worked in the fields because there was no money for hired help. He did finish the following year to graduate in 1931. He then helped his dad struggle through the dirty '30s and they managed to save the farm, which many were not able to do in those years.

Jesse married Helen Allen in January 1954. He and Helen continued to live on the farm through the good and bad years that followed. It was after their marriage that his parents moved to the old home at 803 Third Avenue in Dodge City. Jesse and Helen had one daughter, Alana Sue, born April 7, 1956. She grew to adulthood on the farm. She became a very capable farm hand, but her first love was horses.

Alana married Jay Raber on April 9, 1977. They have one daughter, Elizabeth Leigh, born July 12, 1978. Alana was divorced and married Dennis Veges, July 1, 1989. They live in Wichita, but still own the Adams farm that has been in the family for 80 years.

Jesse died on December 19, 1983. Helen died October 16, 1990, in Wichita, where she had moved to be close to Alana and Dennis.

Lola Adams Crum

### WILLIAM WILSON

#### AND VERA ENLOW ADAMS

The oldest son of this Adams family begins his story: "I am William Wilson Adams. My father and mother were Arthur and Lydia (Pottorff) Adams. I was born January 14, 1910, on a farm south of Dodge City. I have two sisters, Lola Crum and Zola Longton. My one brother, Jesse, died December 19, 1983. We grew up on a farm north of Dodge City. We took part in the Prairie View literary programs and neighborhood parties. I married Vera Enlow, January 5, 1936, at Meade, Kansas. Our children are Wayne and Larry Adams."

As is often the case, a person's birth name is used only on the most official occasions. William was never called "William." In school he was called Will, most people now call him W.W. or Bill.

He remembers what a big snow meant to country children who were going to high school. Until the late 1920s, it was necessary for those in the country to find room and board in town during the week because of poor roads and a lack of transportation.

Will said "... it was in March of the first year in high school that we got a deep snow. One week our dad would take Lola and me in the wagon on Sunday afternoon, pick up the neighbor kids, Ella Converth, Hilton Prather and Scott Rankin and deliver each to his boarding place. Frank Converth would take us home Friday afternoon for the weekend. This went on until the snow cleared around the first of April."

Another memory of Will's was when he, Jess, and, part of the time, Lola, would herd the Adams and Pottorff cattle on grassland west of the Adams home. The cattle had to be kept on the grassland and away from the roads and fields. Sometimes Lola had to drive a four-horse team hitched to a disk or drill. Those were hard times and all of the family had to work.

W.W. and Vera celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January 1986. They have lived on the same farm all of their married life. It was Grandpa (W.H.) Pottorff's home place, the home where Pop and Mom Adams (Arthur

and Lydia) were married. W.W. and Vera built a new house in 1945 and added to it in 1965. W. W. died on April 3, 1995, in Dodge City. He is buried in Greencrest Cemetery, Dodge City.

Wayne, their oldest son, married Barbara Roberts in 1977. They built a home in a new addition on Toalson Avenue in Dodge City, north of the Highway 50 By-Pass. He has three stepchildren and seven grandchildren.

Larry married Faye Holman in 1969. Their son, Jared, was born in 1974. During the summer months, he has been developing his talents at Boot Hill, not only as the drummer in the Long Branch Saloon shows, but as an actor in their winter stage shows. He also performs as a medicine man and gunfighter in the daily Boot Hill tourist attractions, as many Dodge City teenagers do.

Larry and his family live on a farm three miles east of the home place. Wayne and Larry do the farming and take care of the cattle in these later years, while Bill and Vera enjoy their well-deserved retirement.

Lola Adams Crum

### ZOLA MAE ADAMS LONGTON

Zola was the youngest of the four children of Arthur and Lydia Adams. She was the only one of the four to be born on the farm north of Dodge City. Zola was always the outdoor girl in the family. Lola, the oldest, made the two younger brothers play house with her, but Zola's two older brothers taught her to play horses and other outdoor activities with them. Lola loved to cook while Zola raised the chickens and became skilled at riding the horses bareback.

Zola remembers the Prairie View country school days, the literaries and neighborhood parties where the children played Skip-To-My-Lou, Miller Boy, Weavely Wheat and other play party singing games of that time. During the course of the evening, several different games would be played. Probably the most popular were Miller Boy and Skip To My Lou. For Miller Boy, partners were chosen but "It", the Miller Boy, had no partner. As the couples walked around two by two in a circle in time to the music, they sang:



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*Happy is the Miller Boy who lives  
by the mill,*

*The Wheel turns around with a free  
good will.*

*One hand in the hopper and the other  
in the sack*

*The ladies step forward and the gents  
fall back.*

Then the one in the center would grab a partner and the one left without a partner was the Miller Boy when the wheel started again. At the next change, the words were "The ladies step forward and the gents turn back." Going in opposite directions they sang:

*Here we go sowing oats*

*Where can I find a binder*

*I've lost my true love*

*And right here I'll find her.*

As quickly as possible each gent grabbed a partner and, of course, the one left with no lady was the next Miller Boy. These verses were repeated until the leader called for another game.

When playing "Skip To My Lou," partners were chosen and "It" was without a partner. All stood in one big circle holding hands while "It" skipped around the outside of the circle as they all sang any of several verses such as:

*Little red wagon painted blue*

*Little red wagon painted blue*

*Little red wagon painted blue*

*Skip to My Lou my darling.*

While they sang, "It" grabbed a girl and she skipped around the circle with him while her erstwhile partner skipped after them. Hopefully, they would get back to the vacant place before he caught them. The new "It" stood alone while all skipped around the circle two by two singing:

*Skip, Skip, Skip to My Lou*

*Skip, Skip, Skip to My Lou*

*Skip, Skip, Skip to My Lou*

*Skip to My Lou my darling.*

As the game continued, any of many verses would be sung, some made up on the spur of the moment. They might be such as:

*"I'll get another better than you"*

*"Rats in the cream jar bigger than  
you"*

*"Flies in the buttermilk shoo shoo  
shoo" or shoo, fly, shoo,*

Zola attended Sunday School at the

Star Center School, a mile and a quarter west of the Adams home. On one Sunday each month, the members brought food for a basket dinner and invited the Christian Church minister and any choir members who could come to join them. In the afternoon, the visitors held a church service. Several miles to the northwest the people in the area surrounding the Royal Township Community Hall had Sunday School in the hall. They, too, had a monthly basket dinner and an afternoon preaching service. It was always on a different Sunday than Star Center's service. Zola remembers the lasting friendships that were formed as each community visited the other's dinner and afternoon service.

Zola Mae Adams married Gerald Edward Longton May 8, 1934, at the Second Avenue Christian Church parsonage. They have one son, Gerald Arthur "Jerry" Longton, who lives in Dodge City. He married Carol Osborn in 1960. They have four daughters, Deborah, twins Barbara and Beverly and Janell.

When Zola and Gerald were first married, Gerald worked for the Standard Oil Company. He drove the gas truck that delivered gasoline and kerosene to the farmers. Their first home was at 803 Third Avenue where her parents had begun their married life. In 1937, they moved to a farm in Gray County. In 1945, they bought what was known then as the "Old Butcher Place" 12 miles west of Dodge City, on Highway 50. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in May 1984, while living there.

Beverly, one of the Longton twins, now lives on the old farm with her husband, Rick Weber, their daughter, Shelby, and son, Reid Garrett. Barbara married Kevin Norton, a fireman. They have one son, Eric. Debbie and Janell are employed in Dodge City and continue to live at home.

After Gerald's health failed, he and Zola moved to Dodge City. Gerald died December 15, 1989, and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City. Zola is still living in Dodge City.

Lola Adams Crum

### HARRY C. AND LIZZIE ADAMS

Harry Conwell Adams, son of William Terrel and Hester Ann (Reed) Adams, was born in Montgomery Co., Missouri, on February 17, 1874.

When Harry was 11, his family moved to Kansas, settling in Concord Township, of Ford County, in August 1885. When they first arrived, they lived in a hastily made dugout while they were building their sod house which was in S25 T28 R26. The sod house was near the stagecoach and freight weigh station. Vehicles changed horses there and sometimes passengers ate in the home.

Moving to the homestead in August meant that there would be no income from the farm for at least a year, so Terrel worked at his old trade as harness-maker in Dodge City. He batched during the week in town, walking 17 miles to and from Dodge City, on the weekend, carrying the needed supplies home on his back. Because their father was gone so much of the time, Harry and his older brother, Arthur, had a great deal of responsibility in taking care of the rest of the family. The boys did the farming using a team of oxen and a burro to do the work of plowing and planting. The plows were walking plows.

Harry remembered the terrible blizzard of January 1886. He, Arthur and their younger brother, Shepard, had put the livestock and the chickens in the shed when the snow began to fall and before it got too bad, they stretched a rope from the house to the shed to fol-



**The H.C. Adams Family. Standing: Herbert Adams, Irene (Adams) Zurbuchen, Harold Adams. Seated: Lizzie (Butts) Adams, Harry C. Adams.**

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low. During the storm the snow was so deep that they could not get out of the house, but the animals did survive.

After the storm, the snow covered everything, so the boys walked right over the shed. When the burro brayed and the rooster crowed, they knew where to find the shed full of animals, safe but hungry. The boys had carried fuel into the house before the blizzard, mostly buffalo and cow chips which burn quickly. Their mother used them sparingly, just enough at a time to cook quick meals. She made the children stay in bed to keep warm. They entertained themselves by singing and telling or reading stories. When their father got home, he came trudging through the snow drifts carrying a huge bag of flour over his shoulder. The family was fortunate not to lose any cattle or any lives.

Even in pioneer days, "kids will be kids" and one time when Terrel and Annie went to town and left the older ones to look after the younger ones, there was some mischief that has been remembered and retold down through the years.

There were some older girls in the neighborhood who had been piercing their ears. This gave Harry and the other boys a bright idea. They had lots of cats, so Harry got his dad's harness-making leather punch and used it to punch holes in the cats' ears. Annie had been knitting stockings for the children to wear the following winter. Sister Hallie saw the bag of red yarn and had another bright idea. They took the red yarn and tied little red bows into the newly-pierced feline ears. For weeks after that, anyone looking out across the prairie near the Adams home would see cats with red bows merrily bobbing in their ears as they chased ground squirrels. The unfortunate outcome for the children was that there were no new wool stockings as the yarn supply ran out before the stockings were finished.

When Harry was between 15 and 16, he began working for the various ranchers and farmers in the area. One of these jobs was on the Chalk Beeson Ranch. It was a very large ranch, covering much territory and it required a large crew to operate it. While working there, Harry

met Elizabeth Johanna (Lizzie) Butts. She helped Mrs. Beeson with the housework and cared for their young son, Merritt, as well as cooking for ranch hands.

The Adams family and the Butts family lived only a few miles apart, but Harry and Lizzie had never met until they worked together at the Beeson Ranch. Lizzie's home was between Wilburn, Kansas, and Crooked Creek, a few miles north of Wilburn. When her family decided to move back to Missouri, instead of going with the family, Lizzie moved to Dodge City, where she worked for several years. As mentioned before, heavy family responsibilities kept the two older Adams boys from starting homes of their own for several years.

Harry did file on a claim and after proving it up in 1902-03, he built a four-room house on his farm. On November 12, 1903, Harry and Lizzie were married, even though the only room of his new house that was finished was the kitchen. It took some time, but the house was eventually finished and served as a home for many years.

Harry and Lizzie had four children. Luella Irene was born September 30, 1904; William Stewart on March 22, 1906; Harold Clayton on November 12, 1907 and Herbert Dean was born July 16, 1910. All of the children grew up on the farm and attended the West Union country school.

Harry and Lizzie lived all of their married life on the same farm. Through the years they acquired several more quarters of land. In 1924, they built a modern three-bedroom house south of the old one.

Lizzie died November 5, 1946. Harry lived three years after her death. After suffering for a week with what he thought was a stomach disorder, he died of a heart attack on May 12, 1949.

Three of Harry and Lizzie's children grew to adulthood on the farm southwest of Dodge City. Stewart, the oldest son, was killed in an auto accident on April 15, 1922, at the age of 16.

Lola Adams Crum

### IRENE ADAMS ZURBUCHEN

Irene (Adams) Zurbuchen was the oldest of Harry and Lizzie's children. She was born September 10, 1904, in Dodge City, at the home of Tom Rice, a close friend of the family. Dr. Claude McCarty was the doctor. He had just started practicing with his father, Dr. T.L. McCarty. Dr. "Claude," as he was known, practiced his entire life in Dodge City.

One of Irene's childhood memories is of the birth of her youngest brother, Herbert. Since it occurred on July 10, 1910, in harvest time, she remembers that Grandma Butts came to help with the harvest, and of course, care for Lizzie and the new baby. On the morning of the big event, the three children and their cousin, Viola, who had come with Grandma Butts from Kansas City, were sent to play in the old dirt cellar and told to stay there until they were called. They didn't understand at all, but knew better than to disobey. About noon when they were called, they were surprised to be shown a new baby brother, Herbert Dean.

Irene also remembers, when still a small child, of going to visit Aunt Emma and Uncle John Kimbrel. Before dinner, Aunt Emma got a fairly good-sized stick and attached newspapers cut in strips to the top of it. She could always remember seeing her aunt swishing the stick and fluttering newspaper strips over the dining room table to frighten away the flies while people were eating.

In those early 1900s, before they had rural free delivery, the Harry Adams address was Reinert, Kansas. The post office was at the Pete Reinert home.

Irene went two years to the old St. Mary of the Plains Academy, but she finished high school in Dodge City, in order to get the normal training certificate that allowed a high school graduate to teach a country school. After teaching for five years in country schools, she married Louis Zurbuchen, on July 14, 1934, at Ashland, Kansas. As it happened, that was the hottest day of the year in the middle of the Great Depression and the dirty '30s. For two



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years they lived in Stanton County where Louis' dad had farmland.

Irene remembers one beautiful Sunday morning, April 15, 1935. Louis was working on his truck and Irene went out to try to help. They looked up and saw a terrible-looking black cloud of dust in the north. They hurriedly picked up the tools and ran to the house, arriving as the wind hit. That became known as the Black Sunday of 1935. You couldn't even see your hand before your eyes.

In 1935, Louis and Irene moved back to Ford County, one and one-half miles from her parents' home. They lived there until Louis' death on September 13, 1966. He was buried in Greencrest Cemetery in Dodge City. About a year after his death, Irene moved to Dodge City. She stayed first in a nursing home and then lived with her nephew, Ray Adams, and his wife, Linda, until her death on January 28, 1993.

Lola Adams Crum

### HAROLD CLAYTON ADAMS

Harold Clayton Adams, son of Harry C. and Lizzie Adams was born November 12, 1907, in the square house that Harry had built for his bride on his homestead land. The house built in 1902-03 was no longer new, but Harold, his sister, Irene, and brother, Herbert, grew to adulthood there. Although a new house was built later, Harold lived on that same corner for all but approximately 10 years of his life. During those 10 years he and his family lived in a little house only one and one-half miles east of the home place. He learned to farm as most farm boys did in those days, by working with his father.

Through good years and bad, Harold farmed with his dad. Harry did the planning and managing and they worked together at the farming operation. Finally, age and ill health and later the death of his father put all of the responsibility on Harold's shoulders. As the years passed, he had the help of his son, Ray, which lightened the labors in his later years. Since Harold's death on September 7, 1984, Ray and his son, Darrel, are following their father and grandfather as farmers of the old homestead.

Harold told one story about his dad that is really too humorous to be forgotten. It was undoubtedly no fun for his dad at the time. The Adams had an old sow that had a bad habit of eating chickens. One warm afternoon, Harry decided to take a bath outside in the big washtub. He suddenly heard the chickens squawking. He jumped out of the tub and ran to the pen to see what was happening. When the sow saw him, she jumped over the fence fleeing for her life. They found her nine miles south of the house. Harold said he supposed his dad was the first naked man she had ever seen.

Harold married Josie Bohling of Meade, Kansas, on August 3, 1937. At that time she was a nursing student at St. Anthony School of Nursing in Dodge City. Harold and Josie had three children: Phyllis Jean, Ray D. and Norma Joy.

Phyllis Jean was born June 16, 1938. She went four years to the Concord country school but finished the grades and high school at Ensign. Phyllis studied nursing at Great Bend and followed her mother into a nursing career. In 1963, she married Leon Figger and has since lived in Cimarron, Kansas. They have two children, Carol (Figger) Riney and Mark, as well as two grandchildren.

Ray D. was born June 22, 1944. He grew up on the farm and attended school at Ensign. He earned an agriculture degree from Fort Hays State University. He married Linda Stach, August 5, 1967. They raised their two sons on the farm where Lewis and Irene Zurbuchen had lived. In 1993, Ray and his son, Darrel are farming the old Adams homestead and the Zurbuchen land. Their son, Chris, took up nursing and after becoming Assistant Director of Nursing at the Trinity Manor Nursing Home at Dodge City, he resigned to take a position at the Sun Health Care Center in Sun City, Arizona.

Norma Joy was born April 18, 1946. As did her mother and older sister, she became a nurse. She graduated from Marymount School of Nursing in Salina, Kansas. After graduation, she served in several locations, including a short period of time in Vietnam. She

married William J. Hajjar. They have two sons, William Dennis and Randall Stewart. They live in Birmingham, Alabama.

Lola Adams Crum

### HERBERT DEAN ADAMS

Herbert Dean Adams, fourth and youngest of Harry and Lizzie Adams' children, was born July 16, 1910, on their farm southwest of Dodge City.

Herbert grew up on the farm, learning the farming business as had his older brother, Harold, from their father, Harry Adams. The elder Adams was considered one of the better farmers of the county. Since the Adams farm was closer to Ensign than Dodge City, his friends and social life was in that area.

Herbert married Ozene Faulkner on October 8, 1928. They lived with his parents for almost two years, but moved when his father bought an adjoining farm, known then as the Hartshorn place. Their daughters, June and Joyce, were born while they were living there. The Herbert Adams family lived on the farm for seven years, but this was in the middle of the "dirty '30s" and Herbert was forced to find work away from the farm for the next several years. Their son, Duane, was born during those years.

By 1937, times were beginning to improve and he was able to rent what is still known in the family as "Aunt Lillie's place." He raised his first wheat crop there. Their fourth child, Marjorie, was born that November.

As the Adams families had for generations before him, Herbert had visions of greater opportunities farther west. In 1942, he bought a farm near Anton, Colorado, and the family moved to Colorado in March 1942. They raised their four children there and continued to live on the farm until their retirement in 1968, when they moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. Herbert died of heart failure April 13, 1975.

Herbert and Ozene Adams' daughter, June, married Newell Herron. They had four children: Robert, LeAnn, James and John. The second daughter, Joyce, married Allen Levens. They had one son, Daniel. Herbert and Ozene's son, Duane, married Thelma Laybourn.

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Their three daughters are Debra, Annette and Vicky. Herbert and Ozene's daughter, Marjorie, married Chester Smith. They have one son and one daughter, Kyle and Chareé.

Lola Adams Crum

### WILLIAM SHEPHERD

#### AND LILLIE BISHOP ADAMS

William Shepherd Adams was born March 16, 1878, in Bowling Green, Missouri. He was the fourth child of William Terrel and Hester Ann (Reed) Adams. Shepherd, also called Bill, came to Kansas with his family when he was seven years old.

When Shepherd was a young man, he worked with his brother, Harry, on several ranches including the Chalk Beeson Ranch south of Dodge City. They also worked together for the Fred Harvey Dairy at Peach Springs, Arizona, and Deming, New Mexico, for a few years.

Shepherd met Lillie Melvina Bishop when she came from Cole Camp, Missouri, to visit her sister, Mrs. Frank Reinert. The Reinerts lived five miles west of the Adams home. Shepherd and Lillie were married by the Methodist minister in Dodge City, on July 8, 1908.

Shepherd and Lillie bought a farm south of Dodge City (known to succeeding generations as Aunt Lillie's place) and moved there after their marriage. Shepherd built a shed and they pitched a tent next to it. The kitchen was in the shed and the sleeping quarters were in the tent.

Lillie was an invalid most of her married life. She would sleep in the tent and when Shepherd had prepared their meal in the shed, he would carry Lillie in to the table to eat. As soon as he was able, Shepherd built a comfortable two-story house where they lived until going to California.

Shepherd was remembered as a pleasant, easy-going person. Both he and Lillie loved children, but they had none of their own. Because of their love for children, they were great favorites of their nieces and nephews, especially the children of Frank Reinert and Harry Adams. The children spent a great deal of time with them.

Shepherd farmed his land until about 1919 or 1920. At that time, he and Lillie moved to Maricopa, California, to take care of Lillie's father, Henry Bishop. He had moved there with the Frank Reinerts. While living there, Shepherd worked in the oil fields.

Shepherd was killed in a gas fire in the oil fields on October 3, 1925. Escaping gas from a storage tank was ignited by a fire some distance away. Shepherd and three other men were between the fire and the gas pocket when it ignited and all four of the men were killed in the blaze. His parents and his sister, Mary, were living in Los Angeles at the time. Mary returned with Lillie and Shepherd's body to Dodge City. He was buried in Concord Cemetery.

After Shepherd's death, Lillie lived with Frank and Minnie Reinert for many years. Lillie died on February 23, 1969 at age 88. She is buried in Concord Cemetery.

Lola Adams Crum

### EZRA AND JENNIE ADAMS KNOY

Jennie Narcissus was the third child of William Terrel and Hester Ann Adams. She was born November 22, 1876, in Middletown, Montgomery Co., Missouri. She was 10 years old when her parents brought their family of five to a homestead in western Kansas.

Jennie took several education courses at the old Soule College north of Dodge City. She took the county teachers' examination, obtaining a county certificate which allowed her to teach in the rural schools of Ford County. She then taught at the Stohr school, later known as the Prairie Flower School. She also taught at the Wakeman School.

Her sister, Hallie, told this story. After the young people of the family had attended a neighborhood dance the night before, Jennie announced at the breakfast table that she had met the man at the dance that she intended to marry. His name was William Ezra Knoy.

Ezra and Jennie were married January 14, 1901. Their first home was a soddy built on his father's land. They bought land in 1904, three miles south-east of the Adams home where they

built a two-story frame house in 1906. The Knoy's two oldest children were both born in Jennie's parents' sod house. Cecil Duard Terrell Knoy was born September 28, 1902. Florence Maye, always called Maye, was born October 19, 1905. Hester Margaret, also called by her middle name, was born December 22, 1907, in the new Knoy home.

Ezra and Jennie raised their three children on the farm. Jennie died at the age of 49 years on May 10, 1925, of pernicious anemia. Cecil had married in February before his mother's death in May. However, both of the girls, Maye and Margaret were at home on the farm until they married. Margaret married Walter Zurbuchen in August 1929. They lived on a farm west of Dodge City with Ingalls as their closest town for a few years before moving to the Shepherd Adams farm back in Ford County. In 1937, when Ezra needed help on the home place, they moved back into the house where Margaret had grown up. They lived with her father until his death March 6, 1956.

The Knoy children in recalling their growing up years had many vivid memories of going the two miles north and one west to visit with their Grandpa and Grandma Adams. Cecil would ride his tricycle, sometimes cutting across the pasture instead of going the three miles around the road. Mostly he remembers what a big tease his Uncle Roy, who was only 12 years older than he, could be. Cecil also remembered when he came down the stairway all dressed for the Saturday night dance in a new blue serge suit with long pants. Those were his first, since in those days boys wore knee-length knickers until they were 17 or 18 years old. The girls were just ready to throw out the pan of greasy dishwater as he "paraded" through the kitchen. The pocket of his coat caught the handle of the dish pan and the greasy water spilled all over his new suit. It wasn't worn to the dance that night.

Cecil married Faye Mildred Roberts on February 26, 1925, in Dodge City. They had three children; William Cecil (Bill) Knoy, Joyce Lee (Knoy) Middleton and Mary Narcissus (Knoy)

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Forbes. Faye died following a heart attack on February 24, 1972, and Cecil died September 21, 1984.

In recalling Maye's childhood, the relatives remember when she cut her finger off and how Dr. Claude McCarty saved it back in 1915, before the time of modern medicines such as antibiotics were discovered. She was only 10 years old when she was out trying to help her dad to get the canvas loosened on the binder before it rained. As her dad jerked the canvas to loosen it, it jerked the sharp sickle just as Maye put her hand over the edge of the platform and as she said "quicker than scat" it cut off the end of her finger. Ezra grabbed his screaming daughter and her finger and rushed to the house. They put the finger back in place, put sugar on it, and bound it up. Then they soaked the bandage with camphor. Her mother spent the next few hours holding Maye's hand to keep her from disturbing the replaced finger. It was almost night when the accident happened. They did not take the long drive into Dodge City, until the next morning. Day after day, Ezra would say, "Don't take the finger off. I know it will grow back." He said this even when the end turned black. Eventually it began to turn pink and life returned to it. The first joint and the nail had been severed, not the whole finger. Maye stayed in the hospital several days with the nurses pouring very hot water over it every hour, day and night. In those days the mended finger seemed little short of a miracle.

Maye married Fred McGee on June 5, 1942. They lived in Colorado for several years. They had two children, Jimmy Lee McGee and Betty Lou (McGee) Stewart. Fred died July 3, 1968, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

After Fred's death, Maye and her children returned to Dodge City. Maye was a professional cook, working in several restaurants and nursing homes before retirement.

One of Margaret's early memories was of playing in the bay window of her grandparent's sod house. Grandma had lace curtains next to the window, but there were red velvet curtains that pulled across the front of the whole

window. She and Maye and their cousins, Genia and Lawrence West, would use the dormer window space for a stage, opening the red curtains to put on impromptu plays, or to recite poetry or give "speeches."

After high school graduation, Margaret taught several terms of school before marrying Walter Zurbuchen, August 3, 1929. Margaret said that the August day when they eloped was the hottest day of the year. She said that nobody really cared, but they eloped anyway.

She and Walt had two sons, John Phillip, called Phil and Edward William. Besides being a farmer's wife, she baked pies and helped out in the Home Cafe for a while. Later, she worked 15 years at the Minneola Hospital kitchen. Walt died February 22, 1988.

Margaret and her son, Phil, continued to live on the old farm until she decided to move into a senior apartment unit in Minneola, Kansas, to be near the hospital and her doctor. She died May 27, 1992, while spending a weekend back on the farm where her son, Phil, continued to live and farm.

Lola Adams Crum

See the William Ezra Knoy Family

### HALLIE ADAMS AND DENNIS WILBUR WEST

Hallie Avarilla begins her own story, "I came into the world on Wednesday, September 3, 1883, about three o'clock in the afternoon. My brother, Shepherd, age four and a half, was so happy that he went out, climbed the fence, sat on the gate post and called to the children as they were going home from school, 'We've got a baby girl at our house!' He was so happy that he couldn't talk about anything but that baby girl."

Hallie went on to say that the doctor told her ailing mother, Annie, that she had consumption and would need to go west where she could get clean, dry air to breathe if she expected to live. That was the driving force that prompted Terrel to join with his Kimbrel brothers-in-law in planning the trip west.

Hallie grew up on the Adams homestead along with her eight brothers and sisters. She attended both the country

schools at Concord and West Hopewell. The Adams family enjoyed all the social activities of the rural communities of the day. There were country dances, singing schools, Sunday Schools and other special events at the rural schools, horse and buggy rides, horseback riding and Sunday afternoon baseball games played in a pasture—Hallie enjoyed them all.

Education was considered important in the Adams family. Arthur, Jennie, Florence, Hallie and Mary were all teachers. Hallie taught several terms before marrying Dennis Wilbur West on October 9, 1906. Many years later, Hallie attended the Salt City Business College in Hutchinson, Kansas, for more education.

When Hallie and Dennis were first married, operating a livery stable was still a good business. For several years, Dennis and his brother, Roland West, operated a livery stable in Dodge City. In 1912, there were still good homesteads to be had in New Mexico. The Wests staked a claim near Roy, New Mexico. They lived on the homestead for eight years. Their children, Eugenia Blanche (Genia) born March 2, 1908, and Lawrence Elton, born May 2, 1909, were too young to go to school when the Wests first moved to New Mexico. When they became school age, they boarded in Roy during the school term, going home on weekends as there were no rural schools in the area.

In 1920, they had a farm sale and returned to Ford County. Hallie's parents, Terrel and Annie, had just retired and moved into Dodge City. The Wests rented their farm and except for the time Hallie spent going to business school in Hutchinson, they lived on the farm until they moved to California in 1924. Genia and Lawrence finished school in California. Dennis found work with the Oil Field Pipe Supply Company and worked there until his retirement. He died April 30, 1959.

Genia married Fred Schnell, a sailor, on October 2, 1929, in New York, his home state, but they continued to live in California. After retiring from the navy, Fred was never far from the ocean. He became owner and captain

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of a charter yacht, chartered both for pleasure trips and fishing parties. In 1969, Fred became captain of a kelp cutting boat that sank off the coast of Santa Barbara. The crew of five drowned. Fred's body floated to shore 17 days later. Because of an often expressed wish, his body was cremated and the ashes scattered over the ocean.

Fred and Genia had two children. Mary Lou was born May 10, 1931. She married Burt Ten Napel, April 23, 1949. They had two children, Roxanna and Garth. After the family moved to Texas, they were divorced and she married Robert Webb. They now live in California.

Fred and Genia's son, Lawrence Milton Schnell, was born February 2, 1934, in Los Angeles, California. He was always called Milton. He married Audrey Weiland, August 19, 1956. Their daughter, Heidi Lynn, was born October 18, 1960. Milton and Audrey divorced and he married Joan Chrisman, who had three sons that Milton raised as his own. They live at Sunset Beach, California.

Genia's brother, Lawrence Elton, was born May 2, 1909. After his graduation in California, he started working for the Pacific Bell Telephone Company as a mail messenger boy. He retired 43 years later as Personnel Supervisor for the same company. On November 16, 1934, he married Zuma Marettta Andrews. They had one daughter, Ora Lorraine, who has two children, Loren and Bret. Ora lives in Montana.

After living in the Los Angeles area for 50 years, Hallie and Genia returned to Dodge City in May 1974. They both were interested in various activities. Hallie and her sister, Mary Robinson, were active in church and club work. Genia continued with her painting and has given many beautiful paintings to friends and relatives.

Hallie died November 5, 1976, at 93 years of age. She was buried beside her husband in the old Concord Cemetery. After Hallie's death, Genia moved to Kemp, Texas, to be near her daughter, Mary Lou. She died there on May 7, 1992.

Lola Adams Crum

## CHARLIE AND CLEO

### KING ADAMS

Charlie Eli Elton Adams was born November 12, 1891, in a sod house on the farm of his parents, Terrel and Annie Adams. This was the farm in the West Hopewell School district of Concord Township. He grew to manhood in that home and as a young man helped in the building of the large two-story home that his parents built in the teens. It stood a few feet north of the old soddy.

Charlie married Cleo (King) White on October 12, 1929, at Kinsley, Kansas. They have one daughter, Nadine (Adams) Huggard, and three sons, Roy, William "Bill" and Charles "Bud." They lived in Dodge City for several years after their marriage. In 1936, they moved to a farm 12 miles northwest of Dodge City. In 1952, the Charlie Adams family moved to a farm near Iola, Kansas. It was a lovely farm, but they stayed only a couple of years. Because of homesickness for western Kansas, they moved back to the farm northwest of Dodge City. In 1957, they sold the farm to the Durr family and moved into Dodge City. Charlie moved into town to retire, but one could only call it semi-retirement. He spent most of his time helping his oldest son, Roy, on his farm, which was also north of Dodge City. Maybe he did take life a little easier, at least he was relieved of the stress and worry of managing his own farm. Cleo, however, found no time to retire. She was still the same busy housewife she had always been. She continued sewing for the family and baby-sitting the grandchildren.

Nadine White Adams married John Huggard. They have six children, a daughter, Sharon, and five sons: Jack, Steve, Jim, Bob and Roger. They raised their family on a farm near Waverly, Kansas.

Roy married Phyllis Webb and had three children: Sandi, Cindy and Kenny. They are all married and have families.

Charlie and Cleo's second son, Bill, married Barbara Kincheloe and they were the parents of six sons: Gary, Billy, Terry, Tim, Larry and Randy. Bill and Barbara were divorced. Bill later mar-

ried Carol McComb. They live in Riodoso, New Mexico.

The youngest son, Charles or Bud, married Joann Snider. They make their home in Topeka, Kansas. They have two children, a daughter, Susan, and a son, Larry.

Charlie passed away in April 1969. His family has many happy memories of him as a kind and genial father and grandfather. Cleo lived many years after his death. Her death was December 8, 1992. They are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City.

Lola Adams Crum

## LEROY TERREL ADAMS

Leroy Terrel Adams, and the other two triplets of the Terrel Adams family, Mary and Leota, who lived only 17 days, were born November 23, 1894, in the sod and frame home southwest of Dodge City, in Concord Township.

That house of frame and sod was completely destroyed by fire in 1898. The fire started in one of the rooms in the frame house. All that was rebuilt was the soddy. Of course, it was much smaller than the two-sectioned old one, but continued to be home for the family until 1915, when Mary and Charley, her older brother, were still living at home.

Leroy was always known as Roy, never Leroy. The capital "R" was never used in spelling Leroy. He was a fun-loving, good-natured youngster and adult. He never got too old to enjoy, or to play a good joke. By the time Roy was old enough to be aware of the family circumstances, many of the problems that had faced the family in the pioneering days had been met and solved. The older boys were working, not only doing the farm work at home, but bringing in wages from outside jobs. The older girls were teaching school. Their wages also helped to ease the financial burdens of earlier years. This may have accounted for the fact that Roy married at a younger age than the older boys. Arthur married at 35, Harry at 29 and Shepherd at 30. Roy, on the other hand, was only 21 when he married Mary Wakeman, on February 12, 1916.



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Mary Wakeman was tall and mature for her 15 years, but she and Roy discovered at the office of the probate judge that in spite of her mature appearance, she still needed her parents' written consent to get married. Since she already had their verbal consent, it caused only a slight delay in the ceremony.

Roy and Mary Adams started their life together in the old sod house that had been built after the big fire in 1898. Roy would tell his children tales of his childhood on that same farm, and the big family that had grown up in the little sod house. After it was decided that both families could live in the big two-story house, Roy's children remember what a fine playhouse they made in the old soddy. Roy's first three children, Helen, Elmo and Mary Louise, grew up on the old farm and Donna, the youngest, was 14, when they moved to Colorado. All have happy memories of the old farm. These memories reveal much of the type of parents that Roy and Mary were in spite of the hard work.

Mary Lou remembered that her dad laughed a lot and never blamed or scolded for what happened. He was also very kindhearted and generous. He was always bringing someone home who needed something to eat or a place to stay. Mary, their mother, never complained about this even though she was the one who had to carry all of the water from the well house for cooking, cleaning and washing. Mary Lou had a lot of praise for her mother, especially when she remembered Sunday mornings when Mother would send Roy upstairs to see how many she would be preparing breakfast for that morning. Sometimes there would be 10 or 20 guests to feed. With all of the other work that she had to do, just how did her mother manage? Helen, Elmo and Mary Lou were all teenagers and going to parties, dances or picture shows and it was hard to tell how many of their friends might come home with them. But with it all, Mother never complained.

In spite of all the work, all of the four children remember that their mother was never too busy to tell stories or read

to them. One of her favorite places to be on such occasions was on the bed in the big house, looking out the west bedroom window. Mother would point out the birds and tell their names. There were butterflies and animals to talk about, too. One reason that Mary gathered her children around her by telling stories, was to keep them close so that she wouldn't have to worry about where they were or what they were doing.

In 1944, Roy and Mary decided to try farming on irrigated land near Holly, Colorado. Elmo and Mary Lou still live in the Holly, Colorado, area, but Helen and Donna moved on to California. Helen married Edward Segler, March 5, 1940; Elmo married Cleta Scott, January 27, 1938; Mary Lou married Carroll Harding, January 13, 1941. They were divorced. She then married Darrell Seuffer, November 17, 1947. Donna Jean married Dale Crest in 1952.

In later years, Roy and Mary moved to California. Roy found work in a restaurant. His main jobs were making biscuits and soup. He was good at both. He worked there until he retired. After that he raised gardens, especially flowers. He also did woodwork, such as enlarged checkerboards and cradles. He was never one to be idle. Roy Adams died September 4, 1968, at Folsom, California.

Lola Adams Crum

### I. W. ROBINSON

#### FLORENCE ADAMS ROBINSON

#### MARY ADAMS ROBINSON

I.W. (Bob) Robinson came to Ford County from Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1911. He sold a couple of horses and had taken a note for them. When the note came due, he was offered 80 acres of land 10 miles southwest of Dodge City in lieu of cash. This he accepted, becoming a land owner in Concord Township of Ford County. The land that I.W. acquired was in a strip of land called the "Indian Strip." It was a strip of land a quarter of a mile wide that extended from the Oklahoma line to the Arkansas River west of Dodge City. Cowboys were required by the govern-

ment to drive cattle in the strip and not let them wander around the country to destroy the early settlers' crops. There are still 80 acre parcels of land in the strip.

Instead of coming to Ford County to live on the land in 1911, he went to California, to be near his mother and two sisters. During the two years he was there, he worked in his sister's restaurant and saved enough money to buy 80 acres of valley land planted to alfalfa and grapes.

In 1913, he returned to Hutchinson, but when he learned his Kansas sweetheart had married his best friend, he left Hutchinson and came out to his 80 acres of land in the Concord community. Several of his friends from back east were already living in the Dodge City area. He lived at Wright, Kansas, and worked on the railroad during the fall and winter of 1913-14. He stayed at the Wiseman home. He moved to the "shack" on his 80 acres that the former tenants had used in the spring of 1914. He attended barn dances in the community and met Florence Adams. They married on May 31, 1914, and added three rooms and a porch to the house. Together they worked on the farm and acquired more land during the following years.

Three children were born to the Robinsons: Frank, Irvin E. (June) and



The Robinsons. Left to right: Cleora (Cleo) Robinson Gough, Frank Robinson, Mary (Adams) Robinson, Irvin E. Robinson.



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Cleora (Cleo). Frank married Doris Aeschliman and they live on a farm eight miles southwest of Ensign, Kansas. They had no children. Irvin E. (June) married Celesteen (Sally) Otoupal, a girl he met while in service in York, Nebraska. They have five children. June and Sally live on the home place at the present time. Their sons, Bill and Dave, help with the farming. Bill and his family live on the farm near June's. Dave is not married and lives with his folks. Their daughter, Mary Anne, and family live in El Paso, Texas. Their daughter, Susan, and family live in Topeka, Kansas. Their daughter, Kathy, and family live in Cimarron, Kansas. June and Sally have 13 grandchildren. Cleora "Cleo" married Billy Gough and they live in Denver, Colorado. They had two children: Bill, who lives in Denver and Linda who lives in Baytown, Texas. Cleo and Billy have three grandchildren.

Florence became ill with diabetes and passed away February 14, 1931. The children were teenagers and were a big help to I.W. in keeping house and doing chores while attending school. I.W. married Florence's sister, Mary Adams, on April 28, 1938. They lived on the farm until 1948, when they built a new house in Dodge City. I.W. became ill with cancer in 1950 and passed away May 11, 1951.

Mary (Adams) Robinson continued to live in the home in Dodge City. During her lifetime she was very active in Ford County and the Concord Community. She had taught school many years before her marriage. She had the knack of making everyone she met feel like a special person to her. She was fondly known as "Aunt Mary" to relatives and friends who knew her. She was active in the West Hopewell Club for many years. She was also very active in the United Methodist Women's organization.

Aunt Mary always raised a garden in her back yard and had many flowers. Her favorite flowers were iris which were her hobby. She had many named varieties and when they were blooming in the spring, she could tell visitors the names of all of them.

She loved her family. Grandchildren were a special joy to her and she spent many hours baby-sitting with them and loved every minute of it. Her nieces and nephews were all special, too. She was a very generous person, always thinking of others first. The Adams-Kimbrel family book, *A Century in Kansas*, was dedicated to her. It was a dream of hers and she started working on it many years before her death.

In the fall of 1981, Mary had baked pies and was ready to take them to the Meals on Wheels Annual Chili Supper. She had not brought them, so her friends investigated and found her in her home. She had suffered a stroke at her home on Trail Street in Dodge City. She died a few days later on October 31, 1981.

The Robinsons, I.W., Florence and Mary are buried in the Concord Cemetery in Ford County. There are three generations of the Adams family buried there along with many other old timers who lived in the Concord community.

Lola Adams Crum

### ROBERT PERRY ADAMS

Born in Lebanon, Indiana, on April 19, 1839, Robert Perry Adams and his wife, Ariadne Fleming, who had been born in Ohio, came by covered wagon to Ford County, settling near Offerle, in 1887. The family records that they encountered no trouble with Indians. They were parents of six children: Rossie Adams Sands, Floy Adams Gray, Gertrude Adams Connaway, Clara Adams Miller, Frank Adams and Harry Adams.

Gertrude Adams, who was to marry Samuel H. Connaway, traced her family back to President John Adams. One of her most prized possessions was a Bible given to her father, Robert Perry Adams, and inscribed by his cousin, John Quincy Adams.

Robert P. Adams moved to Dodge City, in 1890, with his wife and six children. They lived in the home which Mr. Adams built just west of the present location of Lincoln Elementary School on Seventh Avenue. At that time, the street was named Paladuro Avenue (for Paladuro Canyon.) In the 1930s, that

property was owned by George Strange.

On March 18, 1921, Robert P. Adams and Ariadne Fleming Adams celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Los Angeles, California. Robert P. Adams died November 12, 1930, in Los Angeles, California. An account of Mr. Adams' death stated: "Robert Perry Adams was an honest and true, conscientious and alert business man. His fellow workers knew him to be fair and kind."

The obituary of Robert P. Adams which appeared in the *Dodge City Daily Globe* on November 20, 1930, in part is as follows:

#### EARLY DODGE BUILDER DIES

**Robert Adams was One of City's Leading Citizens, from 1880 to 1890**

Robert P. Adams, one of Dodge City's most prominent citizens during 10 years of the town's earlier history, and the builder of many houses erected here then, is dead in Los Angeles, as the result of an automobile accident. He was 92 years of age.

Mr. Adams was chairman of the Dodge City School Board when the first class was graduated in 1887 and signed the diplomas presented to them. He was a charter member of three local organizations: Lewis Post 294, GAR, Protection Lodge 172, AOUW, and St. Bernard 222, AF & AM. He was a Civil War veteran and lived to be one of the oldest surviving GAR members.

He was a partner of P. R. Hobbles, father of F.A. Hobbles, in a contracting firm that built many homes here. The late Stanley Connaway of Woolwine and Connaway Transfer firm was a grandson. Mrs. Adams died about six years ago.

Gertrude (Trudy) Henry  
See the S.H. Connaway entry

### A.J. ANTHONY

A.J. Anthony was born July 23, 1830, at Staunton, Virginia. In 1857, he settled in Lawrence, where he was conductor on a stage line between Lawrence and Osawatimie. From 1863 to 1867, he held the same position for the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Company on the route from Westport to Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 1867, An-

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

Anthony and Robert M. Wright had a contract to supply hay and wood for Fort Dodge and they were also named post traders. In 1872, Anthony joined with Charles Rath and Wright to establish the largest, most profitable mercantile business in Dodge City.

In 1872, in St. Louis, he married Mrs. Calvina (Hageman) Chambliss who had three children, John Chambliss, Hiram Chambliss, and Lutie Chambliss Driskill. The Anthonys proved up a claim at the west edge of Dodge City and operated a dairy until 1894. A.J. also was a cattleman until the mid-1880s. He served several terms as township trustee and 12 terms as county commissioner, was a Union Church trustee and served on the Presbyterian Church board. Calvina, originally from Mississippi and the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, organized the first Sunday School in 1873 and was instrumental in establishing the Union Church and later the Presbyterian church. The Anthonys had two sons, Tobe and Ray.

Calvina underwent a mastectomy in February 1898, and died four months later. A.J. died in July 1919, at the age of 89.

Betty Braddock

### CHARLES E. ARGABRIGHT

Charles E. Argabright was an early pioneer in Ford County, Kansas. He filed on a homestead for the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  S18 T27 R21 and received a government patent on February 14, 1891. He farmed for several years.

He was born January 4, 1864, at Vigo, Ohio, and came to Kansas prior to the fall of 1885, when he began teaching school in the rural Pleasant Valley School, District #21. He taught in that school for three terms from 1885-88. He then taught in the rural school just north of Pleasant Valley, Sunset School, District #46 for the school year of 1889-90 term. The school terms were for 16 weeks a year and he was paid \$35 per month for teaching.

There are no records on the students in these schools available, since the only surviving records known to survive begin with the 1899-1900 school term in Ford County. The teachers in the coun-



C.E. Argabright



Lily (Wire) Argabright

try school were expected to teach all eight grades and were also expected to do their own janitor work at the school. This included getting to school early, so the fire could be started in the furnace or heating stove during the winter months, so the building would be warm when the children arrived for school.

The teachers were in charge of whatever discipline they deemed correct for various circumstances. Their only help was a visit or two by the County Superintendent during the school year. Teachers had the full responsibility for teaching as well as being able to take care of the children if they became ill or injured at school. Most of the country schools had a pump head with a handle that had to be pumped by hand so there was water for drinking and washing. There were outdoor privies instead of modern-day restrooms as well. Nearly all country schools were the proverbial one-room school house. The school was also the social center for the area. The students were expected to put on programs from time to time in which they recited poetry, sang and put on short plays, etc., for their families and neighbors. In those days, people traveled in wagons, buggies or on horseback and some of the children had to walk from their farm homes to and from school as well. So many things that we take for granted now were considered extreme luxuries in these early years. Since there were no phones in the schools, if there

was an emergency that the teacher was not able to handle, someone had to walk or ride on horseback to one of the neighboring farms for help. This is quite a change from today when you can step to a phone and dial 911 and have a trained medical staff race to your assistance in a matter of minutes.

Mr. Argabright was married to Lily A.R. Wire on March 16, 1886, at Pleasant Valley by A.E. Thomson, Minister. He was 23 years old and Lily was 20 years old. They became the parents of seven children: Herbert, Mabel, Nelle, Charles, Mary, Grace and Lawrence, born between August 1887 and November 1899. Their son, Charles Madison Argabright, was born February 20, 1892, and died November 28, 1892. He is buried in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery north of Bucklin, Kansas.

Mr. Argabright purchased the W  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S18 T27 R21; the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S16 T27 R21 and later the E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of W  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S28 T25 R25 and NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S8 T28 R26. He also owned Lots 3 & 5, Block 3 in Shinn's addition to Dodge City and Lots 7-12 Block 25 in A. H. Boyd's Addition to Dodge City, Kansas. He had disposed of all of this property by the time he left the area.

He was in the mercantile business with Mr. Sidlow in Dodge City, Kansas, from 1899 to 1910, when he became the Democratic candidate for Ford County Sheriff in 1910. He was elected for a two-year term and then reelected

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES



Lily (Wire) Argabright and Charles Argabright and family.

for another term in 1912. He served as Undersheriff of Ford County for the next four years, under Sheriff Charles Woolwine. Mr. Woolwine had been the Undersheriff during the four years that Mr. Argabright had been the Sheriff.

Mr. Argabright was a member of the Masonic Fraternity while in Ford County. He first joined Bucklin Lodge #325 in the 1890s and served as Secretary in 1893; Junior Deacon in 1894; Treasurer in 1895; and Junior Steward in 1896. Bucklin's lodge closed that year. He joined St. Bernard Lodge #222 in Dodge City, Kansas, on February 24, 1899, and at that time his occupation was listed as the Department of Justice and stated that he was living in Denver, Colorado. He was Junior Warden in 1904, Senior Warden in 1905 and Master of the Lodge in 1906-08. He joined the Royal Arch Masons Dodge City Chapter #75 on February 10, 1906. His occupation at that time was listed as Merchant. According to the lodge records, he was a very active member of the lodge. His two sons, Herbert A. and Lawrence E. Argabright were both members of St. Bernard Lodge #222. Herbert joined in 1910 and Lawrence in 1923 and his brother, George B. Argabright, was also a member joining in 1907.

He joined the Federal Department of Justice in 1918, in Kansas City, Missouri, and continued with them until he

reached retirement age in 1932. After he retired from law enforcement he worked in the legal department of Kansas City Power and Light Company until he suffered a fatal stroke in September 1941, at Kansas City, Missouri. His surviving sons and daughters were Mrs. E.C. Minner, Dodge City; Herbert A. Argabright, Albuquerque; Mrs. Mary Gardner and Mrs. Grace Reeves, Chanute; and Lawrence E. Argabright, Oakdale, California.

Charles and Lillie Wire Argabright's children were: **Herbert Ainslee** born August 24, 1887, died December 30, 1974. He married Florence Mills, June 30, 1912. He died August 3, 1974, one daughter, Patricia. **Mabel Irene** born May 29, 1889, died in February 1939. Oakdale, California, burial in California, married July 4, 1914, Frank Bedell in Dodge City. **Nelle Dewilda** was born September 6, 1890, died July 1, 1959, burial Maple Grove, Dodge City. Married on July 19, 1913. Dodge City, Kansas, Everett C. Minner, born August 22, 1888, Crittenden Co., Kentucky, died April 6, 1969, son of W.D. and Mary Young Minner, of Kentucky, burial Maple Grove. Their daughter: Kathleen Minner born December 13, 1914, died July 4, 1993, m/1 Frank Holton div., m/



Mabel and Nelle Argabright

2 Galen Thurman Davis, son of W. Galen and Leona Taylor Davis born January 14, 1919, Haggard, Gray Co., Kansas, died December 27, 1992, burial Maple Grove. **Charles Madison** born February 20, 1892, died November 28, 1892, burial Pleasant Valley Cemetery. **Mary Edith** born September 25, 1893, died August 10, 1984, married December 17, 1912, Guy D. Gardner born May 14, 1888, died August 5, 1945. Both buried at Chanute, Kansas. They had two sons, Sam and Dan. **Grace Lillian** born July 21, 1897, died April 8, 1980, Yuma, Arizona, married February 12, 1916, Ralph Benton "Dub" Reeves, son of Albert B. and Mae McCarter Reeves born January 6, 1892, died May 29, 1970, Phoenix, Arizona. Both are buried at Yuma, Arizona. Mr. Reeves, Sr. was known to all old-timers as "Judge" Reeves. Their three children are Lorraine, Robert and Doris. **Lawrence Elmer** born November 10, 1899, Dodge City, died November 5, 1961, Oakdale, California, burial at Oakdale, married August 30, 1935, Kathleen Elbert, who taught violin at the Dodge City School of Music before going to Los Angeles, California, to become a nurse. They lived in Los Angeles for several years before moving to Oakdale, where they operated an almond ranch.

As with many of the early settlers in the area, he led a life that was filled with a variety of jobs and in his case he served a great many people of Ford County as a teacher, farmer, businessman and with his law enforcement work. He was a person who was well known and well respected by his peers and his accomplishments were many.

Juanita (Jones) Gulick, great niece of Charles Argabright  
See the Wire family entry.

### FERDINAND AND BARBARA

#### HETZEL BAEDER

Ferdinand Baeder was born March 13, 1838, at Esslingen, Wurtenburg, Germany. He emigrated to the United States and became a United States citizen on November 1, 1860. On July 24, 1861, at the age of 23, he enlisted as a

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES



**Ferdinand Baeder**

Private and Artificer in the 30th Independent Battery, New York Light Artillery. He was honorably discharged on August 22, 1864, in New York City.

Ferdinand married Barbara Hetzel on September 10, 1865, in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Barbara was born in Esslingen on December 17, 1843, and emigrated with family and relatives to a settlement of German families in West Virginia.

In the early 1880s, Mr. Baeder went to Dodge City, in western Kansas. He was employed by the federal government at Camp Supply, a military post south of Dodge City. He was skilled as a blacksmith and purchased property at 110 East Chestnut (now Wyatt Earp) and several adjoining lots where he built a blacksmith and wagon-making shop.

Homestead Certificate #1303 dated May 27, 1890, entitled Ferdinand Baeder to 160 acres of land in Ford County. The certificate is signed by President Benjamin Harrison. "Long hours at the forge and anvil and his thrifty disposition enriched him in this world's goods and permitted him to invest in farmland, although he never did any actual farming" [states] a quotation from his obituary in the *Dodge City Daily Globe*.

Ferdinand and Barbara were parents of 10 children, three sons and seven daughters. Three of the children died in infancy. The others were: William, born July 1, 1866; Louis, December 14,



**Barbara Hetzel Baeder**

1867; Elizabeth, October 1, 1869; Emma, July 7, 1876; Anna, October 30, 1877; Clara, March 8, 1881 and Etta, December 23, 1882.

Ferdinand died on June 21, 1925, at the age of 87. The obituary notice mentioned that he had been ill only about 10 days. Barbara died June 30, 1917. They are buried in the Baeder lot at Maple Grove Cemetery.

William Baeder owned and operated a pool hall on Front Street and managed the Baeder farm land. He and his wife, Susie, had no children. Susie died on September 21, 1948. William died on December 3, 1952.

Louis Baeder died at the age of 36 on August 2, 1906. He had been a cabinet maker, a musician and a member of the Volunteer Fire Department. He injured his spleen while helping with one of the fires and doctors in Topeka and Kansas City were not able to help him. He played the clarinet and was a mem-



**Left to right: Anna, Etta and Clara Baeder.**

ber of the Cowboy Band. He made the trip to Washington, D.C. with the band when he was a young man. He never married.

Elizabeth Baeder left home at the age of 18 to be married. She and J.J. Cunningham lived in the Los Angeles area. She is survived by one granddaughter, Thelma (Mrs. W.E.) Gibson of Whittier, California, a great granddaughter, Tamara Gibson (Mrs. Lou) Berthelson; and a great-great-grandson, Mitchell Berthelson, LaVerne, California.

Emma Baeder worked as a clerk in various ladies' clothing stores in Hutchinson. She also lived in California with Elizabeth for several years before returning to Dodge City. She died March 23, 1947.

For many years, Anna and Etta Baeder lived together in the Baeder home at 110 East Chestnut, taking care of their father. Anna worked as a clerk in Eckles' Department Store. In the '60s they purchased the O.H. Simpson house at 802 First Avenue and lived there until their deaths. Etta died September 30, 1970. Anna died April 21, 1975.

Clara Baeder worked as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone for several years after finishing high school. She married Louis D. Flanagan of St. Louis, Missouri, on October 6, 1909. He was a bookkeeper for the Dodge City Flour Mill and later owned and operated the alfalfa mill. They had one daughter, Lois Flanagan Bryson. Louis Flanagan died March 15, 1931, and Clara died October 25, 1972. Both are buried in the Flanagan lot at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Lois Flanagan Bryson was director of the Dodge City Public Library for more than 30 years. She received her BS in Education and Library Science Certificate in 1940, from Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas. She now has an independent living apartment at Manor of the Plains in Dodge City, Kansas.

The descendants of Ferdinand and Barbara Baeder are Thelma Gibson, (Mrs. W.E.) Whittier, California; Tamara Berthelson (Mrs. Lou) LaVerne, California, and her son, Mitchell



## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

Berthelson, LaVerne, California, and Lois Flanagan Bryson, Dodge City.

Lois Bryson states, "In July 1972, while vacationing in Germany with Ruth Settles and her son, Dan, we spent a week in Munich, where Dan was enrolled in a language school. He drove us to Esslingen, population 86,978, located about 150 miles northwest of Munich. We checked the phone book and found many Baeders and Baders. Dan called a couple of families, and explained in his halting German what we were doing. He asked if any of their families had emigrated to the United States about 100 years ago. None had! I could see it would take much time working with a translator to discover the 'right' family. But it meant a great deal to me to see the beautiful area where they lived."

Lois Flanagan Bryson

### THE BAILEY FAMILY

#### VALENTINE BAXTER BAILEY

Valentine "Tine" Bailey was born August 9, 1847, in Meigs Co., Ohio. The family moved to Iowa when he was small. At age 16, he joined the Union Army and served as a drummer boy in the Civil War as part of Company E, 2nd Iowa Regiment, Infantry. He mustered out and signed up for another man. He was to get two acres of land that had surface coal. When he returned, he



Valentine "Tine" Bailey

found that the man had sold the land and was gone. On his second hitch, he was a foot soldier and went with Sherman on his "March to the Sea."

He married first Ioleena King, born September 18, 1855, in Nova Scotia. She died in September 1892.

After the war, he farmed and raised horses in Nebraska and then purchased a lead and zinc mine at Galena, Kansas. In 1895, he came to the Soldiers' Home at Fort Dodge, Kansas. His family consisted of his second wife, Nancy, whom he had married in 1894, and his youngest son, Fredrick. Tine would stay a short time at Fort Dodge and then go to Galena to see his mines.

Tine was very active in the G.A.R. He attended the Old Soldiers' Reunion held in Wright Park every year. The family still has his drum sticks and the gun he carried in the Civil War. The powder was packed with wadding after each shot was fired.

Tine was the drummer in the Soldiers' Home Band. He lived at Fort Dodge until 1917. On a visit to his son's home in rural Ford County, he had a stroke and died on September 23, 1917. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

The children and homes of Tine and Ioleena King Bailey were: Charles Baxter, Iowa; William James, Nebraska; Etta Ioleena, Oregon m/1 Bert Draper, m/2 Arthur Kolbus, m/3 James Conklin; David Arthur, Missouri; Releatha Eliza-



Ioleena Bailey

beth Ehlers, Nebraska; John K., died as an infant; Fredrick Lincoln, Dodge City, and a step-daughter, Pearl Wilson Lambert, Missouri.

### FREDRICK LINCOLN AND MATILDA CHRISTENA JACOBS BAILEY

Fredrick Lincoln Bailey was born in Dawson Co., Nebraska, on February 9, 1889. His mother, Ioleen King Bailey, died when he was two years old. His father married again and Fred had a stepsister the same age. His parents moved to Galena, Kansas, where Fred's father, Tine Bailey, had purchased a lead and zinc mine. In 1895, Tine was admitted to the Kansas Soldiers' home at Fort Dodge. In 1905, Fred became 16 years old and had to leave the fort as he was no longer considered a dependent. He went to work for Sanford Marion on the Marion Ranch, east of Fort Dodge. He worked there for the next five years. It was while he was working there that the Marions began having barn dances. In the fall of 1910, he met Matilda (Tillie) Christena Jacobs at one of these dances. He quit the Marion Ranch and got a job hauling coal for Al Cord's Coal Company.

In 1908, when Tillie's mother, Eliza Ann Jacobs died, her father, Charles Oscar Jacobs, moved to Hutchinson. At this time, Tillie moved to the home of Mrs. Mary Tullis at 905 Third Avenue. Tillie had worked at the Dodge City Laundry since she was 16. She began as a bundle girl and worked up to book-keeper when she married.

Fred and Tillie were married August 27, 1911, at the Tullis home at 2 p.m. The Rev. Couch from Fort Dodge officiated. Some of the guests were: Lena Sughrue, Hannah Jorgenson, Rena Rice, and Mary Tullis and her son, Guy.

Fred and Tillie began housekeeping at 800 Second Avenue in the rear three rooms of the Al Olive home. Mrs. Tullis made Tillie's wedding dress. It was made of lavender lawn with ecru lace. Fred had a lavender tie and wore lavender socks (thanks to Guy Tullis telling Fred the color of Tillie's dress). In



## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES



**Tillie and Aaron with their horse Blue Ted, 1915.**

November 1911, Fred's father needed to go to Galena, so Fred and Tillie took the folks to Missouri by wagon. While there, Fred became ill with malaria from bad drinking water. As soon as Fred was able, they left Missouri and went to Hutchinson. Fred got a job at the Durant Plantation selling Spring Water in Hutchinson.

In January 1913, they returned to Dodge City and lived at Sayre close to Ensign, where Fred worked for Mr. Gallivan. They moved to Dodge City and Fred worked for Al Cord and Tillie worked at the laundry. On January 18, 1914, Aaron Allen was born at 1106 Avenue B.

In June 1914, Fred and Tillie moved to the F.A. Etrick farm, three miles west on the Beeson Road from Dodge City. Fred farmed and worked in town for the Orebaugh Brothers as a hod carrier. A daughter, Veryle Geneva, was born on February 26, 1916.

Three weeks later, Fred and Tillie purchased the Arment Farm, 1/2 mile east and 1/2 mile south of the Etrick place. Fred continued to work in town



**The farm home of Fred and Matilda Bailey, three and a half miles southwest of Dodge City. The home was purchased March 15, 1916 from J.A. Arment.**

and farm on the side. If the war had not ended in 1918, Fred would have been called for the December 1918, World War I draft.

In 1918, Fred and A.J. Reed went into the meat business. Reed was a butcher and Fred was raising cattle and hogs on the farm as a side line. They converted a cook shack into a butcher wagon. They built chests on each side except at the back which was the door. Each day ice was put into these chests and freshly butchered meat added. Sawdust was put on the floor. A butcher-block table was in the middle of the wagon. That is where Mr. Reed would cut meat for the customers. The wagon was pulled by horses. They made about six streets a day. It took about a week to get all over town. Some of the ladies would follow the route each day for fresh meat. When a customer came to the wagon, it would stop and Mr. Reed would cut the meat as ordered. They ran this meat business until Fred moved to town in 1921. Fred also worked part time in Dodge City, during the time they ran the butcher wagon.

One time in 1917, the grasshoppers were so bad that the fly nets were eaten while on the horses. Also in the fall of 1917, Fred and Roy Burton decided to go to the Archie Keech sale that was to be held across the Arkansas over to the north. They rode their horses and forded the river.

Later in the day, Fred called Tillie and told her to get Fay Burton and to bring the wagon to the sale. Tillie called Fay (the Burtons lived on the Etrick



**Fred Bailey with Jiggs and Rowdy, 1916.**

place) and they decided to take Burton's team. Tillie put Aaron and Veryle in the buggy and went to Burtons. They hitched the team up and put the two Bailey children and Gene Burton in the wagon. Gene was about the same age as Veryle. The wagon had a deep grain bed-box about 36 inches high. They got to the place where they were going to ford the river and found that the water was moving very swiftly and rising very fast. Fay was an excellent horse handler and didn't think it looked too bad. The horses were big Belgian Percherons. Fay drove into the water and the horses began to swim. The water was moving the wagon box to the side of the wheels. Fay stood up to better handle the horses and to whip and urge them on. Tillie put Aaron, Veryle, and Gene in front of her and stood behind them, so they were held against the front of the wagon box. About mid-stream Fred and Roy came from the north bank. Fred rode out to the team and jumped on one horse to ride it. Roy got to the wagon and took over the reins to drive. The fellows got the women and children across to safety. At the sale, someone had reported that the river was rising and that is how Fred and Roy happened to be there at the right time. The saddle horses both swam to the river bank.

After Clarence and Grace Aten moved to town, they rented their farm to an Amish family by the name of

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES



Aaron Bailey, age five, and Veryle Bailey Wycoff, age three, in 1919.

Summey. They had several children and Aaron and Veryle played with these children. That is, until Fred and Tillie discovered that Aaron and Veryle were beginning to speak more German than English. That is the main reason that Fred and Tillie sold out and moved to town in February 1921.

About this time, John and Mary (Rassly) Jackson from Great Bend, purchased the Al Cord place so they were neighbors for a while. Other neighbors who lived in the neighborhood were John Whittaker, Andy Younger, Phil Lighter, Roy Burton, Joy Etherton, Dick Pflieger, Bert Kyler, Earnest Edgar and his mother, the Powchers, Spicers, Streiffs, Mayraths, Staughts, and Condy and Edna McDowell.

In 1921, Fred and Tillie sold the farm for property at 1701 Third and 40 acres north, which is now North Dodge. Fred began doing earth moving with horses. He dug basements for houses and graded and sanded streets and roads. By 1926, he was doing just excavating



Fred Lincoln and Matilda Christena Jacobs Bailey

work and he brought the first power steam shovel to Dodge City. He dug basements for the Lora Locke Hotel, Montgomery Ward, First National Bank, Penneys, the Post Office, McClellans, the Coop elevator pits in Ford, Gray, Clark and Edwards counties. He constructed the first storm sewer on Third Avenue.

When they were digging the basement for the hospital on the hill at Fort Dodge, a burial mound was found. It was thought to be Indian because the skeletons were wrapped in pieces of hides. Jars, beads, gourds, arrowheads, rock implements, and other Indian artifacts were found nearby. The historical society people from Topeka came and took all of these objects back to Topeka. Also found were graves thought to be those of soldiers because these had iron frames, although the wood was gone. These graves were removed to the cemetery at Fort Dodge.

Fred continued to farm in both Ford and Gray counties. He raised horses and had a string of quarter mile racers which he sold to the U.S. Cavalry in 1931.

In 1927, a new City Hall was built on Boot Hill, and at that time the old City Hall at Second and Trail was sold to Fred and he tore down the building. At that time, he went into the wrecking business. Houses were torn down to make way for business places close to town. He took down the grade school at Kinsley, Third Ward School on Boot Hill, Second Ward School, the remains of the Elephant Stables after the fire and salvaged numerous other buildings in Dodge City and surrounding areas.

In 1942, after the May tornado hit St. Mary of the Plains Academy, he took down the main building and then the dormitory building. He did construction work for the U.S. Air Base west of Dodge City at the beginning of World War II.

He continued his business and was in the process of building houses when he died suddenly December 18, 1948. His wife, Tillie, continued with the business until 1955, when she sold the business and equipment. She ran the rental house business until her death January 29, 1973.

Both Fred and Tillie belonged to and attended the Methodist Church. They are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Veryle Bailey Wycoff

### ORMEL AND IDA KIMBREL

#### BAILEY

Ida Florence Kimbrel, daughter of John Clarkston and Emma Catherine Kimbrel was born April 1, 1895, in Dodge City, Kansas. She married Ormel Bailey on June 11, 1916, at the home of her parents at 803 Third Avenue, Dodge City. They lived with Ormel's parents until the next fall, then moved to a house two miles west. They lived there a few months. In the spring of 1917, they built a house on Grandpa Bailey's homestead. Their first child was born at the new home, but lived only three days. Other children born to Ida and Ormel were Clyde Everal born July 27, 1918; Florence Lucille born August 23, 1922; Dorothy Louise born February 19, 1925 and Olin Burton born May 30, 1929.

The Bailey children attended the Prairie Flower rural school, but Clyde, Lucille and Dorothy all graduated from Ensign High School. Olin, who had been born prematurely and blind, did not attend high school.

The social life of the Baileys, like that of the other farmers, was mostly playing cards or visiting with their neighbors. There were literaries, parties and dances, as well. One occasion that always brought a crowd together to dance the night away was the completion of a new barn. That always meant a big dance. Ormel played the fiddle and Ida, the piano, for many of these neighborhood dances. A cousin was known to observe that it was no surprise that Clyde, Lucille and Dorothy were so fond of square dances since their parents before them enjoyed dancing so very much.

Clyde married Ruth Cloverdale in October 1945. They had two children, Rebecca and Jerry. They were divorced and Clyde moved to Colorado. His marriages to Gladys Nelson and Louise Sayer both ended in divorce. Clyde is living in Corvallis, Oregon.

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

Lucille married Clinton Barnes in Dodge City. They moved later to Corvallis, Oregon. Their four children are Steven, Marsha, Kevin and Gina.

Dorothy married Milton (Buster) Kidd. They both worked and raised their family in Dodge City. Their oldest child, Linda, died with leukemia before her fifth birthday. They had two sons, Frank and Gary. Bus Kidd died November 7, 1984, and Dorothy moved to Casa Grande, Arizona.

Ida and Ormel's youngest, son, Olin, grew up in the country, but after he was grown he went to the Kansas Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Topeka, where he learned to live a more independent lifestyle. He also lives in Corvallis, Oregon.

Ida and Ormel continued to farm, but they did move closer to Dodge City after Ida had a severe heart attack in 1945. She died February 21, 1947.

Ormel married Louise Devoe in May 1952. They lived in Dodge City after their marriage, but Ormel drove out to his farm every day. By 1978, he had developed a brain tumor. He died in December 1981.

Lola Adams Crum

### THE RILEY BARNES FAMILY

I am Virginia (Barnes) Gering. My grandfather, Riley Barnes, was born September 16, 1883, near Cherryvale, in eastern Kansas. He moved to Spearville, in 1905. In 1906, he homesteaded 160 acres near Santa Fe, Kansas, located approximately nine miles from Ulysses, in Grant County. To prove up on the homestead, he had to live there six months out of a year for five years and make some improvements. He built a dugout 14' x 16'. It was about six feet high (three feet below and three feet above ground level). The dugout had one window, 12" x 14". The walls and roof were sod. Grandfather built a sod barn 14' by 22' with a roof made of soap weed or yucca. The yucca was cut off just below the ground and then laid with the roots up in the air. The yucca was attached solidly to a wire frame, which made a good roof.

He hauled water one and a half miles

in barrels out of a pond, however, his drinking water came from a windmill at Grant's Ranch.

After he broke the sod on about 80 acres, he tried to raise wheat and kafir corn, but the summers were so dry he didn't have any luck. What little wheat he did raise was cut with a header and then thrashed. He ground his own grain to use for cereal with a horse-powered grinder.

For fuel, cow chips were picked up and stored under his bunk bed. After he married my grandmother, she made him store the cow chips outside in a lean-to that was built near the entrance to the dugout.

Mail was delivered to a neighbor's house, about three miles away, twice a week. It was indeed a thrill to get the mail.

Because of the small size of the dugout, they didn't have much furniture. The bed was built along the wall. There was a small topsy stove with the oven in the stove pipe and a table. In the winter, when they needed food, two or three of the neighbor men would drive to Garden City, to stock up. They would leave about four o'clock in the morning and arrive in Garden City, about six o'clock at night. They always slept in the bunk room at Robinson's Livery Barn near the bridge.

One fall, my Granddad worked at the sugar factory in Garden City. He had an excellent team of horses and hired them out as what they called a "snap team." He snapped (hitched) his team as a lead team to haul the sugar beets through a pond to wash off the beets. He hired a Negro man to drive the team for a bowl of chili at noon and fifty cents a day. Granddad also hired out to the neighbors to plow sod. This was to make money to live on.

Granddad told me of a square dance they attended: "The square dance was at Plains, 60 miles away. We all decided to go so we started off with spring seats on the top of a lumber wagon. We changed horses about every 20 miles with some farmers along the way. More wagons gathered along and we had quite a jolly bunch going. We danced all night and got home the next after-

noon, but by that time the girls were all sick from the motion of the wagons and everyone was mad."

December 20, 1908, Granddad married my Grandmother, Emma Perkins, from Spearville. They went to the homestead to live.

One trip Granddad and Grandmother made in a covered wagon turned out to be humorous. They slept "out on the prairie and laid rope around the bed so no snakes would crawl over." The horses woke them up by snorting. They couldn't find any snakes, but there was a skunk in camp with them.

One time they went for the mail towards evening and stayed to visit with the people. It was about nine o'clock when they returned home and very dark. Grandmother kept a pair of scissors hanging near the door so she could cut centipedes in two. They started down the steps into the dugout and heard a rattlesnake's rattle. Finally, they decided they couldn't stay out all night so Granddad sneaked in and lit a lamp. They couldn't see any snake, but every so often they heard it. After a lengthy time of being scared, they saw a drop of steam fall from the tea kettle spout and sizzle on the top of the stove. This was "the rattlesnake!"

On another trip they made, there was a shallow lake that covered a large area of ground. Instead of going around the lake, they drove across it. About half-way across, one of the horses got seasick and they had to get out of the wagon and hold the horse's head up, while they waded the lake, to keep it from falling and drowning.

One Christmas, Granddad and Grandmother invited all the near neighbors and hosted a dinner that lasted several days. They dressed a turkey and cooked it in a wash boiler.

Granddad "proved up" or "paid out" the difference on the land the next winter. Grandmother didn't approve of their way of life and they moved to Spearville.

In May 1993, my mother, Zada Barnes, related a story of Floyd Jr., my brother, taking Granddad to visit the homestead. She states: "Floyd Jr., Peggy, Mike and Mark Barnes (Grand-

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son and family) came to Dodge City, in 1966 and they took Floyd Sr., Zada (Granddad's oldest son and wife) and Riley Barnes (Granddad) to see where Riley homesteaded at Santa Fe. When they got there, Grandfather was surely surprised as at this time they were irrigating and they had giant sugar beets that would be taken to Garden City, where he worked at the sugar factory."

Santa Fe, Kansas, is mentioned in the book, *Ghost Towns of Kansas. A Traveler's Guide*, by Daniel Fitzgerald, 1988.

Virginia (Barnes) Gering

### THE BASTIAN FAMILY

Charles "Charley" Bastian was born January 5, 1862, in Henry Co., Illinois. He came to Kansas in 1883. On October 22, 1883, he purchased a quarter section of land on the north edge of Offerle, Kansas. Charles made the move to Kansas by train, bringing with him in a box car his livestock, farm machinery and household furnishings with a space in one end of the car for his living quarters on the trip. Minnie, his sister just younger than he, came later to keep house for him. Charles was the son of Henry Frederick Christian and Catharine Anna (Martin) Bastian.

Christian and Catharine were married June 29, 1859, in Geneseo, Henry Co., Illinois. Christian Bastian was born January 14, 1823, Grosfreden, Ger-

many. He came to America about 1850, as best we can figure from family tradition. Christian's parents were Johann Christian Bestian born 1795 and Marie Sophia Schaper born 1795 both in Grosfreden, Germany. Charles' mother, Catharine A. Martin was born December 5, 1834, in Therstein, Bavaria. Her parents were Heinrich "Henry" Martin born 1808 in Therstein, Bavaria, and Johanna Katharine Wild born 1797, in Schwarzenbach, Germany. The Martin family came to America in 1847, settling in Bowling Twp., Rock Island Co., Illinois.

It was in the Offerle area that Charles met Sarah Antoinette Clore who had come to Kansas from Randolph Co., Illinois, with her parents, William and Jane Ann (Carothers) Clore and their family. Sarah A. Clore was born February 16, 1866, in Randolph Co., Illinois.

Charles Bastian and Sarah Antoinette Clore were married December 17, 1885, in the home of her parents near Offerle. They lived on the farm near Offerle until 1887, when Charles applied for and received a homestead permit for land in what is now Benton Twp, Hodgeman Co., Kansas. Their first home on the homestead was part dugout and part soddy. The first three children in the family were born there. In 1896, the family moved about three-quarters of a mile west where a frame house had been constructed. Part of this

new home was moved from old Kalvesta which was being abandoned because the railroad did not come through the area as it was first thought it would.

In September 1917, Charles, Sarah and their three youngest children moved to Dodge City. This move was made because of Sarah's failing health. Lillian assisted with the housework and cared for Sarah when she could not care for herself. Lyle and Karl attended school. Karl went to the Second Ward School. Charles worked as a maintenance man for a group of offices (now torn down) that faced the railroad tracks cat-a-cornered from the depot. Sarah A. (Clore) Bastian died at their home at 1008 Central Avenue on March 31, 1920. She is buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Jetmore, Kansas, beside their son, Albert.

Life went on for the family after Sarah's death. Charles purchased a Model T Ford Sedan, the first motor vehicle he had ever owned. Lillian went to Hutchinson to attend a business school. At the age of 17, Lyle joined the army and after finishing training, he was stationed in the Hawaiian Islands. He reenlisted and was stationed in California. Karl graduated from Dodge City High School in 1927. For the school year of 1923-24, Karl lived with Arthur and Lillian Fawver in Coffeyville, Kansas. Charles was married on December 2, 1925, to Mertie (Jemison) Bevers. They moved to Kansas City where they lived for three or four years before coming back to Dodge City to make their home. They later divorced.

In his later years Charles was a familiar personage on the downtown streets of Dodge City. His favorite spot to sit and watch people go by or to stop and pass the time of day, was the front ledge of the Carnegie Library. When Karl and family came to town from their Hodgeman County farm, the three girls always headed, first thing, for the library to find their Grandpa. Each greeted him in their own way. After the greetings were over, Charles slowly put his hand in his pocket and brought out some change. He would tell the youngest granddaughter to pick out three nickels so each could have an ice cream



Charles Bastian



Sarah A. (Clore) Bastian, 1866-1920



## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES



**Sarah "Sadie" A. (Clore) Bastian**

cone. He always admonished them to buy ice cream as candy wasn't good for them. To others, who stopped to chat, he often sagely offered advice—such as, "... do not start a project on a Friday that could not be completed that same day, otherwise bad luck would follow."

Charles spent his last years either in the home of Ida and Gus Brockhausen or in the Fulmer Rest Home. He died November 4, 1950, at the age of 89 years. He is buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Jetmore, beside his wife, Sarah.

As far as we know, Charles and Sarah (Clore) Bastian have the following number of living descendants: one son, seven grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 25 great-great-grandchildren. All of the descendants reside west of the Mississippi River in the states of Missouri, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, California and Kansas.

Charles and Sarah were the parents of seven children: Ida, Charles, Cecil, Kinney, Lilly, Lyle, Karl. **Ida Belle** born September 27, 1887, died March 7, 1955, Fort Dodge Hospital, buried Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City, Kansas, married Gus R. Brockhausen, January 29, 1908, Dodge City, nine children, all deceased. **Charles Albert** born October 19, 1892, Albert died October 8, 1911, of complications from a fall from a windmill tower while visiting relatives in Kinsley, buried Fairmount

Cemetery, Jetmore, Kansas. **Cecil Chester** born July 5, 1895, died January 19, 1971, Dodge City. Cecil m/1 Gladys (Avery) Fishback, July 26, 1920. Gladys had two daughters by her first marriage. Cecil m/2 August 3, 1943, Helen (Hall) Smith. She had two sons and a daughter by a previous marriage.

**William McKinley "Kinney"** born January 1, 1897, died April 22, 1938, buried Fairmount Cemetery, Jetmore, married December 16, 1926, Ethel Marie (Courtney) Reimert. They had a daughter and a son. Ethel had a daughter by her first marriage. Kinney lived all his life on the homestead where he was born. He was a Hodgeman County commissioner at the time of his death.

**Sarah Lillian "Lilly"** born January 10, 1900, died October 30, 1983, Ventura, California. Lilly was interred in Melrose Abbey Mausoleum, Orange Co., California. Lillian married Arthur A. Fawver, October 21, 1926, Dodge City. They had a daughter and a son. The Fawvers moved to California in 1936.

**Lyle Raymond** born January 23, 1906, died June 2, 1970, Del City, Oklahoma, buried Chapel Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Lyle m/1 October 7, 1934, Willa Del Priddy in California. They had a son. Lyle m/2 June 15, 1947, in Beaver Co., Oklahoma, Rosamond Black. Lyle was a World War II Veteran. **Karl Clore** born April 14, 1908, living 1995, in Dodge City. Karl

married Mary Eileen Rosebrook, October 4, 1930, Yuma, Arizona. They have three daughters.

Karl and Eileen Bastian  
See the William and Jane Ann  
Carothers Clore entry

### HAYS AND KITTY BEALMEAR

Hays Bealmeare was born in 1859, in Louisville, Kentucky. He died in 1937, in Dodge City, Kansas. Hays was born and grew up on a family farm at Louisville, Kentucky. He was one of a large family and he did lots of hunting and fishing to help provide food for the family. He loved the outdoors and the adventure of the woods and the undeveloped areas in Kentucky.

Kitty Richardson was born in 1860, in Brandenburg, Kentucky, and died in 1937, in Dodge City, Kansas. Kitty grew up on a plantation with several brothers and sisters. On their plantation, slaves were part of the farming business. Kitty remembered well the period following the Civil War and the freeing of the slaves. The Richardson family had three slave families who lived and worked for them and who continued to stay on after being freed. The younger slave people left to move on to look for jobs or whatever they could find. The slaves on the Richardson plantation were treated as part of the family and there was a special love for all of them. The people were taught to read and write as part of their growing up process.

Hays Bealmeare and Kitty Richardson were married in 1878. They farmed and as their family started to grow, they became restless. Hearing of the new West and the new opportunities, Hays decided to check this out. In the spring of 1884, Hays left his wife and two small girls and headed west to Dodge City, Kansas. Upon arrival, he had very little money so he did jobs of every kind while learning about the West and what opportunities it offered. He was especially interested in homesteading.

As the summer went by, he decided that he and his family should move and homestead land. As he had looked at and studied the area, he decided to go



**Karl Clore Bastian and Mary Eileen (Rosebrook) Bastian on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.**



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Three generations, from left: Hays Bealmear, Bev Bealmear holding his son Buddy, Kitty Richardson Bealmear. Taken in 1930s.

south and west from Dodge City. Since there were no trees or landmarks to follow, he would mound up dirt for markers as only a "sea" of grass, waist to shoulder high, was in every direction. Each night he would make his way back to Dodge City by following his markers. Finally after many days, Hays looked in all directions and decided this was the right location for him and his family. He put his stakes up for markers and filed the papers for homesteading this land. After all of the paperwork was completed, Hays returned to his family in Kentucky.

In the early spring of 1885, Hays and his family left Kentucky by train with all of their possessions for a new life at Dodge City. They looked forward to the new life and the changes but they never realized what the years ahead would bring.

Immediately after arriving, they found the location of the claim and started to locate there. They built a sod house, also a sod barn for the livestock.



First mechanical combine in Ford County. It harvested the grain standing and put it in the wagon behind.

They had to have water, so they dug a well by hand. As fall was approaching, provisions for the winter were necessary and were obtained.

The first summer as they worked, several times they looked to the southeast across a small draw and on the hillside saw small groups of Indians on their ponies. The family would go inside the sod house and close all the doors and windows. After a time, the Indians would leave.

As their home was located with grass all around, they cut the areas next to the home site for hay. They also plowed the soil to provide a fire break as protection for their home and livestock. Several times fires scorched the earth around them but the fireguard protected them.

As fall of 1885 drew near, everyone was busy laying in food and other provisions for the coming winter. The storm of all storms was—the Blizzard of 1886. This storm started as rain, then the temperature started dropping and snow began. For three days and nights, the storm continued with temperatures well below zero. Hays got all of his livestock into his sod barn. The family got into the sod house and with the summer planning and the provisions on hand, the family came through the storm safely. In this storm, most of the people and animals that did not have protection died. Many cattlemen lost all of their cattle and horses to the storm. This put many of them out of business.

Finally spring arrived and sod was plowed to plant crops. Hays planted a large garden and dug a cellar to store vegetables and meat for the next winter. He worked at various jobs to make money so the young family could survive. He also picked up loads of buffalo and cattle bones and hauled them



Hays Bealmear and crew planting wheat.

to Dodge City where there was a good cash market. He also gathered loads of buffalo and cow chips to provide fuel for heating and cooking.

As the Bealmear family was surviving these early years, many more people were moving into the area and starting their homesteads. As the area to the southwest of Dodge City grew, supplies were needed. Hays used his horses and wagon to haul supplies to these places as far away as the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandle country. He hauled this freight for many years until the railroad continued building southwest. When the railroads started building again, Hays used his horses and did some of the dirt work for them. This lasted for some time but finally the distance from his home to the work was too far. Hays then leased his horses and paid men to do the work. As the horses became tired, new teams were brought, exchanged for the tired teams and the horses were rested. Many of these horses were then sold to neighbors and area settlers.

The grassland was open range and cattle were allowed to pasture everywhere. Billy Babbit, a cattleman from Arizona, brought in herds of steers to graze and fatten for market. He boarded his cowboys with Hays and Kitty Bealmear. The Babbit cattle were pastured to the south and southwest from Bealmears for about 15 miles. The cowboys would go out daily by horse to check the steers and see that they did not go too far from their pasturing area. This required much riding so Mr. Babbit brought groups of unbroken horses for his men to ride. They had to rope and saddle these wild horses with much wild rodeo riding taking place. As the horses became gentle and rideable, they were sold and another group of new wild



Harvesting wheat with a header, stacking it in stacks to be threshed.

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

horses were started. As more settlers moved in and the pastures were fenced, Mr. Babbit went back to Arizona.

Hays and Kitty Bealmear remembered well several of the last big cattle drives to Dodge City. The cattle herds they saw would travel about one-half to one mile east of their place. The cattle herd could be scattered out for one to two miles. Several times a cowboy would bring a new-born calf to the Hays Bealmear family for the kids to raise. Also several times an old steer would wander into the Bealmear's cow herd. These would usually be ones that had been left off the herd. These steers were wild and dangerous to be around.

The people who had moved to the southwest of Dodge City had to have supplies so they came to Dodge City. As they traveled for supplies, they usually came on the wagon trail by Hays Bealmear's place. Many of these people could not make the trip in a day so they stopped at Bealmears. Their horses were always fed and cared for. Also meals and lodging were provided for the travelers. Everyone was welcomed at this home.

As more people located in the area, community needs grew. A school was needed for the children and as schools were built, more social and church groups came about. Hays Bealmear and others built the first Pleasant Hill School. He was a member of the school board for many years.

Hays was a community leader. He, along with other people, started church services in the school building beginning with worship followed by a noon meal and an afternoon of fellowship. All of the people had a special relationship with their neighbors. If a neighbor were in need, whatever it was, everyone would gather. No one had telephones, so many fast rides on horseback were made to the nearest doctor. If necessary, people would stay with the sick for days at a time. Also the men would help with farm work and chores.

One hot August afternoon, a severe storm developed to the southwest of the Bealmear farm. As the storm came nearer, the family went to the cellar. They watched as the tornado skipped

around and finally came down to stay. The storm hit the Bealmear farmstead moving to the northeast. The buildings were damaged very heavily with many being completely destroyed. No human life was lost in this storm but much damage was done to buildings, fences, and livestock. Also several neighbors had heavy damage. The Tippy Shain family lost all of their farmstead and the Nicholas Mayrath farm received much damage.

Hays gradually rebuilt with wood and concrete structures. All of the older damaged buildings were finally replaced. The Pleasant Hill School was spared this storm by a few hundred yards.

Hays Bealmear loved livestock and especially quality animals. He bred and raised registered Percheron and American Saddle bred horses, Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs. His breeding stock was always in demand by his neighbors. He usually had a waiting list for his quality breeding stock.

Hays took a two-month veterinary school course at Kansas City, Kansas. After he returned home, he was called often for his services which took him many miles from home and in doing this, he made many acquaintances.

Hays Bealmear helped with the formation of the Ensign Coop Co., which is now part of the Dodge City Coop. He also was a leader in getting rural telephones established.

Hays and Kitty Richardson Bealmear lived on the homesteaded land until their deaths in 1937. They raised their children on this farm. They had six children: Maynelle (Stohr) Montgomery, Edna (Roland) West, Sadie (Ed) Archer, Kate (Joe) Groninger, Beverly B. Bealmear who married Nellie Gardenhire and John Morgan Bealmear who married Margaret Wilson. All of this family has passed on but many grand, great grand and great great grandchildren still live with memories and stories of Hays and Kitty Bealmear. The land of the original homestead is still owned by a family member, grandson B.B. Archer and family.

### WILLIAM MARTIN BECK, SR.

William Martin Beck, Sr. and wife, Anna Marlena (Goeken) Beck came to Ford County from Copeland. They bought the Shannon Johnson farm home in 1944. The farm is located one mile north of the Johnson Cemetery. They were members of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Dodge City, Kansas. William was born on the family farm north of Plevna, Kansas, August 4, 1883, and died in Hutchinson, Kansas, May 25, 1965. Anna Marlena was born on a farm near Peking, Illinois, August 25, 1888, and died in Hutchinson, July 18, 1969. They were married August 14, 1913, in the Community Country Lutheran Church northwest of Plevna, Kansas. They are buried in the Copeland, Kansas, Cemetery. They were the parents of Fannie Marlena, William Martin, Jr., and Joseph Francis.

Fannie Marlena, born near Ingersoll, Oklahoma, married Elbert Edgar Denney, born near Minneola. They were married in the First Christian Church parsonage, Dodge City. Elbert "Bus" retired from J.S. Dillon Co., Hutchinson. They were members of the Hutchinson First Christian Church. Bus died October 2, 1993. Fannie lives in Hutchinson. Their sons are James Edgar and John William, born in Hutchinson. There are four grandchildren.



William Martin Beck, Sr. and Anna Marlena (Goeken) Beck, 1913.

B.B. Archer



Joe and Twila Beck and their daughters Sandra, Barbara and Shirley, Spring 1961.

William Martin, Jr., born near Ingersoll, Oklahoma, married Adeline Elizabeth Fisher, born in Montezuma. They were married in the Hutchinson First Presbyterian Church and are members of the Copeland United Methodist Church. Their daughters are Bonnie Jo Bailard and Sherree Jayne D'Amico, both born in Dodge City. Jennifer Leigh Bailard is their granddaughter. Bill and Adeline retired from farming near Copeland and moved to Peoria, Arizona, August 1993.

Joseph Francis Beck, born on the farm near Copeland, Kansas, married Esther "Twila" Frye, born in Sheridan Co., near Hoxie, Kansas.

Twila Frye Beck  
See the George Washington Taylor family entry

### CHALKLEY M. BEESON

The young man who came to Dodge City in 1876 just four years after it was chartered, to set up the Longbranch Saloon, serve as sheriff, legislator, baseball coach, founder of and musician in the famed Dodge City Cowboy Band, was once referred to as "The Man of the Hour."

Indeed Chalkley McArtor Beeson seemed to be everywhere in Dodge City's early history, during the wild and woolly days, and into the years after the gunfighters and lawbreakers shook the dust of "ol' Dodge" from their boots. As they moved further west, Beeson continued to play a major role in the

development of Dodge City. "Lady of the Plains."

Although he may have missed out on some of the glory attached to the names of the likes of Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, etc., anyone who reads anything of the history of the one-time "Queen of the Cowtowns," knows that his legacy is meaningful. It is as colorful, more accurate and longer lasting than that of those who rode off looking for further adventure. Even the unlucky rowdies, enshrined as characters at Boot Hill, had little influence on the future of the city in comparison to Beeson.

Beeson was born in Salem, Ohio, April 24, 1848. In 1872 he "went west," hiring on as stagecoach driver between Denver and Colorado Springs. By accident he learned of the 1872 visit to Kansas of the Grand Duke Alexis, third son of the Russian Czar, Alexandro II of Russia, who was to be entertained at Dodge City. He managed to get himself invited and for the rest of his life, he regaled listeners with stories of the buffalo hunt northwest of Dodge City and the state dinner for the celebrity in Topeka. It was said to have been such a lavish affair that to this day the capital of Kansas has not seen the likes.

This experience encouraged him to return to Dodge City, seeing it as a promising and exciting town. In 1876 he purchased the Saratoga Inn and renamed it the Longbranch Saloon. It became a legend and famous as the locale of "Gunsmoke," a television series that fascinated the country and the whole world almost a century later.

That same year he traveled home to Ohio to marry his waiting sweetheart, Ida Guase, returning to a "shivaree," by pals after the July 1876, wedding. Ida became a leader in the community. She was instrumental in organizing one of the first Sunday Schools, which became the foundation of the Presbyterian Church.

Meanwhile Chalk was involved in cattle ranching on the Sawlog and formed the Dodge City Cowboy Band. He was an unusually skilled musician, with special talent as a violinist. He also played the baritone and French horn, trombone or tin whistle according to

accounts. His band played for guests at the Longbranch and in the city Opera House, in many parades and for the Dodge City Bullfight of 1884. In 1889 he and the band were invited to play at the inauguration ceremonies of President Benjamin Harrison.

At the saloon he entertained the high and mighty as well as the low and lawless until 1883 when he sold the business to Luke Short, a notorious wild west character. According to history, although Beeson prospered during the eight years he was a barkeep in partnership with Bill Harris, he seemed to have a hunch that times were changing.

In later accounts he wrote that he had lived through the age of the cowboy, the buffalo hunt and enjoyed the "...wild life and the gallant men who lived it. I sometimes feel I am 'the last leaf on the tree.'

"Now," he said, "the cowboy has had to change his six shooter and horse for a hammer and plow as settlers began turning the country into farmland."

He and several partners purchased land southwest of Dodge City, forming the C.O.D. Ranch. He ran for Ford County sheriff in 1891, serving two terms, through 1895. During this time he led a posse into Oklahoma Territory to capture the Doolin Gang that had robbed the Spearville Ford County Bank on November 1, 1892. Although several bandits were tracked down, killed or taken prisoner, and Beeson was awarded \$450 for his work, the major portion of the large amount of loot taken was never recovered.

He represented Ford County in the State Legislature for six years, after being appointed, then reelected for two more terms, from 1902 to 1906. An active Republican, he led delegations several times to the National GOP conventions, gaining fame for heading a "peace" drive to unite warring factions at the May 1912, convention in Chicago, which nominated Teddy Roosevelt.

Meanwhile at home in Dodge City, the Beesons led an active social life on the frontier. Five children were born to them: Stella M., born August 16, 1877, and died September 4, 1877; Merritt L., born December 29, 1878, and died

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Chalkley M. Beeson

January 28, 1956; Claude LeRoy, born December 12, 1881, and died in 1886; Allen Bruce, born August 27, 1886, and died May 12, 1889; and Otero Gause, born September 3, 1889, and died January 13, 1944.

Otero, named after a special friend of Beeson, is a Spanish name meaning royalty. He was godfather to the child, who was always called "Ottie," as he grew up.

When Chalk and Ida were married, he brought his bride home to a house on the southwest corner of Second Avenue where the First National Bank now stands. In 1887, desiring to be out on his ranch southwest of Dodge City, Beeson acquired land designed as Lot 4, S2 T27 R25 South. A palatial three-story frame home owned by D.F. Owens stood on the ground. Owens and Beeson traded their homes, complete with all the furnishings. The big farm house, a landmark in the country at the time, was located on the southeast corner of what is now 14th Avenue and West Beeson Road, or 501 W. Beeson. The year 1912, while important in the lives of the Beeson family for the many travels and accomplishments that took place, also was a year of tragedy. On August 9, 1912, Chalk Beeson, died as the result of an accident on August 6, at the age of 64. A lover and trainer of horses, he nonetheless, was severely injured when his mount, startled when Beeson stopped to watch some road construction near his ranch, reared and bucked, throwing the rider against the saddle

horn. He lingered several days, but then died.

According to newspaper accounts, the funeral service at his home on August 11, was well attended and his contributions to the community were well documented by benevolent and fraternal societies, as well as civic and church representatives. Survivors included his wife, Ida; two sons, Merritt and Otero, and one granddaughter, Elizabeth. His mother of Marshalltown, Iowa, also survived him. Mrs. Beeson died June 15, 1928, at the age of 74.

Merritt Beeson, a businessman, continued living in Dodge City and carried on the family tradition of community activity. He married Marie Douthitt in 1902. Their daughter, Betty, was born in 1907. Her parents were later divorced. Marie died in 1918.

Merritt built a grand home located at the southwest corner of Sunnyside and Beeson for his family in 1912. It was constructed almost entirely of concrete. Among its many unusual features was a sunken area in each major room, so that the carpets could be inlaid and the floors even throughout the living areas. He created a museum on the basement level that held many important artifacts of the early days of Dodge City, including clothing, photographs, newspapers, Cowboy Band instruments and documents, and firearms belonging to famed characters of early days. Eventually the collection was moved to a new building on South Second Avenue, the original Boot Hill Museum, which also became the home for Merritt and his second wife, Elizabeth Schaezel, whom he married on March 13, 1913 in Dodge City. Elizabeth was born in Appleton, Wisconsin, on January 17, 1892. She had come to Dodge City in 1911 and worked as a Harvey House Girl, and later as a telephone operator. Merritt and Elizabeth presided over the museum until its contents were moved for display or storage at the Front Street Boot Hill Museum. The family either donated or sold most of the materials to the foundation.

Local citizens, tourists, and historians are grateful for the foresight of the Beesons, father and son and his family,

for preserving so many important documents of a colorful era.

In 1915, Merritt built the Beeson Theater, still standing at the southeast corner of Gunsmoke and First Avenue, no longer used as a theater but as a photography studio. The grand opening was on December 15, 1915. It was dedicated to the memory of his father. For the next two decades it was the site of many fine musicals and vaudeville shows. Among the well-known stage acts were Victor Herbert operettas: Eddie Foy and Harold Lloyd, who starred in comedies; the Bruce Wallace players, and others.

May Robson, a famed English actress, wrote that the \$40,000 theater, built of 17,000 concrete blocks in a Southwest style, was "one of the most picturesque I have ever played in—a monument to the history of the Southwest, with its walls of stucco portraying impressions of saddles, reins, cacti, and other emblems." It was sold to Fox Theaters in 1935.

Merritt Beeson died at 77 on January 28, 1956.

Otero was a talented professional vocalist and musician and played with the Kansas City Symphony among other engagements and concerts in Kansas and the Midwest. He never married and died in 1945.

Elizabeth Schaezel Beeson, widow of Merritt, lived on in the museum, guiding visitors and preserving the treasures of Chalk's city. She died in 1984, after seeing the major part of the museum turned over to the curator of the Front Street Replica of old Dodge City.

Irene, daughter of the couple, was born in 1921, and married Elden Cross. She continues to live in Dodge City. Their children are Jan, Wade, and Mark. Jan married Norman Holliday. They are Dodge City residents. Their daughter, Jessie, 18, is a college student.

Betty, Merritt's oldest daughter, married Marvin Charles "Red" Miller of Dodge City. Their two children were Vee Ann and Michael. Vee Ann is residing in Dodge City. Her grandmother, Marie, died in 1918.

The legacy of all the Beeson family, living and deceased, continues to benefit the city and its inhabitants and visi-



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tors with a true link to the past and the Old West.

According to James Sherer, curator of Boot Hill Museum when it received the collection and national accreditation, this contribution from the Beeson family is "unbelievable" in its size and authenticity as a testimony to a colorful, local history.

"We own a great debt to the Beeson family for their devotion and intent to carry on this history in the collection they kept together and then sold to Boot Hill at a very reasonable cost. It could have gone in many directions, but instead we have this marvelous collection here for which there is no way to place a monetary value.

"It is a treasure trove that they left for Dodge City, and indeed the whole world."

Evelyn Steimel

### JOSEPH A. BEGGS

Joseph A. "Joe" Beggs, son of Samuel and Etta (Hall) Beggs, born September 20, 1859, came with a friend to Pratt, Kansas, from Bloomfield, Iowa, in the spring of 1885 in a covered wagon. He walked on to Dodge City. Not wanting to break a ten-dollar bill, he got permission to sleep in the livery stable. During the night, someone stole his money, leaving him penniless and hungry.

Joe got a job with Mr. Aten southwest of Dodge City. In 1887 he received a land grant for the NE 1/4 of S6 T28 R25 in Ford County. In later years he owned and built three houses at 1005, 1007 and 1009 Avenue C. His son Walter said he had owned property in what is now downtown Dodge City.

Joe filed for a homestead on S14 T27 R27 in Gray County in the fall of 1885 about one and a half miles west of the



Shocked wheat on the Beggs farm, 1914-1916.

Ford County line. He built a dugout and lived there until some neighbors helped him build a sod house. He then returned to Iowa to marry Phebie Nancy Monroe, daughter of Wesley and Margaret Monroe, January 31, 1886. Two children were born while they lived in the sod house. Clarence was born on September 16, 1888, and a daughter was born who lived only two months. When Walter arrived May 3, 1895, they were living in a small frame house. A daughter, Lena, was born in 1897. This house was later turned into a granary after a new frame house was built. As settlers gave up and moved back east, Joe would buy their house and add it to his house. In addition to the homestead, he also had a tree claim. He was required to plant ten acres of this quarter to trees.

During the big blizzard of 1886, a neighbor, Anderson Henry, who owned about the only mules in the country, was coming home from the first town of Montezuma when the storm caught him at Joe's sod house. As the storm intensified, it became evident that the mules would perish, so they were brought into the house and were saved. The only fuel they had was cow and buffalo chips.

In the 1890s a neighbor who lived a mile south went back to his home in Missouri. During his absence, the doors and windows were stolen from his four-room house. Several months later when



Binding wheat on the Beggs farm, 1917.

he returned late one evening after walking from Dodge City, he retired and slept soundly. He was awakened by a jolting of the house being moved. Two men had chosen this night to steal and move the house. They had moved the house a half mile when the owner awoke. Realizing the situation, he took his 44 caliber revolver and persuaded the men to return the house to its foundation, after which he returned to bed and to sleep.

Another neighbor on his way to Dodge City noticed two men taking up post and rolling up the wire belonging to another neighbor who had left the area permanently. On the way home he saw that they had the posts and wire ready to load. He stood up in his wagon and began yelling and whipping the horses. The men took off without the loot and the neighbor loaded the wire and posts and enjoyed telling the story.

Joe and Phillip Brandel, another neighbor, bought one of the first binders in the community and a few years later he and Grant Locken bought one of the first headers.

A water well was hand dug by Joe, his wife and a neighbor. It was four feet square and 132 feet deep. The well was cased with 2' x 6' and 2' x 8' oak lumber. This well was used until 1957 when his grandson, Eugene, had a new well dug and submersible pump put in.



Harvesting wheat with header and barge on Beggs farm, 1914-1917.



Harvest threshing grain on Beggs Farm, 1914-1917.



Altman Taylor tractor on the Beggs farm, 1916-1917.



## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES



**Joseph A. Beggs and his team binding sumac cane on the Beggs farm—1914-1916.**

All wheat and other crops were hauled to the home site and stacked to be threshed with steam engines and threshing separators. Threshing crews required from six to 16 men, including engineer, separator man, water monkey or water and coal hauler, four to eight pitchers and grain haulers. Joe had a total of 1450 acres.

In addition to his farming he was instrumental in forming the Farmers Elevator and Supply Company at Ensign in 1912 and was a charter board member. Joe Beggs was also a director of the Ensign State Bank organized in 1914.

In 1921 after his son Walter married Ethel Anita Lighter, daughter of Albin and Lida (Crawford) Lighter, Joe and his wife Phebie moved to 1009 Avenue C where he died May 28, 1924. He was of Irish descent and Phebie was Scotch and Irish. Both Joe and Phebie are buried at the Johnson Cemetery, one and a half miles east of the homestead.

Walter and Ethel Beggs moved on to the homestead after they were married October 3, 1921. Three children were born to them: Eugene on February 21, 1923, and sisters, Lena and Ruth.

Eugene and Marcheta Barns were married June 30, 1946. Marcheta was born January 21, 1926. They lived in Ensign, Kansas, until the summer of 1955 when they moved to the homestead. They had four children: Linda, Steven, Krystal and Scott. **Linda D.** married Daniel Miller, September 7, 1968. They have four children: Tracy, Daniel (deceased), Matthew and Britta. **Steven E.** married Patricia Rueb, April 5, 1975. They have three children: Ryan, Stephanie and Lisa. **Krystal** has three children, Amanda, Tyler and

Ashley. **Scott** was killed in a car wreck in 1975 at the age of 16 1/2 years on the day of his sister, Krystal's, graduation from high school.

Howard, son of Clarence and Edith Barrow Beggs, married Pluma Gardner on April 13, 1952. Their children are Nancy, Patrick, Robin and Bill. Nancy who married Gary Roberts May 26, 1962. They had one daughter Renee who died in 1987. **Patrick** married Elaine "Yanou" Millen on July 15, 1971, they have one son, Irwin. **Robin** married Janet Kline, September 8, 1970. They have eight children: Jill, Jody, Aaron, Shawn, Phillip, Joanna, Jacque and Jaime. **Bill** married Helen Bowman, February 15, 1980. They have two children, Rachel and Allen.

The parents of Mrs. Eugene (Marcheta) Beggs were George Barns, born July 29, 1895, died April 13, 1975, and Stephana (Joy) Barns born February 9, 1902, died October 4, 1988. They were both born north of Hays, Kansas. They were married July 29, 1920, Wakeeney, Kansas, by Judge A.S. Peacock. They lived in Hays, LaCrosse and Meade before moving to Fort Dodge in 1923. In 1942 they moved to Dodge City where they lived at 1107 4th until their deaths.

George served in World War I as a private in the infantry. He worked as a machinist at Fort Dodge and later as a machinist at the Dodge City Army Air Base, Post Engineers. After the close of the air base, he worked for Paul Phillips Heating and Air Conditioning until the business was moved to Meade. George then worked for Hawley Brothers until he retired. George was active in the



**The Washington Marion Crawford house built before 1888 at 911 Second Ave. in Dodge City.**

VFW, American Legion and Sportsman Club. He helped organized the Disabled American Veterans organization. He and Stephana were instrumental in organizing the Veterans of World War I and Auxiliary in Dodge City, Garden City and Scott City.

Stephana was a homemaker and worked part time while at Fort Dodge. After moving to Dodge City she worked at Gambles, J.C. Penney, and the Ford County Treasurer's Office and later became Deputy County Treasurer until she retired. They had two children, Harrison and Marcheta. Harrison was born August 19, 1921. He was married on March 12, 1943, to Faye Lizer, daughter of George and Glen Lizer. They have two children, Sydney and Edward. Sydney married Tom Shepherd and Dr. Edward married Wendy Shapiro. Marcheta married Eugene Beggs.

Marcheta Beggs

### HAMILTON B. BELL

Hamilton B. Bell was born in 1853 in Maryland and left home at the age of 14 to make his own way in the West. He worked in Lawrence, Abilene, Ellsworth, Great Bend and came to Dodge City in 1874. He worked at hauling cross ties for the railroad into Granada in eastern Colorado but soon returned to Dodge and opened a livery stable. In 1878, he opened the Varieties dance hall where the Can Can was introduced to the town but the dance hall operated for only one year. Bell's main business was as owner of the largest livery stable and as an undertaker. His Elephant Barn was the largest building in southwest Kansas and as many as 50 cowboys bedded down in the loft when rooms in town were not available. He provided the first horse-drawn hearse and the first motorized hearse for the town.

In 1874, he married Miss Josephine Dugan whose parents operated a road ranch on the Fort Supply trail. They had one son, Hamilton B. (Hammie) Bell, who died in 1915, in Salt Lake City. Josephine died in October 1900, and Bell died in April 1947, at the age of 94.



Josephine (Dugan) Bell and Hamilton B. "Hammie" Bell, Jr.

He spent 36 years as a peace officer, 12 as US Deputy Marshal, six terms as sheriff—the first time in 1887, and the last time in 1911, and 12 or more times as a deputy or assistant and one year as chief of police. It has been said that when he was elected mayor in 1912, it was the women's vote that overwhelmingly chose handsome, courtly Ham Bell. During his administration as mayor the work of paving the brick streets began. Over the years Bell owned and operated a 2,000 acre farm south of town. In the '10s and '20s he was an automobile dealer in Chalmers and Reo cars. In 1927, he closed out that business and opened a pet shop that he loved. Although it was not profitable, he operated the shop until the 1940s.



Ham Bell



H.B. Bell, November 4, 1929, "The Last Roundup."

In 1939, Bell traveled to Hollywood with a Chamber of Commerce committee to persuade Warner Brothers to hold the premier of the film "Dodge City" in the original town. In 1943, he christened a B-26 Marauder bomber "Ham Bell" at the local air base and placed his hand print on the side. The memorial fountain topped with the first church bell of the city and located on Boot Hill is dedicated to him.

Ham Bell lived in Dodge City for 73 years and never returned to Maryland to visit his birthplace. He said, "It's my own fault. I was always afraid someone would take Dodge City if I left."

Betty Braddock

### THE BELL FAMILY

Thomas Wright Bell was a sad and lonely man as he left his birthplace and home in Xenia, Ohio. His wife, Louise Babb, had developed pneumonia and died shortly after giving birth to their second son. Thomas' mother was in poor health and unable to help him with the two boys. Mrs. Babb, the maternal grandmother, said she would raise the boys only if he gave up all claim to them. Because there was little else he could do, he agreed. His mother, Jane Scarff Bell, died about a year later on November 30, 1882. His father, Freeborn Garrettson Bell, had passed away earlier.

With both parents and his wife gone and his sons taken from him, he decided to go to California. He traveled by train and when nearing Kansas, he was pleased with the countryside. He had said that he enjoyed the lay of the land and he decided to get off the train in

Dodge City. There was a great deal of talk about staking claims. Tom decided to learn more about it and then declared he was going to walk south until he found unclaimed land. He started out early one morning with stakes under his arm; he walked seven miles and found a site that became the Bell homestead. He staked his claim and returned to Dodge City to register it. This was in the spring of 1885. Thomas first built a dugout for temporary shelter and later a little two-room frame house to live in. He built a sod stable large enough for four horses, but bought two horses and a team of oxen, with which he plowed and planted the first 80 acres. From this beginning, he accumulated a large amount of land, where he farmed and raised cattle.

Ella Harriet Wells had come to Kansas because her sister, Mrs. Frank Delay (Loretta) was expecting her second child and needed help. Ella was not happy with the plan, but she obeyed her mother's directive to come and confessed later that she cried most of the way on the train ride to Kansas.

The Delays had a claim a short distance northwest of the Bell claim. Thomas chanced to see Ella in the Delay yard, and was very interested in getting to know her. His ploy was to borrow a cup of sugar from the Delays, and, of course, he met Ella. Their friendship grew, and when the Delays gave up their claim and moved to Leoti, Kansas, in the fall in 1886, Ella went with them rather than going back to her home in Bedford, Iowa.

The courtship continued, even though Tom was a bit miffed when Ella began her letters "Friend Tom." Thomas and Ella were married on March 2, 1887. They were the first couple to be married in Leoti. They were married in the courthouse by the probate judge. Ella was sorely disappointed that their minister had left town and wasn't there to perform the ceremony. He had chosen to leave because of the argument between Leoti and Cornado townspeople over which should be the county seat. Tempers flared, and there were some gun fights, but in the end Leoti won and Cornado gradually faded away.

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Several cowboys, knowing there was to be a wedding in the courthouse, came to witness the ceremony. So it was that married life began for Tom and Ellie, as Tom called her.

Thomas' brother, Alfred Trader Bell, had come from Xenia, Ohio, to care for the stock while Tom was gone. He drove a pony hitched to a cart to meet the newlyweds in Dodge City, then he got on the train to return to Ohio.

Ella Harriet Wells Bell immediately became active in the neighborhood activities. Being a religious woman, she felt the community needed a place of worship and began with organizing a Sunday School in the nearby schoolhouse. She named it West Hopewell—Hopewell after her church in Iowa and West because of her far journey west. Ella was superintendent of the Sunday School for many years, and later helped to make possible the West Hopewell Community Church.

The family became an integral part of the neighborhood, active in all the religious and social gatherings. Ella was a charter member of the Hopewell Ladies Aid and that organization, through its members, is still active and still going about doing good.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bell served on the West Hopewell School board and two of their sons, Ralph and Homer served on the West Hopewell School Board while Fred served on the East Hopewell School Board. Ralph also served later on the South Hopewell School Board. Ella had completed her education in Iowa and had been planning to teach, but the trip to Kansas changed all of that. Each of the Bell children inherited a portion of land to farm and to make their home if they so chose. Thomas Bell felt it was wrong to go into debt. He would say, "If you can't pay for it this month, how do you expect to pay for it next month?"

He worked hard, and expected his family members to pull their share of the load. All of his sons became farmers. Edith and Jessie worked in Dodge City in the telephone office. Clara tried it for a short time, but didn't like it one bit. She much preferred being out of doors.

When asked her name, her reply of "Clara Bell" often brought the response "Clara Bell What?" She laughed about that. She also laughed about a neighbor telling her father that he passed the Bell girls in the buggy on their way home from town, and they were asleep. Papa felt sleeping at the reins was definitely unacceptable.

Gertrude became a school teacher. She taught at various schools including West Union, West Hopewell, South Hopewell, a school south of Ford, Kansas, Pleasant Valley and Cobb School.

When Homer was the last child at home and after Homer and Alice were married, it was time for Thomas and Ellie to move to town. They bought a nice little place at 1007 Avenue B. It included a chicken house and a plot for a garden. Ella became active in the Methodist Church, took part in the women's work of the church and was a loyal quilter for many years.

There have been six homes on the original homestead. Thomas lived in a dugout for a time while building the first little frame house. The second frame house was larger and had two stories. It was later moved near the barn, and used for storage. In its place stood a wonderful, large two-story white house, with all the room needed for a big family. It had a magnificent bay window facing the south. The big house became a landmark.

When Gary Homer Bell was living in the big house, and the chance came to sell it, he did so, and the big house was moved to Garden City. Gary then lived in a mobile home until he built a fine sturdy, brick home in 1984. Gary farms the original homestead. The land, as of the spring of 1993, will have been in the Bell family for 108 years. A Kansas Traditional Agri-Business Recognition Certificate for the Bell Family Farm was issued on March 26, 1990, through a Dodge City Chamber of Commerce program.

Three things the pioneers feared were prairie fires, blizzards, and tornadoes. Drought and dust storms also took their toll. The Bells went through good times, and difficult times, but always managed to come out all right.

### Genealogy of the Bell Family

1. **THOMAS WRIGHT BELL**, was born July 24, 1854, Xenia, Ohio, and died September 24, 1931, Dodge City, Kansas. He was married on March 2, 1887, to Ella Harriet Wells. She was born August 6, 1861, Clearwater, Michigan, and died January 28, 1961, Dodge City, Kansas. The couple had four sons and four daughters: Ralph, Fred, Edith, Jessie, Raymond, Homer, Clara, and Gertrude. Raymond died shortly after birth.

2. **Ralph W. Bell**, was born January 27, 1888, and died April 13, 1973. He was married to Laura I. Johnson who had come to the community to teach school. The Ralph W. Bell home was in the South Hopewell District. After Laura's death, Ralph married Elsie Milburn Perry, the widow of his long-time friend, Fred Perry. The children of Ralph W. Bell and Laura I. Johnson Bell were Gladys, Avis and Louis. 3. *Gladys E. Bell Carpenter Blatchford*. She and her husband, John Blatchford, live in Williams Lake, Canada. Her first husband Bud Carpenter was killed in a tractor accident in Canada in April 1960. Bud and Gladys had four children: Ben, Joy, Carol and Ann. 4. Ben Carpenter and his wife, Linda, live in Rye, Colorado, with their two children: 5. Kimberly 5. B.J. 4. Joy Carpenter and her husband, Tom McCoy live in Ness City, Kansas, with their two children: 5. Sandra 5. Brett. 4. Carol Carpenter and her husband, Sam Martin, live near Fort St. John, British Columbia. They had two daughters, Cindy and Tamela. 5. Tamela, died in a car accident. 5. Cindy is married to Gary Huk. They live near Fort St. John with their three children: 6. Travis 6. Kim 6. Brandon. 4. Ann Carpenter married John Weatherill. They live in Chilliwack, British Columbia. Their two sons are: 5. Vincent 5. Jeremy. 3. *Avis E. Bell Rothe* and her husband, Grover Rothe, live on a farm near Ness City, Kansas. Their son, 4. R.D. Rothe lives in Ness City, Kansas. 3. *Louis Ralph Bell* and his wife Patsy Payne Bell live in San Jose, California. Their children are: 4. David Bell who is about to complete his residency in Orthopedic Surgery at the Irvine Medi-

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cal Center in California. 4. Pamela Bell Johnson with her husband Steven Johnson, and son. 5. Andrew Steven live in San Jose, California.

2. **Fred G. Bell** was born November 20, 1889, and died December 5, 1991. The Fred Bell home was in the East Hopewell district. He married Sarah Wood, a teacher. Their children were: 3. *Leslie L. Bell*, who with his wife, Reid, lives in Camas, Washington. 3. *Doral G. Bell* and his wife Eulalia Leighty Bell, live in Eugene, Oregon. Their son: 4. Norman. He and his wife, Linda and their two children 5. Kimberly 5. David live in New York, New York. After Sarah's death, Fred married Ina Webber. Their son: 3. *Thor Wayne Bell* and his wife, Coraillee Cook Bell, live in Dodge City. Their children: 4. Rory Bell and his wife Linda, live in Liberty, Missouri. 4. Thalia Bell Harding and her husband Shawn Harding live in Topeka, Kansas. After Ina's death, Fred married Edna L. Cobb Moore. Edna Bell celebrated her 100th birthday on January 21, 1993. Fred and Ina bought a home in Dodge City, August 1943. They lived part of the time on the home place and part of the time in town. The land inherited by Fred is still in the family, although it is tenanted.

2. **Edith M. Bell** was born May 19, 1892, and died September 26, 1978. She married Percy Coss. Their child, *Clara Ellen*, lived only a few hours.

2. **Jessie A. Bell** was born October 6, 1894, and died March 24, 1984. She married *Clark Parks*, who preceded her in death.

2. **Homer N. Bell** was born November 14, 1896, and died August 8, 1990. He married Alice Kenton. Their sons: *Melvin Eugene* and Gary Homer. 3. *Melvin Eugene Bell* married Loretta Hampton. They live in Fowler, Kansas. They have two children, Randy and Thena. 4. Randy and his wife, Maureen have two children, 5. Shasa 5. Jeremy Lee. 4. Thena is married to Dane Stevens. They have two daughters: 5. Helissa 5. Chirpetta. 3. *Gary Homer Bell* lives on the original homestead in the West Hopewell District.

2. **Clara Elizabeth Bell** was born

May 25, 1898, and died July 27, 1987. She married Winfield Johnson Scofield. She first saw him when he drove cattle into the Bell yard to water them. She was smitten with the tall blond, blue-eyed cowboy, but he didn't know it until after he became interested in her and had asked her to be his wife. Their children: Glenn Elwood, Mary Elizabeth, Doris Ella-Mae, Katherine Nadine and Dallas Winfield. 3. *Glenn Elwood Scofield* married Janis Johnson. After Glenn retired from the Navy, they made their home in Phoenix, Arizona. Janis died February 14, 1987. Glenn died March 16, 1991. Their sons: 4. Winfield Glenn 4. Steven Reid. 3. *Mary Elizabeth Scofield* married Dean M. Dunn. Dean died October 11, 1992. Their two daughters: 4. DeeAnn married Robert E. Kreger. The Kregers live in Emporia, Kansas. Their son: 5. Tyson Keith. 4. Dawn Elizabeth married Richard G. Springer. The Springers live in the Highlands Ranch area of Littleton, Colorado. Their children: 5. Matthew Dean 5. Kelsey Elizabeth. 3. *Doris Ella-Mae* married James Laird. Their children: Vicki Lynn, Douglas Winfield, Carey James, Deborah Jean and David Brian. Doris' husband and two children, Vicki and Douglas, are no longer living. 4. Carey James and his wife Cheryl, and two daughters 5. Amber Lynn (Daughter of Cheryl) 5. Nicole Lee live in Belton, Texas. 4. Deborah Jean (Debbie) married Gary Nagy. Their children: 5. Jennifer Erin 5. Jason Michael. The Nagys are both in the U. S. Army Communication Service. Doris had been living with them in Bowie, Maryland. The Nagys were assigned to the White House and were often out on assignment. Doris was there to care for the children. They are all in Korea, and in December 1993, will have completed one year of a two-year assignment. 4. David Brian lives in Ft. Worth, Texas. 3. *Katherine Nadine* married Donald E. Cramer. They have seven children. All but one lives in Wichita, Kansas. Katie and Don often have a full house. Their children: Linda Kay, Donna Jean, Susan Elizabeth, Pamela June, Shain Eugene, John Allen and Matthew Douglas. 4. Linda Kay married King Doolen.

Their children: 5. Jeannie Kay 5. Steven Duke 4. Donna Jean was killed in a car accident in 1994. Her sons are Lucas and Michael Coble. 4. Susan Elizabeth lives in Burlington, Kansas. 4. Pamela June married David Bowring. Their children: 5. Jennifer Renea (Pamela's daughter) 5. Alicia Marie (David's daughter) 5. David Boyd. 4. Shain Eugene was married to Valerie Weever and has a daughter 5. Katherine Ann. 4. John Allen lives in Wichita. 4. Matthew Douglas lives in Wichita. 3. *Dallas Winfield Scofield* married Margie Lou Baker. Their home is near Spearville, Kansas. Their children: Regina Marie, Brenda Sue, Dory Jean, Wade Winfield, Chad Shenandoah. 4. Regina Marie married Dan Dick. Their home is in Salina, Kansas. Their daughter: 5. Chelsie Marie. 4. Brenda Sue married Michael Brackeen. Their home is in Newton, Kansas. Their daughter: 5. Chloe Lynn. 4. Dory Jean is married to Kelly Housman. They live in Dodge City. Her children: 5. Jeremy Joel 5. Heather Marie 4. Wade Winfield lives in Spearville, Kansas. 4. Chad Shenandoah lives in Dodge City.

It was not until the 1930s that the Scofield family decided to build on Clara's portion of T.W. Bell's homestead. There was a house built and a big red barn was moved to the site. A well was dug and a windmill erected. There was a large cattle tank, a corral, a chicken house, a fenced garden plot and an outhouse. There were horses, cows, pigs and chickens. Everything seemed ready so the Scofields moved into their new home in time for the fall term of West Hopewell in 1932.

The property was sold to Max Austin in 1948, when Win. Clara, and the two children still at home, Katherine and Dallas wanted to move to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to make their home. Winfield died in Tahlequah, July 25, 1970. He was born September 21, 1895. Katherine and Dallas had both moved on with their lives and were living elsewhere so Clara moved back to Kansas.

2. **Gertrude Mary Bell** was born May 21, 1891. She married James William Woolbright. Their son: 3. *William*



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*Dwayne* married Darlene Harsh. William's family all live in Topeka, Kansas. Their children: 4. Terry Lee married Patricia Schrader. Their child: 5. Tricia Leann. 4. Timothy Duane married Laurie Stille. Her children: 5. Tanya 5. Allen 5. Matthew.

Mary Scofield Dunn

### ABNER AARON BERGER AND LUCINDA KLINE BERGER

The parents of Abner Aaron Berger were his father, Christian Gotthilf Berger, who was born near Essinger, Wuertemberg, Germany, May 14, 1831, and his mother, Mary (Pfeiffer) Berger who was born at Hadelfinger, Wuertemberg, Germany, September 3, 1829. Christian died July 11, 1911, and Mary died September 26, 1906. Both are buried at Howe, Indiana.

His parents came to America in 1850 and settled in Erie Co., Pennsylvania, where George Berger preceded them. They came with empty hands and empty purses, but with a deep desire and determination to earn a home in America. They lived near Fairview, and the father worked at menial labor for a man named Hershey. Here they came in contact with the Evangelical Church. Christian and Mary were converted, united with the Evangelical Church and lived devoted and Christian lives.

They did not do too well in Pennsyl-

vania, and since several of their friends and family had migrated to La Grange Co., Indiana, they decided to try their fortune in Indiana. While in Pennsylvania, five of their children were born — the youngest being Abner on October 14, 1859.

In Indiana they lived near a town called Lema, now called Howe, Indiana. Christian worked at all kinds of menial jobs, but finally managed to acquire a small acreage. Five more children were born to the couple. They lost several children because of typhoid fever.

Abner's wife, Lucinda (Kline) Berger was born September 21, 1855, in Van Buren Township, La Grange, Indiana. Her parents were James and Calista (Shoup) Kline. There were ten children in her family. The parents died young, leaving Lucinda and an older brother to raise the rest of the children.

Abner and Lucinda were married December 6, 1881, at the Evangelical (Dutch) Church near Howe, Indiana. Their oldest child, Edna, was born September 20, 1883, near Lema, Indiana. Soon after that, Abner decided to move his family and possessions to Kansas where there were more opportunities. George Berger, a relative, lived near Newton, Kansas. So they joined him and worked for him. When they left Indiana, their families helped them fill a freight car at Klinger Lake Station. It was quite a job packing furniture, tools,

clothes, plus a team of horses into the car for the trip to Kansas.

After being in the Newton area for several months, Abner Berger decided to go to Ford County to prove up a claim of 160 acres with the railroad company in 1884. His claim was located four miles south and 1/2 mile east of Ford, Kansas. He built a sod house 1/2 mile east and 1/4 mile south of where the present buildings are. Then he returned for his wife, Lucinda, and his daughter, Edna. They traveled by covered wagon. On April 23, 1885, a son, Willard, was born. He was the first white child born in Ford Township.

Abner was a farmer but did work for the railroad near Bucklin, Kansas, helping to build the tracks. This helped supplement their income. During those first years they experienced many hardships. When others became discouraged and returned to the eastern states, the Bergers clung to their possessions, through hot winds, drought, grasshopper invasions, blizzard snowstorms, and frosts late in the spring that made crops uncertain. After some good crops, Abner was able to add to the original claim, and he built a house and other buildings on the southwest corner of the first claim.

In those early years, the Arkansas River was wide and full of water. There were few trees, as buffalo in the area ate the small trees off faster than they grew. The early pioneers used team and wagon to go to Dodge City to get supplies or take care of business so it meant fording the river. Lucinda would get nauseated crossing the river so she seldom traveled to Dodge.

Albert Berger told the story about the cattle drives from Texas to Abilene, Kansas. Often the herd spent the night on Mulberry Creek. If a calf was born during that period, it would be left behind as it couldn't keep up with the herd. So Albert would have his dad take him over to Mulberry Creek, and if there were a newborn calf, they would take it home and raise it to make extra income.

The main entertainment of the pioneer family was going to church or to a program at the country school. The "Glover" country school was built just



Abner Aaron Berger



Lucinda (Kline) Berger



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1/2 mile west of the Berger place. All the Berger children went to school there through eight grades. In later years, 1933 to 1936, a granddaughter, Evangeline (Berger) Fletcher taught at this school. Other entertainment was playing the old-type pump organ, fiddle or a violin or a French harp.

In 1912, Abner and Lucinda bought a farm on the east edge of Bucklin, Kansas, and moved to it. Alta was the only child left at home. Albert Berger and Elizabeth Griffin, a school teacher, were married on October 8, 1912. They moved to the homestead family farm.

On July 6, 1914, Abner was helping at the homestead farm south of Ford during wheat harvest and was killed when a team of horses ran over him.

The farm next to Bucklin was sold and Lucinda and daughter, Alta, moved to a home in town. In 1993, this home is occupied by Ralph and Margaret Birney. Alta attended high school and graduated with the Bucklin class of 1918. She was the only one in the family to receive a high school diploma. Abner and Lucinda's oldest son, Willard, had gone to Manhattan, Kansas, to high school. He became ill with measles and complications, and before his father could get to Manhattan, Willard died on February 18, 1904. Abner took it so hard that he would not let any of the other children leave home for a high school education.

After Albert and Elizabeth Berger left the family homestead, it was taken over by a grandson of Abner and Lucinda Berger, Kenneth Berger. The

homestead is farmed by Kenneth's daughter, Kathy and son-in-law, Larry Feikert. Larry and Kathy Feikert live in the home that belonged to Albert and Elizabeth Berger in Bucklin. In later years, (1952) the farm that Abner and Lucinda Berger owned next to Bucklin, Kansas, was put up for sale. Frank Fletcher, Evangeline Berger's husband bought it at auction. They built a new house on it and live there at the present. Lucinda Berger died of pneumonia on June 11, 1935. She is buried in the Bucklin Cemetery.

### Genealogy of the Berger Family

**ABNER AARON BERGER**, born October 14, 1859, died July 6, 1912, buried Bucklin, Kansas. **LUCINDA (KLINE) BERGER**, born September 12, 1855, died June 11, 1935, buried Bucklin. They had six children: Edna, Willard, Albert, Susie, Melvin and Alta. **I. Edna (Berger) Ingels**, born September 20, 1883, died January 19, 1930, buried Bucklin, married August 1907, to Frank Owen Ingels, born March 21, 1875, died March 13, 1945, buried Bucklin. They had three children: 1. Melvin Lester Ingels, born June 16, 1916, died July 10, 1989. His widow, Garnett (Smalley) Ingels lives in Joplin, Missouri. They had three children. 2. Jessie Laverne (Ingels) Schoonover, born June 21, 1923, married Homer Schoonover. They live at Kingsdown, Kansas, and had four children. 3. Alta Beryl (Ingels) Hitz, born October 18, 1927, married Merle Hitz. They live at Kingsdown. The had three children, one

deceased. **II. Willard Berger** born April 23, 1885, died February 18, 1904, buried Bucklin. **III. Albert Christian Berger**, born May 12, 1888, died February 1, 1976, buried Bucklin. He married on October 8, 1912, to Elizabeth Griffin, born September 15, 1888, died October 1, 1973, buried Bucklin. They had two children: 1. Evangeline (Berger) Fletcher, born October 4, 1913. She and husband, Frank Fletcher live in Bucklin. They have two children. 2. Kenneth Keith Berger, born February 23, 1918. He and his wife, Wilma (Luft) Berger live in Bucklin. They had three children. **IV. Susie (Berger) Holloway**, born June 11, 1889, died April 9, 1972, buried Bucklin, married Ben Holloway, divorced. He is deceased. They had two children: 1. Gilbert Holloway, born April 4, 1915, died December 7, 1994. He married Berniece Kelman in 1934, divorced. They had three children. 2. Lyle Eugene Holloway, born July 25, 1919, married Madeline Gish they live in Tucson, Arizona. They have six children. **V. Melvin Berger**, born January 4, 1892, died March 14, 1893, buried Bucklin. **VI. Alta (Berger) Prickett**, born November 2, 1900, died October 13, 1969, married September 17, 1932, to Roy D. Prickett, born October 8, 1901, died July 29, 1981. Both are buried Resthaven Gardens, Wichita, Kansas. They had one child: 1. Max Roy Prickett, born December 7, 1933, married Barbara Mix. They live in Wichita and have three children.

Evangeline Berger Fletcher,  
Granddaughter of Abner Aaron Berger



Abner Aaron and Lucinda (Kline) Berger homestead, four miles south of Ford, Kansas, and one-half mile east.

### GERHARD BLEUMER

In this centennial year of the Statue of Liberty, it is appropriate to remember that our family, too, had its beginnings in the U.S.A. with persons entering through New York harbor.

Gerhard Bleumer was born March 16, 1870, in Netterden, Holland, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bleumer. Possibly because the youngest son of the family was required to serve in the Dutch Army, or simply because he wanted the chance to find a better life, Gerhard chose to come from Holland to the United States in 1894, at the age

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Gerhard Bleumer



Dena Bleumer

of 24. When he first decided to come to this country, he sold his bicycle, a very important item to own in his native Holland, to help finance the trip. He also borrowed money from his father which he paid back within two years.

Gerhard came into this country on a freighter. When the people on that freighter entered New York Harbor and first saw "Miss Liberty" everyone cried, laughed and shouted for joy. After entering the country, probably coming through Ellis Island, which celebrated its centennial in 1992, he then went on to Davenport, Iowa, remaining there only a short time and then moved on. At various times he was in Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota. During his first eight years in the U.S., he undertook various occupations: fireman on a train (which he didn't like), cowboy and dairy farm work.

Gerhard had an older brother, William (Uncle Will) who was born May 18, 1866, who came to the United States in 1901 at the age of 35. One story says that he came because his fiancée in Holland had married someone else. He had spent four years in the Dutch Army and had also attended a carpentry school which enabled him to secure good jobs in the U.S. He worked as a car finisher for the Great Northern Railroad. He would often come from Jamestown, Nebraska, to spend a month or so with his brother and family although he didn't

always come every year. After his retirement in 1937, he resided with his brother and family for the last ten years of his life. He also owned a house in Wright, Kansas, which he rented out for \$15 per month. Uncle Will never married and preferred to spend much of his time alone in the "wash house." He used his carpentry skills to make cedar chests and other items for the family. His death on March 4, 1947, was believed to be due to a heart attack.

Another brother to Gerhard, John (Jan) remained in Holland as well as a sister that married late in life and had no children. It is also believed that there was a cousin, a nun, who may have been a missionary to India. Gerhard talked a lot about her.

Cousins now live near the original family home although the exact spot is now in Germany due to border changes after World War II. A highway passed through the location of the home, which is no longer standing. During the years of World War II, money and other items such as bicycle tires were sent to Holland to help relatives there. It is remembered that tulip bulbs were once sent here and planted in the Bleumer yard where some may still be blooming.

In 1898, Gerhard moved to Rice County, Kansas, near Nickerson. On July 14, 1902, at the age of 32 he married Bernadena (Dena) Bosman, age eighteen. The Bosman family had also

immigrated to the United States from Holland.

Dena's father, John Bosman (pronounced Boschman) was born in Bersb, Holland on May 20, 1854. He lived there, laboring as a tiller of the soil. Her mother, Wilhelmina Welting, was born in Netterden, Holland on either September 25, 1848 (tombstone), or September 24, 1849 (newspaper obituary). On June 13, 1884, she married John Bosman. She was 35, he was 29. A daughter, Bernadena, was born June 1, 1884, in Netterden, Holland. In March 1885, Dena, her parents, an aunt, two uncles, and a grandfather came to the United States when she was only nine months old. The trip across the sea took eight weeks. Friends who also made the trip had a baby that became ill and died while at sea. It was said that the mother of the infant was quite distraught at having to bury her child at sea. After arriving in the U.S., they went to Nichols Eye (Nicholas) near Davenport, Iowa. Here the Bosmans were blessed with their first son, Theodore, born in 1885. Two years later they moved to Rice County, Kansas. A second son, William A. (Uncle Bill) was born October 7, 1887, at Lyons, Kansas. The children attended Nickerson Grade School. It is believed that Uncle Bill attended school to the fourth grade. At some time in the 1890s they moved to Little River, Kansas, to be near a Catholic Church.

In a letter dated March 25, 1958, a friend of Dena Bleumer, Nellie Shaw, reminiscences about their childhood. She says, in part, "... When we were kids, I used to think I could boss my sister because I was the oldest, but I didn't get very far. We did have lots of fun together. I sit and think of the good times were all had when we were kids when a bunch would gather at your Uncle's and your parent's and my parent's homes. Dena, do you remember the big straw stack out at your uncle's place? The hogs had made a hole clear through it. One Sunday a bunch of us little kids crawled all the way through it, it scares me yet when I think of what could have happened to us if the straw had caved in on us. But kids never think of the danger side of

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fun. And how we used to gather the eggs all round too, inside and outside of the straw barn. I can remember so many things we did then. How we used to steal the wig off your grandfather's head (or was he your grandfather?) I forget just what relation he was to you. Anyway, we were mean to him. And I remember the big loaves of bread your "Tanta Gretchen" made, and kept down cellar. I can remember so many things of the past. When Gerhard and Steve Neinhouse came from the old country and I tried to teach them how to pronounce words in English. I remember when Ben Terborst first came to America also . . ."

In 1906, Ted and Bill Bosman came to the Ford County area to take a look at the area. The parish priest had advised the family to move "West" where there would be more opportunity for them. Evidently the brothers liked what they saw, because in the spring of 1907, the Bosman family moved to the Spearville area. The trip took them three days and three nights, and they arrived on the fourth day. They traveled in spring wagons and brought all their possessions with them. After they arrived they bought the stove and other heavy items at the Big Store in Spearville. They first lived on a farm south of Spearville for three or four years and put in a corn crop soon after they arrived. They then moved to the farm, now owned by Jim Knoeber, for seven years. They finally bought the Dennis Shaffer farm 1 1/4 miles southwest of Spearville in 1918, where Uncle Bill continued to live for over forty years.

A highlight of the summer for many of the grandchildren while staying at the Bosman's in the summer was going in to Spearville in the buggy for some ice cream. Staying at Grandma and Grandpa's was fun. Grandma was pretty easygoing, and Grandpa liked to tease and play with his grandchildren, although he could be crabby at times as well.

John Bosman died on April 14, 1929, at the age of 75 after living nearly 21 years on well-improved farms in the Spearville area. Before coming to the U.S. he had been a conductor on the

Dutch railroad. He tried railroad work in the U.S., but didn't like it. He was remembered as a genial companion and friend; a pious and faithful member of the church; and a citizen of solid character and gifted with many edifying virtues.

His wife, Wilhelmina (Mina), died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Gerhard Bleumer on May 3, 1932, at 11:25 a.m. of pleurisy and other complications following an attack of bronchitis at the age of 82 years, seven months and nine days.

When Gerhard and Dena Bleumer prepared to come to the Wright area in 1909, following Dena's Bosman relatives, John Bosman and his son, Bill, returned to Rice County with their wagons and helped Gerhard move his family's possessions west. Dena and her three oldest children came west on the train. After arriving here, they lived for a short time with Dena's family while their home five miles south of Wright was being built. Gerhard's brother, Will, did the building with some help from Dena's brother, Bill. The building of the home took about six months. By the time St. Andrew's Church in Wright was dedicated in 1910, they were listed as members of the congregation.

At times Dena would drive the horse and buggy into Wright and her children would be packed in with her. At this time, Wright was "north" of the Santa Fe railroad tracks. One time she couldn't find the crossing and must have picked the wrong spot for everyone thought they would be thrown out and killed, but they finally did make it. Grandma never did drive an automobile.

Dora and Minnie first attended Liberty School, located not far from their new home. When it became time to make their First Communion, they were sent to live with their grandparents (Bosman) so that they could attend the Catholic School in Spearville to prepare for First Communion. They then returned to Liberty School for one more year, which was the year Hank started his schooling, finally attending St. Andrew's when it opened its doors.

The children would take the horse

and buggy to get to school. On one such day when Bill, Alice and Helen were returning home from school, Sam, the horse, began to move quite slowly. Finally Bill got out, gave the horse a pat, at which time he simply fell over, dead. This was quite a shock to the youngsters. The two girls ran to a neighbor who called their father who came and got them. Later, Bud and Viola drove to school with a horse named Nellie. When Bud was ill and unable to attend school, Viola stayed with her sister, Dora Doll, while attending school.

In the early days, the school was used for the annual bazaar. A meal was served, fancy work displayed, cakes and baked goods sold. Outside were tubs of ice water used to cool the pop. One year the youngest sister was complaining loudly because she wanted to go home. She backed up and fell right into an icy tub. The others never let her forget how funny she looked—soaking wet and cold!

In the beginning, St. Andrew's school was divided by a drawn white curtain with primary students on one side and older children on the other. By 1920, it was decided that this arrangement was interfering with concentration of teachers and students so the parish added a room to the west of the church building. In 1929, ground was broken for a red brick school building which is still used for education today.

Dena Bleumer was a quiet, patient



**Dena (Bosman) and Gerhard Bleumer.**

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woman, quite talented in handiwork, which she loved. She made pillow slip lace (cutwork) and even altar cloths for the church altar society. She enjoyed quilting and made many beautiful quilts for her family. She belonged to a quilting club at St. Andrew's Church and about once every two weeks she would spend the day quilting with a group of ladies, a day which she really enjoyed. At this time, the traditional role for a woman was in the home caring for her husband and family, which she did lovingly and well. Her daughters helped with the housework, which was portioned out so that it appeared ordered and easy to visiting grandchildren.

Each year she raised chickens, as many as 100-200. They were butchered and eaten day by day as needed. One year Gerhard went to town to the post office to collect the new shipment of baby chicks. It was a warm day—and he got sidetracked. By the time he arrived home, the chicks had died from the heat. Dena was sure mad! She thought for a time that the post office was at fault, finally finding out that Gerhard had not come directly home after picking up the poor chicks.

Beef was also "canned" at this time because food could not be kept for long periods before the advent of refrigeration. Dena also canned a lot of fruit each year to last through the winter months. She tried to plant gardens but they were not too successful because of the difficulty in getting water to them.

Sometimes blizzards were so bad, ropes had to be tied from the house to the barn in order to take care of the animals without being lost in the snow. Bill was born in the biggest blizzard of the year in 1912. Gerhard had to walk in order to get help from Mrs. Braddock, a neighbor who acted as a midwife at that time.

Gerhard served as a director of the Wright State Bank and also helped to organize the Grange.

Gerhard and Dena lived their entire married life on the same farm. They celebrated their golden anniversary in 1951, with a family dinner at their home.

Gerhard and Dena were the parents

of ten children: Dora, born October 17, 1903; Minnie, born February 1, 1905; Henry born May 25, 1908; Johnny, born June 30, 1910 (died August 15, 1914, of the "summer complaint" two months after the death of his baby sister); William, born March 3, 1912; Margaret Mary, born June 13, 1914 (she died on June 26, 1914, and was the second burial in St. Andrew's cemetery); Helen (the elder by about 5 minutes) and her twin sister Alice, born June 15, 1916; Lawrence (Bud) born September 4, 1919; and Viola, born December 17, 1920.

Until they became aged and ill, Grandma and Grandpa Bleumer continued to offer hospitality and stability to the lives of their offspring and their descendants. They seemed such wise, yet human people from whom we learned a lot of forbearance, tolerance, neighborliness as well as good sense and industriousness, that has been passed along, generation to generation. This may be a result of the Dutch genes.

Dena Bleumer passed away on November 20, 1958. Gerhard Bleumer passed away on May 26, 1959. They are both buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery, Wright, leaving a legacy of love and life to the generations which follow.

Connie Burkhart

### ED AND TOM BROWN

Ed and Tom Brown came to Kansas, in 1878, when Ed was three years old. Their parents, of English and Irish descent, left Pennsylvania in search of work in the coal mines in southeast Kansas. Ed and Tom grew up near Pittsburg, and Ed made history by playing "Pro" football before the turn of the century, while he took classes at the Fort Scott College. They and their wives came to Ford County in a spring wagon pulled by a pair of mules to settle and farm in 1905 and 1906.

They lived at first in a primitive hut east of Wright, where Ed's oldest child, William, was born in 1908. According to a story by William, they set out to build a barn on the home place about five miles east of Wright, and finding it better than their present living quarters, they continued to work on it and made

it the home for the Brown clan. A daughter, Esther, was also born to Ed and his wife.

Ed worked winter months as foreman for the railroad between Dodge City and Spearville. He was community minded and believed in getting ahead, and instigated the purchase of a privately owned elevator at Wright to start the Wright Coop along with Casey Jones and Fred Mann and several other local farmers. It was said that Brown dickered about the price with the owner and by a toss of the coin, got the elevator for \$5,000 rather than the \$10,000 the owner wanted.

Brown was known for several enterprises he started, including a dance hall, a dirt track where world-class motorcycle races were held in the vicinity of the present municipal airport, rural telephone lines, and several other businesses along with a large farming operation. He died after his 102nd birthday in 1977. His brother, Tom, died in 1959. Tom's wife, Gertrude, died in 1987.

William Brown, like his father, attended college and left the farm for a successful career with the Social Security Service. He died in 1992. Esther lives in California. There are several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Evelyn Steimel

From the Wright Centennial Book

### THE BROWNING FAMILY

Charles Browning, father of Ray Browning and grandfather of Leroy Browning, was born May 18, 1861. He married Mollie Cox on January 17, 1881, at Greencastle, Indiana. They later traveled to Hutchinson, Kansas, and on to Neola, Kansas, in Stafford County where they homesteaded and lived for many years.

My grandfather and great uncle went to Oklahoma to cut fence posts on Indian territory. The Indians let them cut the posts but then took their wagons and posts away from them. However, they did let them have their horses to ride home to their farms in Neola.

Some of the families in the community decided to seek their fortunes and move to Eugene, Oregon. On August



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2, 1898, they left their farms and headed west. Charles and Mollie Browning and four children started with two wagons and six horses. My father, Ray Browning, was age 11. They stayed in sheep camps and various places along the way.

When they were going down a steep slope in the mountains, they had to let their wagons down with ropes. On the lower ground, they had to cut logs and lay them crosswise so the wagons wouldn't sink in the mud. They called this the "corduroy" road.

They arrived in Eugene, Oregon, on October 9, 1898. They worked that winter at whatever they could find to do. The winter wasn't very profitable so Charles Browning and some other families left for home April 13, 1899, and got back to Neola, in July 1899.

Around 1906, my grandparents moved one mile east of Ensign. Later my grandfather built a barn and hauled the lumber from Ensign. He bought the lumber from T.M. Deal. He farmed there until 1912, when they moved back to the farm he had homesteaded at Neola, Kansas. In 1915, my mother and father, Ray and Josie Browning, and my sister, Mildred, moved to Ford County on a farm ten miles west on the Beeson Road and one and a half miles south of Dodge City. At that time the Beeson Road was the only way from the west to Dodge City. You had to go on it to Sunnyside Street then cross the river bridge on Second Avenue. My sister, Lettie, was born in 1917, and I was born in 1920.

My parents would go to Dodge City on Saturday to sell cream and eggs. I can't remember some of the stores they sold to but there weren't many. My father raised wheat, cattle and mules to farm with and to sell. His main crop was wheat. We had to cut the wheat with a header that would elevate it to a header barge and then they would stack it. Later our neighbor, John Wagner, would come and thresh it with his threshing machine. All the neighbors would get together and help each other but we still had to hire some help. My father hauled his wheat to the Sayre elevator which was between Ensign and Dodge City on the Santa Fe. My sister, Mildred, would

take care of Lettie and me and often took us to the field where we could play in the shade of the wagon while my mother and father farmed.

My father got his first tractor in 1927. It was a 15-30 International which he bought from Nevins Implement Company in Dodge City. Our neighbor, C.M. Bratton, bought a combine that same year. My father pulled the combine with his tractor and they cut wheat together. The next year my father bought his own combine which was an International bought from the Nevins Implement Company. The same year he got his second tractor, a John Deere. He traded six mules for it.

My mother, whose name was Josephine Welty, stayed with my aunt and uncle who lived in Dodge City. She attended the Dodge City school in 1896, which was on Boot Hill at that time.

We moved to a farm four miles north and two miles east of Ensign in 1925. We had a schoolhouse one mile north from our home that was called Excelsior School. It was in Ford County. I started to school when I was five. I would run away and go to school so the teacher said to let me come to school. I guess the first year was what they call kindergarten now. In 1927, the community voted to build a new schoolhouse which would cost \$10,000. Several in the district voted against it but it passed. The new Excelsior schoolhouse was the most modern school in Ford County. The school had a forced air furnace, hot and cold water, indoor toilets, a library and a basement with a stage. I attended school here through the eighth grade. I stayed with my older sister and went to Junior High in Dodge City which was on Second Avenue and is now the administration building. I went to Ensign High School my sophomore, junior and senior years as my father thought I was old enough to drive then. Right after my graduation, my father passed away at the age of 51. I took over the farm but my mother lived with me and was my advisor.

In 1941, Eileen Doores came to Ensign to teach Home Economics. In 1943, we were married. She continued to teach school. We had four children:

Robert Ray, Emma Josephine, Wilma Jean and Carol Louise. They were raised on the same farm where I grew up. All of the children but Carol graduated from the Ensign High School. We moved to Dodge City in 1967, and Carol graduated from the Dodge City schools. All four of our children went to Dodge City Junior College. When we moved to Dodge City, I sold the farm and we bought a home in Dodge City. I worked at Western Power which was later called Centel. Eileen continued to teach school at Ensign until we both retired in 1982.

I have enjoyed living in Ford County all of my life and raising my children on a farm in Ford County. I have seen many changes in farming and in the town of Dodge City. I guess I'm an old-timer here.

Leroy Browning

### THE BRUNER FAMILY

#### ORANGE LEMON BRUNER

Orange Lemon Bruner was born in Indiana, on July 2, 1858, the son of Samuel and Catharine (Briggs) Bruner, and died, possibly a suicide, on September 4, 1911, in Wichita, Kansas. When he was around nine years old, Orange



Cora Elizabeth (Bryan) and Orange Lemon Bruner.



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moved with his parents to Saline Co., Missouri. In 1882, he collaborated with his brother-in-law, Whitsel Lewis, in inventing and patenting an attachment for churns so the operator could use circular motion converted mechanically to the up-and-down motion necessary for butter churning. They obtained Patent Number 256,967 from the United States Patent Office on April 25, 1882, and called their invention "The Celebrated Grand Pass Churn Attachment."

On August 16, 1885, Orange married Cora Elizabeth Bryan of Malta Bend, Saline Co., Missouri. A family story is that they eloped and that co-inventor brother-in-law Whitsel helped Orange place the ladder at Cora's window so she could climb down. She was born August 30, 1866, in Keene Twp., Adams Co., Illinois. She was the daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Nelson) Bryan. She died November 22, 1954, in North Hollywood, Los Angeles Co., California. Orange and Cora made their homes in Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma. While living in Ford Co., Kansas, they had their photograph made at Vancil & McDonald, Photographers, in Dodge City.

By 1888, they were living at Harper, Harper Co., Kansas. Orange then homesteaded in Oklahoma after he and two of his brothers made the "run" into the Cherokee Strip when it opened in 1893. He moved from there to Wichita, Kansas, the year before his 1911 death. He is buried in the Byron-Amorita Cemetery, Amorita, Alfalfa Co., Oklahoma, and Cora is buried in Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, Los Angeles Co., California.

Orange and Cora had seven children: Myrtle Catherine (1888-1918) who married John Fern Swaim; Lemon Newton (1890-1955) who married Minnie Grace Holcomb; William Darrah (1896-1969), who married Cecilia Marie Liberton; Willard (1896-1896, a twin); Linnie Elizabeth (1899-1966) who married William Oliver Wilbur; Trula Gladys (1906-living in 1993) who married Leonard George Clark; and Ernest Truman (1910-deceased).

### JASPER NEWTON BRUNER

Jasper Newton Bruner was born at Rensselaer, Jasper Co., Indiana, on July 22, 1852, the son of Samuel and Catharine (Briggs) Bruner. He moved with his parents in 1867, to Saline Co., Missouri, where he helped his father farm and perhaps carpenter. Jasper married Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Walker on September 8, 1881, at Ottawa, Franklin Co., Kansas. She was born October 18, 1863, Windsor, Shelby Co., Illinois, the daughter of William Thomas and Mary Magdaline (Davidson) Walker. She died January 3, 1927, Burlington, Alfalfa Co., Oklahoma. Jasper and Lizzie are buried in the Byron-Amorita Cemetery near Amorita, Oklahoma.

Jasper and Lizzie had seven children: Loren Elsworth (1882-1969) who married Edna Susan Merideth; Bertie Leon (1884?-1887?); Robert Walker (1888-1953) who married Ann Platt Mitchell and Ada Gertrude Thomas; Cora Elizabeth (1891-1963) who was a missionary teacher in Colombia; Trula S. (1892-1976) who married Henry Robert Ferril; Bertha Mae (1895-1963) who married Louis Francis Tranvil Rather; and Frank Dewey (1898-deceased) who married Leona Josephine Hargis.



Mary Elizabeth (Walker) and Jasper Newton Bruner with their eldest son, Loren Elsworth.

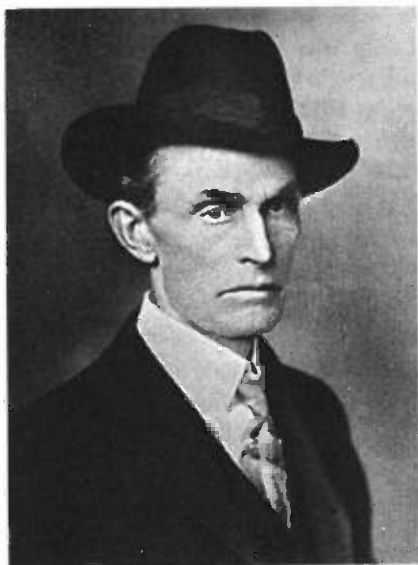
After their marriage, Jasper and Lizzie lived in Franklin Co., Kansas, but then sold the farm to brother John Samuel Bruner and moved to Ford Co., Kansas where Jasper had a claim on the SW 1/4 S33 T28 R25 about 13 miles south of Dodge City. He was living there when his father's Missouri estate was settled in 1886. They stayed in Ford County, until at least 1888, when son Robert was born but moved on to Harper Co., Kansas, by 1891, when a child was born there. Jasper was in the "Run of 1893," when the Cherokee Strip was opened in what is now Oklahoma. They settled on a claim near Burlington which was then in Woods Co., Oklahoma Territory, but is now in Alfalfa Co., Oklahoma.

### JOHN SAMUEL BRUNER

John Samuel Bruner, son of Samuel and Catharine (Briggs) Bruner, was born July 3, 1848, near Wabash, Wabash Co., Indiana, and died February 27, 1937, Ottawa, Kansas, and is buried in Evergreen Mound Cemetery there. When about three years old, he moved with his parents to Jasper Co., Indiana, and then, in 1867, on to Saline Co., Missouri, where he likely lived until his marriage at Ottawa, Kansas, to Jennie Emerson of Ottawa on April 2, 1878. Jennie was born July 4, 1856, Hornelsville, Steuben Co., New York, daughter of John J. and Cinthia Lucinda (Sherman) Emerson, and died May 8, 1907, Ottawa, Kansas. John and Jennie had five children: Hallie Emerson (1879-1939) who married Viola Warwick; Merton (1881-1881), John Earl (1883-1958) who married Ruth C. Brown; Virgie Leone (1884-1972) who married Andrew Jackson Brady and Frank N. (1887-1973) who married Olive Gertrude Kimball.

After John and Jennie married, they lived at Malta Bend, Missouri, for a while but moved to Ottawa, Kansas, by 1881. Apparently John examined his southwestern Kansas map dated February 1885, very carefully. The map published by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company is covered with enticing propaganda to lure settlers. It quotes several newspapers of the day.

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**John Samuel Bruner**

The *Queen City Herald* proclaimed, "Egypt in all its glory could not compete with Kansas in the quality and quantity of its corn. If Joseph were alive he would telegraph his brethren to come to Kansas by first train." The *Junction City Tribune* said, "Better water, better soil, better grasses, better crops, better people—in every respect Kansas is several hundred miles better than Texas."

John and Jennie did make the move to Dodge City, Kansas, or nearby. They had some type of "school claim" there according to daughter, Virgie, born in September 1884, who learned to walk by taking her first steps in Dodge City. Virgie stated that her mother Jennie "... was a jolly person, wrote poetry and articles for literaries and was noted for her light bread and cherry pies." The family didn't like living in Ford County because of the alkali drinking water so they soon returned, at least by August 1886, to Ottawa, Franklin County, Kansas, where John and Jennie lived the remainder of their lives.

### ROBERT STEWARD STRAIN

Robert Steward Strain, son of Abraham and Mary (Purdy) Strain, was born at Hillsboro, Highland Co., Ohio, on March 5, 1853 and died at Banning, Riverside Co., California, February 9, 1909. Robert married Linnie Bruner who was born May 21, 1850, in Indi-

ana, daughter of Samuel and Catharine (Briggs) Bruner and had four children: Frank Steward (1878-1919) who married Hermine Miller; Mary Roberta (1882-1967) who married John Thomas Slaton; Rachel Catherine (1884-ca.1955) who married John Waller Ferguson; and Hattie Jane (1888-1890).

The Robert Strain family lived in several places including Greenwood Co., Kansas, from 1879 to 1881, and Anson, Jones Co., Texas, from 1882 to 1887.

They moved to Ford County, Kansas, around 1887, as they had their photograph made by M. Brumfield in Dodge City about then. In 1888, Linnie wrote a letter from Dodge City to her husband who apparently was away from home—perhaps back in Texas on business. Her address in November 1888, was Spearville when her father's Saline Co., Missouri, estate was being settled. In 1889, they returned to Anson, Texas, and were there at least until 1893. They lived some time in Oklahoma, probably before it was a state.

In 1873, Linnie was attending Lewis College, Glasgow, Missouri, where she made almost perfect grades in Latin, mathematics, and music and prepared herself to teach school. She taught in Greenwood Co., Kansas, and at a school called Cole Corner, perhaps in Texas.

Robert and Linnie lived for a while in the Imperial Valley of California before he died in 1909, and she died in 1916. Both are buried in Evergreen Cemetery, El Centro, Imperial Co., California. Robert was a member of the Friends (Quaker) Church and was a



**Robert Steward Strain Family, 1887, left to right: Robert Steward, Frank Steward, Rachel Catherine, Mary Roberta and Linnie (Bruner) Strain.**

very religious man. He would read from the Bible and give a short prayer each morning before breakfast.

Linnie's 1888, letter to Robert from Dodge City states

"... there is plenty of coal at Dodge now the new railroad on this side the river is bringing in plenty now."

She states she

"... had a touch of the blues."

and that

"I will be so glad when you get home, so I can kiss your sweet lips again."

After the Strains had moved back to Texas in 1889, Mr. S.N. Wilson and wife Mrs. A.E. Wilson of Wright, Ford Co., Kansas, wrote to them on August 11 and related that

"... the thermometer has registered as high as 105 in the shade, everything that has been irrigated is looking fine, but what corn has not is burned up. We got water on our garden and part of our corn, but not as much as we ought to have had, the ditch broke and they had to shut the water off, we hear that they don't intend to turn it on any more this summer, it is plain that irrigation will be a success. Mr. Smalley had a fine piece of wheat. Oats have turned out better than last year, had you heard about Lincoln Miers looseing his team they were killed by lightning soon after you left."

They wrote that

"Our Cabbage is fine potatoes the best we have had in this cuntry before My oats was prety good with out watter though short and well heded, Mellet poor this year."

### WHITSEL LEWIS FAMILY

Whitsel Lewis was born near Knightstown, Henry Co., Indiana, on February 29, 1836, son of Joseph and Eda (Huntington) Lewis and died August 25, 1922, Rensselaer, Jasper Co., Indiana. Whitsel moved to Jasper Co., Indiana, where on December 4, 1860, he married Eliza Ann Bruner, who was

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

born June 22, 1842, in Wabash Co., Indiana, daughter of Samuel and Catharine (Briggs) Bruner. They were married under a big oak tree at her parents' home by T.C. Workman, a Methodist Episcopal Church pastor.

Whitsel and Eliza had six children: Elmira Alice (1861-1861); Eda Catharine (1863-1934) who married DeLancen Goode Osborn; Elmer E. (1869-1871); Mary Maud (born 1872) who married John Scott; Linnie May (1879-1937) who married Clyde L. Ulrey and Charles Rowen; and Harriet Margaret (1884-1976) who married George Leroy Maines.

Whitsel Lewis enlisted in the Union Army on August 11, 1862, and was a private in Company A of the 87th Regiment of Indiana Infantry, a unit under the command of General William T. Sherman. Whitsel kept a diary before and during the Battle of Atlanta and mentioned many events which can be recognized in Margaret Mitchell's novel, *Gone with the Wind*. He was with Sherman's army on the "March to the Sea" when he was in a group of soldiers who set fire to a southern mansion because the occupants lied. They had insisted they had no food in the house, but the soldiers found a huge cache of food in the attic. Just as he was leaving the burning house, Whitsel saw a shawl hanging out of a dresser drawer. Knowing it would be destroyed if left there, he grabbed it and eventually took it home to Eliza and now it is in possession of a descendant. Whitsel was discharged near Washington, D.C., on June 10, 1865, and went home to Eliza.

The Lewises moved from Jasper Co., Indiana, to Saline Co., Missouri, about 1871, where he was a blacksmith near Malta Bend. In 1882, Whitsel and his brother-in-law, Orange L. Bruner, obtained a patent (U.S. Patent No. 256,967) on a device which made churning butter easier; the attachment allowed the operator to turn a handled wheel to convert circular motion to the up-and-down motion of the churn. In 1885, Whitsel and his family moved on to Dodge City, Kansas, where they lived a few months before moving onto Whitsel's claim in the Osage Trust

Lands for the SW 1/4 S26 T28 R25 which lies 12 miles south of the center of Dodge City (Land Claim Certificate No. 4715, F.C. 1470 dated September 13, 1886, Book B, page 258 and Book D, page 289, Register of Deeds office, Ford Co., Kansas).

Life for Whitsel and his family was not easy on the claim. Eliza wrote in February 1886, that she dreaded moving there from Dodge City in spite of the town's abundance of "bad company." On the claim, they lived in a little dugout. When Whitsel would return from his day's work and she could hear him approaching, she would say, "Who is it?" and he would always reply, "It's me." One time the answer "It's me" didn't have a familiar sound so she didn't allow the unknown visitor to enter—and he finally left. Eliza often gathered "cow chips"—dried manure—for the fire to heat the dugout and for cooking.

In the late winter in March 1887, Eliza died of "congestive chills." Resolutions written by the Prairie Home Literary Society and signed by Mrs. T.M. Wakeman, Mrs. A.D. Patchen, and Mary S. Hale reveal that she was respected and loved by her neighbors and family. She was buried in the Rickman graveyard, now the Concord Cemetery on the north part of S25 T28 R25. Mrs. I.W. Robinson (nee Mary Adams) stated, in 1965, that her father helped bury Mrs. Lewis. Eliza's grave was not properly marked until August 1968,



**Whitsel Lewis Family, 1883, left to right: Mary Maud, Whitsel, Eda Catharine, Eliza Ann and Linnie May.**

when a bronze marker purchased by Harriet Maines who was Eliza's only surviving child at the time, was set in concrete and placed there by Eliza's great grandson, Donald Lewis Osborn of Lee's Summit, Missouri.

After Eliza died Whitsel sent the three daughters still at home to Iowa and Indiana to live with relatives and he remained in Ford County for a few years. Then about 1895, he went back to Indiana to live the remainder of his life. He married Cora E. (Catt) Knoff on July 6, 1896, and later divorced. He is buried in the Weston Cemetery, Rensselaer, Jasper Co., Indiana.

*Knowing the Bruners*  
by Donald Lewis Osborn

### CHARLES EMMET BURDUE

Charles Emmet Burdue was born on December 6, 1860, in Sherwood, Michigan. He was the son of Jacob and Eunice (Milliman) Burdue.

He came to Hodgeman Co., Kansas, in the spring of 1886, while the banks of snow from the famous blizzard of that year were still on the ground. He homesteaded on a piece of property near the Sawlog Creek about 12 miles north of Dodge City. He farmed that land for about 35 years.

On December 6, 1893, he married Rosa Evans Poole at the home of her parents, Philander and Cornelia Evans, in Hodgeman County. Rosa May was born on May 11, 1871, in Elmira, New York. She came to Kansas with her parents where her father later was a resident of the Kansas Soldiers Home at Fort Dodge.

As an early pioneer, Mr. Burdue taught school, worked on the first railroads that ran into the Oklahoma territory, and farmed all of his life.

He was noted for his sense of humor and often played practical jokes. While serving on the school board of a one-room school in Hodgeman County, he became annoyed with another board member who complained at every meeting that his children had further to walk to school than any of the other children who attended. One night he organized a group of men who put slides under the school building, hitched it to a team

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

of horses, and moved it a half mile closer to his own home. Imagine the consternation of the children who walked to school and found the building gone!

He was an expert with a black snake whip. Mr. Burdue and some of his neighbors took turns going to Dodge City for supplies. One time when returning home with a wagon load of watermelons, flour, sugar, and other supplies, he saw a bull behind a fence. He decided to hit the bull on the nose with his black snake whip. The bull came through the fence and charged the wagon. The horses began to run, and he fell backward into the wagon breaking the watermelons and scattering the other supplies. The horses continued running, taking him home as he bounced around in the wagon.

The Burdues were the parents of two sons who were born in the sod house on the homestead. Emmet Martin was born on August 17, 1894, and Roy Raymond on July 17, 1897. The two boys attended Quail Trap School in Hodgeman County and grew to manhood working on their parents' farm.

After losing the homestead during the depression, the Burdues moved to Hollywood Addition about three miles west of Dodge City. C.E. Burdue continued to farm a small acreage until failing health forced him to retire. At that time, they moved to 1205 Roosevelt in Dodge City, where Mr. Burdue died on December 29, 1944. Following his death, Mrs. Burdue was admitted to Fort Dodge Hospital, where she died on August 26, 1954.

Roy Burdue left the Ford County area while still a young man, but Emmet continued to live in this area. On November 10, 1922, Emmet married Hazel May Scott, the daughter of John and Nellie (Peabody) Scott. She was born in Dodge City on March 18, 1904. Following their marriage, they lived in a small house near Twin Hill where Hazel taught one term of school. Emmet walked to Dodge City to work for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Their son, Emmet Earl Burdue, was born in the home near Twin Hill on August 28, 1923. Their daughter,

Norma Jean (Burdue) Mills was born on August 13, 1929, after the Burdues had moved to Dodge City in order to be closer to Emmet's work on the Santa Fe. Emmet retired after 36 years from the Santa Fe Store Department. He died on November 22, 1982, and Mrs. Burdue died on February 5, 1984. Both of their children are still residents of Dodge City.

Norma Burdue Mills

### WILLIAM AND JANE ANN

#### CAROTHERS CLORE

Jane Ann Carothers Clore (Mrs. William) was born April 7, 1837, at Moundsville, Virginia (West Virginia) the daughter of Alexander and Antoinette (Thorpe) Carothers. She married William Clore, January 24, 1863 at Chester, Randolph Co., Illinois. William was descended from John Michael Clore, one of the 1717 Germana Colonists of Virginia.

In 1884, they came to Offerle, Kansas, by covered wagon with their eight children. The three older children, Eva, Sarah and Sabina, herded the cattle as they came across country. The Clore family settled for about two years in Hodgeman County near the Edwards County line. The younger children attended school in Offerle. The family moved to Hamilton County, in 1887, where they homesteaded. William died August 31, 1889. He is buried in an unknown grave in the Kendall Cemetery.

After William's death, Jane, with her Irish spunk, continued to prove up on the homestead and in 1893, as the widow of William Clore, was issued full ownership of the land by the Land Office of Garden City. Soon afterwards she sold the land and in the dead of winter, Jane and three of her sons headed for Kinsley to make their home. They drove a mismatched team of horses—one big and lanky and the other much smaller. Due to the cold, snow and bad roads, it took them several days to make the trip. Jane made her home in Kinsley the remainder of her life. She died September 23, 1919, of asthma. She is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Kinsley, Kan-

sas. The children of William and Jane Ann Clore were: Eva A. (Mrs. Ira B. Kerns), Sarah A. (Mrs. Charles Bastian), Sabina (Mrs. Martin Parker), Henry, Samuel, Isaac, Abram and Claude Clore.

Karl and Eileen Bastian  
See The Bastian Family entry.

### THE HENRY COBB FAMILY

In 1915, Henry Clay Cobb, a retired cotton broker from Lewisville, Texas, who had made the Oklahoma land run in 1893, and homesteaded at Jefferson, Indian Territory, moved to Ford County. He and three of his adult children, Lena, Charles and Ed, settled north of Wright on the Sawlog Creek. Later they lived on a farm at the site of St. Mary of the Plains campus. Mr. Cobb died in Dodge City, April 1, 1935.

Lena G. Cobb had been postmistress at Jefferson, Indian Territory, and after the move to Kansas, she was Assistant County Superintendent of Schools from 1921 until 1939. During the years of World War II, she became a beloved community figure with service families as executive director of the local Red Cross until her death, April 28, 1944.

Charles W. Cobb farmed north of Dodge City in Grandview Township where he served as school board member and township official for several terms. He had Standardbred horses for harness racing and was a prominent breeder and promoter for greyhound racing dogs. Mr. Cobb was a director of the Southwest Fair Association board and was official starter for the harness races. He and Miss Clara J. Raad were married in 1927. Their children are Charles H. Cobb and Bonnie Gene Cobb Powers. Mr. Cobb died July 30, 1972, and Mrs. Cobb on February 22, 1978.

Edgar A. Cobb also farmed on the Sawlog and had interests in a number of sporting events. In 1921, he and Miss Edna Lockman were married. They had one daughter, Betty Leigh Cobb Braddock. Mr. Cobb died June 18, 1944.

Betty Braddock



## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

### THE CONNAWAY FAMILY

#### DENNIS HARPER CONNAWAY, SR.

Dennis Harper Connaway, Sr. and his wife, Serena Jane Sweeney, with their family came to northwest Ford County, in 1884, where they had a timber claim. Their sons, Samuel Henry, Dennis Harper, Jr. and John Waldo also had timber claims. The Connaway family came to Ford County from Cedar Co., Stockton, Missouri. The Connaway family (also Conways, Macconoways) lived in Conway, Wales where they lived in Conway Castle. They were expelled and went first to Ireland and later to Jamestown and still later to Henry Co., Virginia. According to public records one of the first members of the Connaway family was Robert McConway, who owned 150 acres of land adjoining the Patrick Henry Estate in Henry Co., Virginia. Robert's son, John, served with the Henry County Militia during the Revolution. According to the Order Book, page 146 or Henry Co., Virginia, John Marshal furnished 400 pounds of beef for use of the Continental Army.

Dennis Harper was the only son of Benjamin and Martha Marshall Connaway and was born in Henry Co. Virginia, September 14, 1819. His grandfather, Dennis Marshall, who was headmaster of his own academy educated Dennis. Of Dennis Marshall, Judith P. Hill wrote: "...to him for miles around came the ambitious youths from every prominent family to acquire the education so hard to get in those days and in which he was so gifted in imparting."

At the age of 13, Dennis was employed by an uncle in a country store where he stayed for two years. The remaining years he spent in Virginia, he was employed at his Grandfather Marshall's academy and on the farm assisting his father, Benjamin, in the culture and manufacture of tobacco.

In the spring of 1837, he left Virginia with his family for Missouri. His family consisted of his parents, Benjamin and Martha, and his three sisters, Frances, Sally and Martha. They were making the trip with wagon and team.

In late spring they arrived in Kentucky. They rented some land, put it in a corn crop and harvested the crop.

The following year, 1838, they continued their journey to Missouri and settled in Polk County near Weaubleau Creek where they lived for two years. During this time, Dennis worked as a farm hand for Judge William Henry, who at that time, was County Judge of Polk County. Wages received for this service were \$7.50 per month. While Dennis worked for Judge Henry, he learned the art of surveying. From 1840 to 1844, Dennis Harper Connaway was engaged in teaching and farming. His leisure time during one year, probably 1843, he studied medicine under the tutelage of Dr. Josiah Jackson.

In 1843, D.H., Sr. became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but two years later excitedly accepted the plea for the restoration of primitive Christianity, affiliating with the Christian Church. He was co-organizer of the Christian Church of Stockton, Missouri. He loaned the congregation the money for its first building in 1879. Dennis and Serena were 10th and 11th on the charter membership list and later all of their children became members of the Christian Church. Dennis was the first church clerk. The Stockton church is very active 125 years after its beginning. The Connaways were members of the First Christian Church of Dodge City after moving to Kansas. In old letters of the

family that D.H. Sr. wrote to his children, he lovingly reminded them to promptly start going to church as soon as they were settled in their new destinations throughout different parts of the nation. He and Serena were devout Christians.

In 1844, Dennis was married to Rebecca Tatom. Rebecca was the daughter of Richard Tatom, one of the pioneers of Cedar County, Missouri, and one of the first justices of the peace of Madison township. Three children were born to Rebecca and Dennis Connaway. They were: Amanda J., who married John Jackson and lived on a farm in Cedar Co., Missouri; James M., who was a physician and lived in Oregon and William P., who was a banker in Independence, Oregon.

In politics D.H. Connaway was first a Whig, having cast his first ballot for William Henry Harrison in 1840. On the downfall of the Whig party, he became a Republican and cast his vote for Benjamin Harrison. Dennis Connaway was appointed surveyor of Cedar County, which position he held for 11 years or until the outbreak of the war which cut off one year of the 12 to which he was elected. D.H. Connaway was a member of the Odd Fellows, (IOOF) and the Masonic orders of AF & AM and RAM.

In 1851, he sold the land on the Little Sac River and purchased the Allen Kennedy farm on Bear Creek where he moved and resided until 1865. Rebecca



Serena Jane (Sweeney Bugg)  
Connaway



Dennis Harper Connaway, Sr.



## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

Tatom Connaway died in 1852, and was buried in Lindley Prairie Cemetery, Stockton, Missouri.

Five years later, Dennis married Serena Jane Sweeney Bugg. Serena Jane, the daughter of Bernard Sweeney and Lucinda Walker, was born December 13, 1843, in Georgia. Serena used the name of her stepfather, Samuel Bugg. Samuel Bugg was a soldier in the War of 1812, having been under the command of General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans.

Dennis Harper Connaway Sr. and Serena Jane had five children: Samuel, John, Sarah, Dennis, Jr. and Phillip. **Samuel Henry Connaway**, born September 4, 1858, died May 8, 1918. He had a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri at Columbia, Missouri. **John Waldo Connaway** born November 19, 1859, died October 4, 1947. He was an M.D. and D.V.M. from the University of Missouri and was with the university for 59 years, later was Professor Emeritus. **Sarah Frances Connaway**, born May 15, 1861. She was a graduate of Christian College of Columbia, Missouri. **Dennis Harper Connaway, Jr.** born July 13, 1862; he died March 2, 1942. **Phillip Kearney Connaway**, was born March 4, 1864, and died September 14, 1924. He graduated from the St. Louis Medical College and practiced medicine in Missouri, New Mexico and Arkansas, leaving the medical profession for health reasons. He entered business and ranching. His daughter, Bernadine Connaway Carmichael and Virgil E. Taylor, D.H.'s grandson, were compiling the Connaway family history.

At the outbreak of the war, Dennis cast his lot with the U.S. Government and assisted in the organization of a company of Home Guards and on March 1, 1862, was commissioned by Gov. J.R. Gamble as 1st Lieutenant of Company D, Regiment of Cavalry under the command of Joseph J. Gravely. He resigned November 26, 1862, to attend to the duties of County Clerk to which he had previously been appointed.

On the death of Capt. Wm. J. Walker of Company M, 15th Regiment of Cav-

alry, Missouri Volunteers, he was elected to the command of that company. His commission dates from September 6, 1864. He served in this company until the close of the war in 1865.

At the close of the war, he moved with his family to Stockton, where he resided until 1871, when he and his family moved to a farm northeast of Stockton. It was at this time he was nominated by the Republican Party, in 1874, for Representative, but not making the canvass, he was defeated. In 1876, he was again nominated against the same opponent and this time was elected to represent the county in the 29th General Assembly. In 1880, he was elected county tax collector and served two terms.

In 1884, the Dennis H. Connaway, Sr. family moved to a timber claim in northwest Ford County. They built a wood house and a corral fence on the farm.

One of the stories about Serena Jane was that she was a strong Irish lady with bright red hair and piercing blue eyes. Because of Serena's strength she could do most anything. One of the hired men told of one of the horse that got away and she was so intent upon retrieving him that she "walked clean through the corral fence, busting it all to pieces!"

It was generally known that the family liked to use native plants to dye their own cloth. Dennis Harper, Jr., then called by his nickname "H-ie", had a pair of copper-colored pants that his mother had made for him and he put up a fuss each time she made him wear them. One day "H-ie" threw his pants in a mud hole. He said he didn't like the color and that he wanted BLUE ones. It is reported that Serena, with her wonderful sense of humor, just laughed and said, "I guess the little fellow just didn't like his pants!"

Sarah Frances, daughter of Dennis Sr., and Serena Jane, took pride in her sewing as most women did in pioneer days. She had made a beautiful dress and wore it to church. As they sat there she took her mother's hand to feel the seam of her skirt. She was terribly hurt when she realized she had the skirt on wrong side out.

Serena Jane died suddenly on November 11, 1888, just four years after moving to Ford County. She is buried in Ridenour Cemetery, north of Dodge City, in Ford County.

Snyder, Kans. Aug 9, 89

T. A. Snodgrass

Dear Sir

I wrote to Sister Frances on 4th, the day I arrived at Dodge City. After resting up I feel as well as could be expected. The boys Sam & Dennis have done well on the farm & will raise lots of food to do us through the coming winter. The corn crop is cut short by drought. I wish you or some of the family to keep me posted about Sister Frances. I wish now I had staid with her through this month.

I have not heard a word about that tombstone I bought at Nevada, you was present & saw \* & heard all that was done about it. I don't know the name of the firm or the man I bought it of = nor took any receipt for the \$35.00 I paid him. I want you to see after it forth with if you please. He may be trying to defraud me out of it— He was to have shipped it that week—

You recollect seeing me pay him \$35.00 & he wrote all the facts on his pocket memorandum. The stone was Blue Colored—4 ft high 8 x 8 inches square, set in a large base rock. He said it all would weigh 800 or 900 lbs. The inscription was

In Memory of Serena J.

Wife of D.H. Connaway

Born Dec 14, 1823

Died Mar 11, 1888

to be delivered at Dodge City Kansas for the \$35.00. I hope you will see to it immediately and let me know what's the matter.

Love to all

D.H. Connaway

Grieving for his wife, Dennis Sr., who was in poor health, returned to El Dorado Springs, Missouri, to stay with his daughter Amanda for a few months.

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

He was eager to visit with the "older boys." sons of his first wife, Rebecca. He went to Oregon for a short visit. On his return to El Dorado Springs, he died of a heart attack in a hotel room. He is buried in Lindley Prairie Cemetery, Stockton, Missouri.

In a tribute to D.H. Connaway, Sr., the *Cedar County Republican* editor states: "Few men have lived and performed the useful offices to his fellow man in every department of life. As a Christian, neighbor, county and state official, and soldier—brave, honest, and true. May He who rules above and controls the destiny of man, give us more such men."

### SAMUEL HENRY CONNAWAY

Samuel Henry Connaway, the oldest of five children, was born on September 4, 1858, to Dennis Harper Connaway and his second wife, Serena Jane Sweeney (Bugg). He graduated from the University of Missouri with an Engineering degree with English and Journalism degree. Prior to coming to Ford County with his parents in 1884, he was editor of the *Stockton Stalwart* in Cedar County, Missouri.

Sam lived on the homestead in Royal Township and helped his parents farm. They had a rather rough time in those particular years because of the drought which did not "do their corn crop any good."

As a young man, soon after settling in Royal township, Sam began courting a young woman, Anna Gertrude Adams. Anna Gertrude was a teacher in the "Dutch Community" located at Windthorst, Ford Co., Kansas, and an "upright lady, humorous and fun."

It was generally known that Sam's parents, D.H. and Serena Jane Connaway, were people of above average means, in fact considered very wealthy by many. Sam was very upset that his parents brought OLD furniture to furnish their homestead house in place of the lovely things he had been used to "at home." His home would not make a very good impression on his new "girl" who would see the furniture and think them poor. Another thing that upset Sam very much was that his

mother, Serena Jane, smoked a corn cob pipe! Neither he or his father smoked even though Sam's forefathers, settled on and owned a tobacco plantation in Virginia. Serena Jane's grandfather was a physician of considerable prominence and had recommended that she smoke a mixture of herbs, concocted by him, to relieve her of the asthma attacks. Sam pleaded with her not to smoke in front of Anna Gertrude, but she did! Serena Jane loved to tease, especially her son Sam, whom, we are told, she adored.

There is documentation and reference made in family letters that Samuel Connaway "edited and ran the *Republican* newspaper in Dodge City," after which he engaged in abstracting.

Samuel Henry Connaway and Anna Gertrude Adams were married March 18, 1886, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perry Adams on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. To this union five children were born: Stanley Francis, born January 21, 1891, died September 26, 1929; Lloyd Ashley born February 21, 1894, died February 13, 1981; Ariadne Floy born July 27, 1896, and living in a rest home in Fallon, Nevada, in 1993; Mildred D. born August 30, 1899, died December 30, 1964; and Clifford Carl born June 7, 1902, died January 10, 1930. Stanley was the only child of Sam Connaway who lived all his life in Dodge City.

Sam Connaway was not as interested in land development as were his predecessors, but, as they were, he was greatly interested in politics at the local, county and state levels.

A group of Ford County Republicans tried to interest Sam in running for a seat in the State Legislature, but after some thought he declined. However, in 1898, he was elected to the office of Register of Deeds and again in 1902. At the experi-

ment of his term, he was elected to the office of County Clerk in which he served continuously for six years. His son, Stanley, was his deputy.

An item in a "Local Interest" column of the *Dodge City Journal*, dated January 13, 1911, states of S.H. Connaway:

"S.H. Connaway has taken a position with the Irrigation company. Mr. Connaway probably has more sincere friends than any man who ever held office in the court house. They all hope that his new employment will be to his liking. As County Clerk, he has been a mine of information and accommodation to those who have had business to transact, and with the company he will be always as accommodating."

On January 11, 1911, Sam Connaway retired from political office and moved with his family to Deming, New Mexico. The family lived there for five years and then moved to Kansas City, Kansas, where he was employed by the Kansas City Bridge Co. Although he had been in poor health for two years, he was still working at the time of his death. Mr. Connaway died in Kansas City, Kansas, May 8, 1918.

Obituary—from *Dodge City Daily Globe* Monday, May 13, 1918:

**S.H. Connaway  
CONNAWAY FUNERAL SUNDAY  
Deceased was Active  
in County Politics  
during Long Residence Here**

The funeral of S.H. Connaway, a former resident of Dodge City and a county official for twelve years, was held yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock



Sam H. Connaway, standing center, with his sons, Lloyd, at the left behind the counter, and Stanley, at right seated at the desk.

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

from the Christian Church. Reverend Paul H. Packard officiating. The local Masonic order had charge of the services at Maple Grove cemetery. The family will make their future home in Deming, New Mexico. Lloyd A. Connaway, second son of the deceased, will leave within a week for duty overseas.

Samuel H. Connaway was a popular and conscientious county office holder and his many personal friends in the county will greatly feel his loss. That his public record was clean is attested by the fact that he was once re-elected to the office of register of deeds and twice to the office of county clerk. He retired from office in January 1911, shortly afterward moving to Deming, New Mexico, where he was associated in business until two years ago, when he removed to Kansas City, Missouri, where he resided until his death Wednesday, May 8, 1918, at the age of 59 years. He was a member of the Masonic order and of the Christian church. He is survived by the wife and five children, Stanley F., Lloyd A., Mrs. Howard (Ariadne) Connelley, Mildred and Clifford.

### STANLEY FRANCIS CONNAWAY

Stanley Francis (Frank) Connaway was born January 1, 1891, on the timber claim in the northwest part of Ford County, the oldest son of S.H. Connaway and Anna Gertrude Adams. He attended Ford County and Dodge City schools and graduated with honors.

Stanley played football on a team called "The Crack Eleven." Other Dodge Citians identified on that team were Harold Ripple, Leslie (Les) Balderson. They remained great friends of Stanley. His best friend was Heinie Schmidt, a prominent Dodge Citian and Ford County pioneer. Other Dodge City friends were Charles Woolwine, Fred Kirkpatrick, Rex Reynolds, Charlie Adams, W.A. Rodarmel and the Wilson family, who also lived north of Dodge City.

Stanley Connaway started his business career as deputy County Clerk for his father. Samuel Connaway and con-

tinued in that position until he was appointed the first City Clerk of Dodge City and held the first recorded meeting in 1916.

S.F. Connaway and Harriett (Hattie) Marguerite Foley were married in 1917. There was quite a "stir" over this as they were married secretly, over a weekend, in Kansas City, Kansas. A quick-eyed reporter on the *Kansas City Times* let "the cat out of the bag" and the following was printed in the Dodge City paper within a few days of their marriage:

#### ASSISTANT TO CITY CLERK Official Announcement Not Yet Made By City Clerk, at Late Hour

Stanley Connaway, City Clerk, has long since been recognized as a sort of clever individual, especially when it comes to slipping one over on his friends, but his latest attempt fell flat. It happens that the City Clerk found reasonable excuse to be absent from his duties at City Hall last week, the said excuse being that he desired to put his feet under the parental table at Kansas City. All of which is as it should be, for this holiday tide is one when our thoughts always return to the home fire-side. Accordingly he went to the city by the muddy Missouri. Yesterday he returned, announcing that he had a most enjoyable visit. But here enters the newspaperman. The city hall reporter for the *Times* at Kansas City, Kansas, in glancing over the matrimonial included monikers thereto subscribed, chanced not to know that Stanley F. Connaway and Miss Hattie M. Foley of Syracuse, appear on this record of the Probate Judge of Wyandotte County, as having been granted a license in that city. The genial City Clerk absented himself from his usual haunts and can not be located, all of which is as it should be.

The formal wedding announcement by the couple was made on January 7, 1917, and stated that, "A wedding of interest to Dodge City people occurred Monday when Hattie H. Foley and Stanley F. Connaway were united in marriage in St. Mary's Church, Kansas City, Kansas." Miss Foley, for some

time, was bookkeeper for the Locke Mercantile Company. She is a very attractive young woman, has made many warm friends during her residence here. Mr. Connaway is a Dodge City boy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Connaway, former Ford County homesteaders and Dodge City residents, now living in Kansas City. He is a man of sterling worth and integrity and has won the respect of the community. He was for several years, deputy county clerk, recently being appointed city clerk. The young couple will make their home in Dodge City.

A charivari took place last evening honoring the newly wed Stanley and Hattie Connaway. After the fun and hilarity, a wedding shower was held at the home of Mrs. Ed Snook. Refreshments were served.

Two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Connaway. Gertrude (Trudy) Connaway was born in the old Thompson Hospital located at 1403 Central Avenue (outside the city limits at that time) on May 7, 1918. Six weeks after the birth, Stanley Connaway was drafted into the Army. Trudy has lived in Dodge City all her life. She married Charles Henry. They are the parents of four daughters, Lianna Thomas, Linda Bush, Jan Scoggins and Dana Howard and nine grandchildren: Richard W. Thomas, III; Scott Eric Brees, Charles Price Bush, David Alan Bush, Stanley Christopher Scoggins, Stephen Michael Scoggins, Emily Christine Howard, Erin Anne Howard, Kevin Scott Howard.

Betty Jean Connaway was born in the Connaway home on April 19, 1922, two years after Stanley had returned home from the Army of Occupation in France and Germany. Betty was married to LeRoy Behl. They were the parents of two sons, Jim and Stanley. Betty died at her home on Fairway Drive, October 19, 1991, and is buried in the Behl plot in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City. She, too, had lived in Dodge City all her life.

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

Returning to Dodge City after his military service, Stanley Connaway engaged in a partnership with his long-time friend, Charles W. Woolwine, in a transfer and storage business. He remained in that business until 1927, when he sold his interest to his partner and went to work for the Combs-Johnson Brothers Auto Supply Company. After a six months illness, Stanley Connaway died at St. Anthony Hospital, September 26, 1929, of an abscessed lung. Stanley's sister, Ariadne Connaway Harrison, wrote the following about her brother:

I think of Stanley as a person with a very sweet disposition and a very bright mind. He was a natural-born entertainer. He was musical, he sang very well, he played the coronet, the violin and the guitar. He impressed us all with his tap dancing, even on roller skates! At one point in his youth, he wanted to join a vaudeville team and his father Sam very emphatically said NO!

Stanley was an excellent figure skater on ice. Father let us go watch one time but "nice girls did not go skating on the pond." Our mother never agreed with him on these ideas.

I remember Stanley had a big birthday party and I got to help the "H'ard Girl" fancy up the par-

lor. This was carpeted with Axminster and had an enormous grand piano. Someone played and the kids danced clear out into the dining room which was much larger. We little kids were really thrilled.

We always had two or three hired girls or someone who stayed with us while they were going to teachers college (Normal School, they called it then). These girls were part of the family and Mother loved them like her own. The ones I remember best were Sarah Grantham, Carrie and Grace Hall and a girl named Mary Frost. She was such fun. There was one other that I loved but she died with the flu after we moved.

Another time I well remember was when Stanley had been to a chili parlor and someone gave him some beer. He was so funny, funny as a clown. Mother's shock was profound! She was furious, humiliated and embarrassed. She was president of the W.C.T.U.! I still laugh when I think about it. He was so funny and mother was so furious!

When Stanley was deputy county clerk of Ford County, I used to go to the office to see him and my father, Sam. Stanley was kind to everyone and would al-

ways give me a quarter to spend. Stanley tried to enlist in the service twice but was not accepted because of a slight limp caused by an ulcerated leg in early childhood. I remember how furious he was when he was drafted. He had been married over a year and a half with a baby on the way. No Fair!

When all our family except Stanley left Dodge City for Deming, New Mexico, I recall his renting a room with an elderly lady. She was so fond of him and encouraged him in his musical endeavors, that he made a violin for her out of a cigar box. She was thrilled and I have often wondered how it sounded.

He was always referred to as "Big Connie" and I was "Little Connie." To me, he was the greatest brother ever.

A story that my Dad used to tell was the time he and Heinie Schmidt and Harold Ripple were ice skating on the Arkansas River on a Sunday afternoon. It was a pleasant day, not too cold, and they just skated and skated. Often they would go to the river banks to warm themselves by building a bonfire. They were having so much fun the time passed quickly and before they knew it they were rounding the bend into Kinsley! Too tired to skate back to Dodge City, they knew the train would be coming along soon and they could catch a ride back. They did.

Hattie F. Connaway, widow of Stanley Connaway died May 26, 1967. She had been a bookkeeper all her life, serving 16 years as Register of Deeds of Ford County. She also worked for Ford County Abstract Co. and Hiram T. Burr Co. She attended Mt. Carmel Boarding Academy in Wichita during her last years of schooling.

Gertrude Henry



Stanley Connaway, fourth from the left in the back row, is pictured with the "Crack Football Team," 1911. Les Baldwin is standing on the far left and Harold Ripple is holding the ball.

### LLOYD ASHLEY CONNAWAY

Lloyd A. was the grandson of D.H. Connaway, Sr. and Serena Jane Sweeny

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

Bugg Connaway, and the son of Samuel Henry and Anne Gertrude Adams Connaway. Lloyd was born in Ford County, February 21, 1894, lived in Dodge City and attended school there until 1911, when he moved with his family to Deming, New Mexico. Lloyd's parents were to join Sam Connaway's brother and sister, Dr. P.K. Connaway and Mrs. John Snyder (Sarah Frances) in a farming venture.

Lloyd, his sisters, Ariadne and Mildred and brother, Clifford Carl, all attended school in Deming. Lloyd was captain of the Deming High School football team.

His daughter Beatrice remembers her father, Lloyd, telling about a adventuresome trek by horseback into the Northwest Territory with a man he called "Trapper John." Lloyd was 18 years old at the time. In 1915, Lloyd left Deming and married Jennie Beatrice Rarden at Carrolton, Missouri. Jennie was the daughter of James Lyman and Jennie Stalker Rarden. Jennie's mother died two days after Jennie was born and she was raised by her grandparents Stalker until she went to Ford County to live with her father and stepmother.

Lloyd and Jennie lived in Kansas City, Missouri, until he left to serve his country in World War I in 1918. He was in the U.S. Army Tank Corps serving in Argonne-Muse, France. During the service, he carried a special pocket watch with him. He treasured the picture of his young son contained in the back of the watch. The watch is still in his family.

After being mustered out of the service in 1919, Lloyd returned to Kansas City, Missouri, and then to Ford County where their second son, Joe Ashley was born on August 27, 1920. Their older son, Robert Ashley, had been born in Kansas City, Missouri. He lost his life while serving as an infantryman with the U.S. Army Infantry, January 21, 1945, in Germany.

According to the family, Lloyd served Ford County as under sheriff from 1920-1922, at which time they moved to Deming, New Mexico. The family remembers their father going to

Kansas City Missouri, by train from Deming to buy clothes. Staying in New Mexico a short time, they went back to Kansas City, Missouri, where Lloyd worked for the Kansas City Bridge Co., the company where his father had also worked. Lloyd helped to build most of the bridges and grain elevators in Kansas City. He retired from the Mid-West Chandelier Company and settled on a farm north of Ottawa. For several years he worked as a surveyor for Franklin County.

Lloyd and Jennie Rarden Connaway had seven children: Mildred, Robert, Joe, Beatrice, Alice, Thelma and Nancy. **Mildred Belle Virginia Connaway**, born February 13, 1916, died February 28, 1917; **Robert Stanley Connaway**, born December 20, 1917, died January 21, 1945; **Joe Ashley Connaway** born August 27, 1920, served with U.S.M.C.; **Beatrice Arlene Connaway Deming Maloney Ewbank** born August 23, 1922; **Alice Bettie Connaway Pratt**, born December 4, 1924; **Thelma Mae Connaway Honeycutt** born November 30, 1925; **Nancy Lee Connaway Hull** born August 19, 1934. The last four children live in Ottawa, Kansas, in 1993.

His family speaks very highly of their father and mother saying that they were wonderful parents. Lloyd died February 13, 1981, just six months after Jennie, whose death was June 26, 1980.

Gertrude Henry

### JOHN WALDO CONNAWAY, M.D., D.V.M.

John Waldo Connaway, son of Dennis Harper Connaway, Sr. and Serena Jane Sweeny Bugg, was born November 18, 1859, and died October 4, 1947. He had a timber claim in northwest Ford County in the mid-1880s. He was an active pioneer in the Ford County community but in later years, sold his land to his brother, D.H. Jr. He visited Ford County often after he had moved.

He was a graduate of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, holding degrees in General Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. He taught at the

University for 49 years and was Professor Emeritus of the University of Missouri. Dr. Connaway gave to his profession three outstanding contributions resulting from his research work at the experiment stations: he had a major part in tracing the cause of Texas fever in cattle to a tick; he was one who helped develop the dipping method to rid cattle of ticks and he was a pioneer in the use of serum to immunize hogs against cholera. He also led the investigation of Bang's disease. He was largely responsible for the development and use of a serum for control of blackleg in cattle. These and other contributions to knowledge in the field of animal pathology brought fame to Connaway and to the University of Missouri.

In the late 1880s, President Fairchild of Kansas State University visited Dr. Connaway asking him to establish veterinary instruction in the Kansas school, but found him to be very dedicated to the Missouri university, although he was very honored by Fairchild's offer.

The veterinary hall at Columbia was named Connaway Hall in his honor. His wife was Eleanor Ficklin, who died in 1936. Their daughter was Penelope.

Gertrude Henry  
Cleo Fischer

### SARAH FRANCES CONNAWAY

Sarah Frances Connaway was born May 1861. She attended Christian College, Columbia, Missouri, an exclusive girls school operated by the Christian Church. Christian College was the first to be chartered by a state legislature west of the Mississippi for the collegiate education of women. It was chartered by the Missouri Legislature on January 18, 1851. The cost of the school was \$150 with an additional charge of \$2 per term for fuel. The two texts employed at the beginning were the Bible and *A Treatise on Domestic Economy* by Catherine E. Beecher. A student lived in a bedroom heated by a wood fire in the fireplace and lighted by candles. The girls were required to wear maroon wool dresses in winter and pink calico dresses in summer with bonnets and white linen aprons. There could be no male visitors.



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After her college years, Sarah married John McCoy Snyder, known as "Doc," a widower who had moved from Morgan Co., Missouri, with Maud Dean, his five and a half-year-old daughter. They moved to Ford Co., Kansas, and homesteaded 12 miles northwest of Dodge City. In January 1886, a post office was established at the Snyder home, designated as Snyder, Kansas, and was in operation until April 29, 1899. John and Sarah Frances had nine children: Dennis Logan, Harry, Zora, Edna, John R., Helen, Theodore, Jessie and Guy. Sarah taught school in northwest Ford County. Helen and Jessie were lifetime residents. Helen worked at the Ford County Treasurer's office and Jessie at the Ford County Savings and Loan until their retirement. Their stepsister, Maud, married Charles Hulpieu, an early undertaker in Dodge City. Mr. Hulpieu had operated a mortuary and furniture store for over 40 years. They had one son, C. Frederic "Bus" Hulpieu who was active in the furniture store.

Cleo Fischer and Gertrude Henry

### DENNIS H. CONNAWAY, JR.

Dennis Harper Connaway, Jr., known as "H", was born July 13, 1862, in Cedar County, Missouri, the son of Dennis Harper Connaway, Sr. and Serena Bugg Connaway. Dennis Sr.'s first wife, Rebecca Tatom Connaway, died in 1852. He married Serena Bugg in 1857. Serena was a native Georgian whose father, Samuel Bugg, was a soldier in the War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans under General Andrew Jackson. Dennis Sr.'s grandfather, John Connaway was a captain in the Virginia Militia under King George III in 1767. In 1777, he was captain in the Mecklenburg County Militia under Governor Patrick Henry of the newly-formed Commonwealth of Virginia.<sup>1</sup> His great-great grandfather, John Harper, is listed as a patriot in Virginia.<sup>2</sup> Patrick Henry's estate bordered on the properties of the Connaway and the Marshall land. Dennis's father fought in the War of 1812 and Dennis was a captain in

<sup>1</sup> DAR Patriot Index, p 349: 1976.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., pp 305.

the Civil War on the Union side.

Dennis Jr., and the seven other Connaway children attended Possum Hollow Grade School in Cedar County, then attended the Warrensburg Normal School, receiving a high school education and one year teacher certification. This school was chartered as Normal University of Missouri in Johnson County, 100 miles from the Connaway home. Dennis Sr. had received a good education from his Grandfather Marshall, a graduate of William and Mary College and an educator of considerable prominence who operated his own secondary school. Knowing the great importance of education, Dennis Sr. gave his children college educations.

"H" had three brothers, Samuel Henry, born in 1858, John Waldo, born in 1859, and Phillip Kearney, born in 1864. Dennis Jr.'s sister, Sarah Frances, born in 1861, attended Christian College, Columbia. The school was operated by the Christian Church. She married John McCoy Snyder. They homesteaded in northwest Ford Co., Kansas, in 1884. His stepsister was Amanda Jane Connaway, born in 1846. She married John M. Jackson. His step brothers were James Marshall Connaway, born in August 1848. He graduated from Missouri University and was a physician in Oregon; William Peyton Connaway, born in May 1850. He graduated from Missouri University. He became a banker in Independence, Oregon.

"H" grew up in a home filled with great love and respect among all of his family. The Bible was read daily and Christian devotions given. They were strong Republicans, political issues were discussed frequently.

In 1884, Dennis graduated from Missouri University with a Bachelor of Agriculture Science degree. He worked at the university agricultural station. The Connaways were well established in Missouri. D.H. Sr., had served in the Missouri State Legislature as a Republican representative and as probate judge and had held other public offices. The advertisement of fertile Ford County land which was available for homesteading and timber claims

sparked the pioneering blood of Dennis Sr. and Serena Connaway, and of Dennis Jr. Brother Sam was caught up in the emotional loyalty to his family and left his newspaper work in Missouri to go to Kansas with them.

Looking to the future, the Connaways left their comfort and set out for Ford County, in May 1884, venturing to the "land of sunshine" and "high promise of happiness." They settled 18 miles northwest of Dodge City, where they homesteaded and filed timber claims. Dennis Jr. and Sam built homes on the corners of their adjoining homesteads. Their houses were only a few hundred feet apart. They shared a joint windmill, cattle corral and machinery that they used to cut sod, plant and harvest their crops.

"H" built his first home out of prairie sod, which became the home of his parents, Dennis and Serena, Sam and D.H. Jr., until they completed a frame dwelling for Sam's home. Using Sam's engineering degree skills, they pumped water from the windmill into a large barrel. At the bottom of the barrel, pipes were installed, one running to the bottom of another barrel outside the kitchen door of the D.H. Connaway home and the other pipe running to a large reservoir which they dug out at the edge of the cattle corral. There was always a barrel full of fresh water outside D.H.'s kitchen and at least two feet of fresh water standing in the corral reservoir. This was a very modern system for those early days.

Sam married Anna Gertrude Adams in March 1886. They lived on the homestead until March 1894. Their sons, Lloyd and Stanley were born in the sod house. Sam and Anna moved to a home in Dodge City on Central Avenue. Adriane, Mildred and Clifford were born in Dodge City.

The Connaway men worked hard breaking out the prairie sod, five acres at a time, putting the land into rye, then broke it again and planted it into corn, wheat or millet. The timber claims were broken out and tree seed and cuttings of locust and catalpa were planted. Brother John Connaway filed a timber claim in 1886, broke it out planting bar-

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ley, then locust seeds, wheat and corn. From "H's" farm diary, the machinery used was a plow and disc harrow.

Sam sold his farming interests to D.H. Jr. and the Sam Connaway dwelling was made into a buggy shed and used for grain storage. Dr. John Connaway had visions of someday retiring in this land of sunshine, but his deep involvement in medical and veterinary science made him give up his dream, and he, too, sold his interest to brother "H."

In 1888, Mother Serena died suddenly. She is buried at the Ridenour Cemetery, a few miles from the Connaway homestead. Father D.H. became quite ill at the shock of Serena's death and he died in 1889, in Cedar Co., Missouri. He is buried in Lindley Cemetery, Stockton, Missouri.

On April 24, 1891, Dennis H. Connaway Jr. married Anna "Ann" Rains, daughter of Isaac and Mary Ann Rains who had homesteaded in 1885, a few miles from the Connaways. The bride and groom had been childhood friends in Missouri. They were married at the Rains home by Rev. Charles Ridenour, a Christian Church minister. Then "H" took his bride to the Connaway home that he had built for her. He had added a five-room frame house on to the two-room sod house. To this marriage were born two daughters, Bernice Winifred on February 26, 1892, and Una Ethel on January 29, 1894. The girls were very close all of their lives.



In 1891, D.H. Connaway built, for his bride-to-be, a five-room frame house as an addition to the two-room sod house he had built in 1884.

The Connaway home was full of love, kindness and laughter. They loved playing practical jokes on family and friends. According to the Connaway's grandson, Joe Converth, in the Connaway's early married life, friendly Indians from South Dakota would camp out on the southwest quarter of their land. It was frightening, but the Indians never caused trouble.

The Connaways were devout Christians and it showed in their lives. "H" did not believe in the women doing the farm work. They were to be ladies. It was a treat to the girls when, through illness they got to help with chores. Bertha Rath Meyers was one of the girls' country school teachers. She boarded at the Connaway home. They went to school by horse. Their father schooled the girls in leisure time, an advantage most children did not have in the early days. Ann, their mother, had a good education and was of high intellect. Reading was a great pastime of the family. Ann was known for her excellent cooking and people stopped frequently to get some of Ann's good cooking. She was a perfectionist in every thing she did throughout her life, and had a great sense of humor, as did her husband and daughters. The Connaways were strong Republicans.

Bernice married a northern Ford County farmer, Frank J. Converth, son of Joseph and Frieda Converth, early pioneers north of Dodge City. They were married January 10, 1917, at the Connaway farm by a Christian preacher.

They made their home four miles north of Dodge City. Bernice was well-known for her cheerful, kindness to so many people. She battled arthritis and was in a wheel chair for many years, but her loving phone calls and notes touched many people. She was always a beautiful cheerful Christian lady, reaching out to help others. Bernice and Frank had one son, Joe Dennis Converth. He was a graduate of Dodge City High School and farmed with his father. He married Maxine McComas on November 6, 1942. Maxine, one of a family of 11 children, was the daughter of F.M. and Jennie Mabbit McComas, early settlers who lived 12 miles north of Dodge City. The Converths live in Dodge City and are active in their farming operation, the Kansas Wheat Growers and the First Christian Church.

Una Connaway graduated from Dodge City High School and Normal Training. She taught in Ford County rural schools, Districts 11, 20, 22 (Concord) and in a Gray county school. Her beginning salary was \$55 per month. She traveled by horse and buggy to her schools. One morning a rattlesnake caught in the buggy wheel and was thrown into Una's lap. Instantly she brushed it off with the whip stock and kept on going. A true pioneer young lady! Una and Bernice enjoyed music and spent a lot of time playing their organ and listening to records on their phonograph player. They sang and whistled the popular songs and hymns with their parents for a pastime. Una saved her teaching salary and bought a beautiful Ludwig piano from New York. She was so proud of it! It is still in the family.

Una married Zack H. Taylor on December 18, 1918. Zack was the son of Edmund and Annie Hill Taylor, early settlers four miles south of Dodge City. He was a farmer, realtor and during World War II worked at the Army Air Base west of Dodge City. Four children were born to this marriage: Bernice, Virgil, Jean and Cleo.

Bernice was born April 2, 1920. She graduated from Dodge City High Schools and Dodge City Community College. She was a cashier at Peoples

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Natural Gas Co. for 26 years, a First Christian Church Sunday School teacher, youth sponsor and choir member, serving with love, laughter and dedication in all that she did. She died July 20, 1986.

Virgil was born July 16, 1923. He could read from the Bible before he started to school. He graduated from the Dodge City schools and college. He had a beautiful tenor voice, and sang in the Christian Church choir, Lions Minstrel and other community affairs. Mrs. Lane Dutton, his voice teacher, wanted him to pursue a singing career but he told her he did not enjoy singing in foreign languages. After serving in the army during World War II in Hawaii and Okinawa, he made the decision to be a Christian minister. He graduated from Minnesota Bible College, where he met his wife-to-be, Charlotte Stacy, daughter of Paul and Marie Stacy. They were married in Clarion, Iowa, in June 1949, by her dad, a Christian preacher. Their first ministry was at the Christian Church in Bucklin, Kansas. Their children are Anne, Judy, Robert and James. Anne married Dr. Warren Miller, a physician in Puyallup, Washington. They have two children, Laura and Steve. Judy married Dennis Thomas, a Christian minister at Thornton, Colorado. Their children are Darren and Brian. Robert Edmund is a Christian Church minister at Aurora, Colorado. He married Susan Schlitzenbaum. Their children are Eric, Matthew and Nathan. Dr. James Mark Taylor is a physician at Denver, Colorado. He married Peggy Nelson. Their children are Adam, An-

dreia and Julie. Virgil died Easter Sunday, March 30, 1986, of a heart attack as he was preparing for services at Sterling Heights, Michigan, their home. Charlotte is a retired teacher, living in Thornton, Colorado. Daughters Anne, Judy and daughter-in-law, Susan, are also teachers.

Jean Connaway Taylor was born April 3, 1929. She died of pneumonia at eight months.

Cleo Lorraine Taylor was born June 15, 1933. She married Russell E. Fischer, a farmer-cattelman. They live eight miles northeast of Dodge City. Their children are Mark and Scott.

In 1927, D.H. and Ann Connaway invited their surrounding neighbors to their home to discuss their desires for a Royal Township Community building. On December 24, 1927, D.H. and Ann Connaway deeded one acre of land on the SE 1/4 S8 T25 SR26 to the Royal Community Club, an unincorporated association composed of the residents of the community surrounding the Connaway land. The club consisted of D.H. and Anna Connaway, A.A. and Luella Young (parents of Howard Arthur Young) C.H. and Tillie Steinkuehler, G.M. and Rosa E. Legg and W.B. and Nellie Downtain. The club borrowed \$2,200 for the material against the land, the members signing the agreement for the debt to the Dodge City Savings and Loan Association. This large two-story building with a full basement was built by these neighbors and other volunteers. The Connaways also gave a portion of their land to help make the payments. The hall was very

large and elegant for its day. It was furnished with a nice organ. The enthusiastic spirit and commitment of the community helped to get the building indebtedness paid off in a few years. The Community Hall served as a landmark for many years. Community and family gather-

ings, political rallies and dances were held. The club allowed no drinking. Through D.H., the minister of the Dodge City First Christian Church, Leon Myers, and the young people held church services on Sundays for several years. It was a great blessing to all who were involved.

In April 1941, D.H. and Ann Connaway celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Community Hall with more than 100 neighbors and old-time friends. Many of the guests had been to their farm homestead in April 1891, for a house warming for them when they were bride and groom. A bountiful feast and short program under the direction of their daughters was enjoyed by all.

By the 1960s, many families in the community had moved to town. Because of fires which had been started inside the building and many other acts of vandalism, it was feared that the building would be destroyed. Family members of the club met and voted that the building be put up for sale by bid. M.W. McKibben received the bid. It was torn down and the Community Hall was gone. Money received for the building was donated to the Methodist Boys' Ranch. The building had served the community well and many happy memories of events are recalled among many Ford Countians.

D.H. was a Ford County Commissioner and served on the Royal Township Board and the school board numerous times.

In 1942, D.H. was seriously ill for three weeks. Nine of his neighbors came in with tractors, plows, and listers and plowed 300 acres of his land and made it into feed for Connaway. The Samaritans were L.L. Anders, Everett Gall, A.A. Young, Herman Maskus, Lloyd Dewey, Ben Meyers, W.L. Murdock, Lawrence Dasenbrock and Joe Riedlinger.

D.H. said: "Their love and kindness makes us realize even more that this land was the best place ever to have settled and make our dreams come true." The Connaways were known for their kindness, honesty, their happy cheerful manner and ready wit.



Dennis H. and Anna (Rains) Connaway on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary at "Community Hall".

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D.H. died on March 2, 1942, in his sleep at the Connaway home. Ann moved to town after his death. She died May 7, 1958. Daughter Bernice died June 2, 1955, and Una on January 12, 1974. All the family is buried at Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City.

Joe and Maxine Converth; Russell and Cleo Taylor Fischer; Mark and Sherrie Fischer and children Jeff, Jamie, Janell, identical twin sons, Christian and Caleb; Dr. Scott and Jeanie Fischer and daughters Ashley and Taylor Chloe, represent the Connaway 4th, 5th and 6th generations and are actively farming their Connaway ancestors land after 111 years. Their grandparents would be proud!

Cleo Taylor Fischer  
See the Edmund Taylor entry

### JOSEPH FRANCIS CONVERTH

Joseph Francis Converth left his native home in Alsace-Lorraine, France to escape German compulsory military service, when Alsace-Lorraine was taken over by Germany, in 1871. With the help of a friendly steamship captain he came over in a ship as a stowaway in a wine barrel.

Joseph had friends in Dodge City, Kansas, where he found work with ranchers. Later he became owner of a farm on north 14th Street, four miles north on the east side of the road.

He married a German girl, Fredia Ley, who came to the U.S. at the age of 13, with her parents, in 1883. Her family located south of Offerle, Kansas.

Fredia's father had been employed as a gardener for the German emperor, William I, father of William II, known to us as "Kaiser Bill" of World War I. Joseph and three sons, Louis, Frank and Bill, all served on the Dodge City Township Board during their lifetimes.

Before their marriage, Fredia was employed in the Collar home, later known as the Reeves home, located one block north of Wyatt Earp. They married on February 23, 1887, in the Reeves home.

Joseph and Fredia became parents of seven children. All of the Converth children received their grade school education at the Prairie View School. At one time during their school years all the Converth children but Ella, who was too young, had the opportunity of attending a three-month term that taught the doctrines of the German Lutheran Church. This class was given at the rural German Lutheran Church in southern Hodgeman County.

Louis, the oldest Converth child, was born in 1888, at the old Zimmerman place of Dodge City. He married Effie Olson of Spearville. They had no children. He died at his farm northwest of Dodge City, in 1941. He served in the army and fought in World War I. He was well-known in Democratic politics throughout his lifetime. He served as the Ford County Sheriff for three terms.

Frank Joseph Converth was born December 21, 1889, and died May 17, 1933. He married Bernice Connaway. Their child was Joe Dennis Converth.

Frank attended school in California and learned mechanic skills. He was a mechanic, farmer and custom thresher. He was a friend to everyone in need.

Bertha Converth Hutchison was born March 23, 1893. She died September 19, 1963. She was married to Hartzel Hutchison. Their children were Dale Hutchison and Robert Hutchison. Bertha was a homemaker who gave support to all with her loving nature and her cooking ability.

William F. Converth was born June 15, 1895, and died November 17, 1987. He and Lillie were twins. He served as Dodge Township Clerk and on the Prairie View School Board and the REA Board. He was an avid baseball player and manager. He farmed and raised registered cattle.

Lillie Otella Converth Vance was born June 15, 1895, and died January 29, 1948. She married Truman C. Vance. Their children were Harold Vance, Blanche Vance Enlow and Evelyn Vance Carothers. She was a homemaker and assisted Truman in the grocery business and in farming.

Anna Josephine Converth Hutchison was born June 26, 1898, and died March 6, 1967. She was married to Carl Hutchison. Their children were Lillian Reep Hutchison Malcolm, Carlene Hutchison George, and George Ray Hutchison. She was a partner with Carl in the grocery business. She was a bookkeeper and Assistant Postmaster at Rest, Kansas. Both Anna and Carl were avid sports fan and loved fishing and hunting.

Ella Pearl Converth Bogner Gonder was born June 19, 1907. She married Joseph Bogner. After his death, she married Dayle Gonder. She was a teacher, homemaker, world traveler and voracious reader. Ella was a Staff Aid at the U.S.O. in the Ritz Ballroom during World War II. She was a Goodrich Tire Inspector and worked at St. Anthony's Hospital records library. Ella now farms the homestead on North 14th Street at Dodge City, Kansas. The Converth farm has been owned and operated by the Converth family for over 100 years.

Carlene George



Joseph Converth Family. Back row, left to right: Louis, Bertha, William, Lillie, Frank and Anna. Front row: Fredia, Ella and Joseph.



# DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

## THE CRAWFORD FAMILY

### JAMES H. CRAWFORD

James H. Crawford, the son of Nelson G. and Martha (Smith) Crawford, was born June 19, 1834, in Warren Co., Indiana. On August 8, 1862, James enlisted in Company F, 72nd Indiana Infantry at Lafayette under Captain Burch as an assistant wagon master. He was mustered out on June 16, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee.

He married Eliza Swisher. Together they had eight children: Mary M., William N., John E., Charles H., Abraham L., Clara Ada, Henry Clay and Jennie Crawford. By 1878, James and his family had moved to Ford County, Kansas, where he homesteaded in Dodge Township.

He was a cattle rancher with his range on the south side of the Arkansas River opposite Dodge City. His cattle brand was an RS on the left side with a smooth crop and a small hole in the left ear. He also bred Berkshire hogs. Later James entered the mercantile business and operated the Indiana Grocery north of the Wright house on Second Avenue in Dodge City. In 1898, James sold his grocery business to P.M. Imel.

In 1886, James Crawford represented the Methodist Episcopal Church of Dodge City as a representative to the church conference. He was an active member of the Lewis Post, No. 394 of Dodge City of the Grand Army of the Republic. James was a pioneer real estate developer who subdivided Crawford's Addition in South Dodge.

In 1888, James was seriously injured in an accident in which his carriage overturned, dragging him several rods. James died July 8, 1909, in Dodge City. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Marcheta Beggs  
Marcia Philbrick

## WASHINGTON MARION CRAWFORD

Washington Marion Crawford, the son of Nelson G. and Martha (Smith) Crawford was born April 21, 1838, at Warren Co., Indiana. On March 4, 1860, he married Mary Foster, the daughter

of Zebulon and Caroline (Ostrander) Foster. Together they had five children: Ida Kate, Judson Foster, Carrie A., Lida Anita and Nelson Garfield Crawford.

On August 3, 1861, he enlisted as a Sergeant in Company H, 2nd Regiment, New York Cavalry Volunteers. He was taken prisoner on September 22, 1863, near Liberty Mills, Virginia. Washington spent the winter of 1863 and 1864, in Belle Isle Prison camp. In March 1864, he was taken to Andersonville, Georgia, where he incurred his disability. He was taken to Charleston, South Carolina, for 18 days and was paroled at Florence, South Carolina, on December 7, 1864, in the exchange of 10,000 sick prisoners.

He and his family resided in Jordan and Washington townships of Warren County, Indiana, until 1871, when they moved to Pike Township, moving back to Washington Township in 1873. He was a life member of the Illinois State Association of Union Prisoners of War.

The family moved to Ford County, Kansas, around 1885, where Washington filed a homestead certificate application for 160 acres of S31 T28S R26W. He purchased Lot 7, Block 47 of Dodge City (911 Second) from his brother, James H. Crawford in 1888, for \$1000. James H. Crawford built the houses at 909 and 911 Second.

Washington Marion Crawford died August 27, 1889, at Fort Dodge, Kansas, of complications of his war time disability. His widow, Mary (Foster) Crawford, continued to live at 911 Second, operating a boarding house. Mary died January 21, 1929. Mary and Washington are buried in the West GAR section of the Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City, Kansas.

Marcheta Beggs  
Marcia Philbrick

## ALVIN HAMILTON LIGHTER AND LIDA ANITA CRAWFORD LIGHTER

Alvin Hamilton Lighter was the son of Jacob Henry and Sara (Stricker) Lighter. He was born May 16, 1864, in Mt. Carrol Co., Illinois. On August 11, 1897, he married Lida Anita Crawford, born December 22, 1871, at West Lebara, Indiana. Together they had six

children: Ethel Anita, Kenneth Arden, Anna Marie, Dorothy Alice, Chester Ellis and Vera Elma Lighter. All the children except one were born in Dodge City.

Alvin moved to Ford County, about 1885 or 1886. He had a homestead on the SE 1/4 of S32 T27 R26 and later had the NE 1/4 of S32 T26 R26.

The family moved to Rolla, Missouri, about 1917 or 1918. They returned to Ford County, in the late 1920s or early 1930s. They lived for several years with Walter and Ethel Beggs and family. They then moved to the basement apartment of the Crawford Home at 911 Second Avenue. Alvin had been missing for several days and was found dead sitting against a tree at the Ford County Lake, in June 1942. Lida died December 13, 1945. Both are buried in the East GAR Section of Maple Grove Cemetery.

Marcheta Beggs

## JUDSON FOSTER CRAWFORD

Judson Foster Crawford, the son of Washington Marion Crawford and Mary (Foster) Crawford was born April 15, 1866, in Warren Co., Indiana, and came with his parents to Dodge City, Kansas, about 1885. On December 24, 1890, Judson married Josie Winifred Hammond, the daughter of Richard Fish and Sarah Ellen Ralston Hammond. Judson worked for the AT&SF railroad, retiring on October 1, 1936. He was an active member of the Methodist Church and served on the Dodge City School Board. Judson's wife, Josie, was one of the founding members of the Old Timers' Club of Dodge City. Her son, Leon's wife, Winnie, was a Charter Member and remained in the club until her death February 11, 1992. Judson and Josie had seven children: Bernice Crawford, Leon Russell, Marion Richmond, Helen Marjorie, Hugh Judson, Esther Stella and Lois Elida. Both Leon and Marion Richmond worked for the railroad. Judson and Josie are buried in the Crawford family plot at Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City, Kansas, along with their sons, Leon and Marion.

Marcheta Beggs  
Marcia Philbrick

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

### LINZA S. AND SADIE CROW

In the early 1900s, Sadie Clayton came from Rice County near Bushton, Kansas, to Dodge City. She lived with and helped her uncle and aunt, Tom and Malinda Clayton, who lived on and ran the Hoover ranch north of Dodge City. The owner of the ranch was George M. Hoover, a well-known early day Dodge Citian who did much for the city and who, when he died, left money for an auditorium to be built in Wright Park. The Hoover Pavilion was built later.

Sadie's duties included cooking for the hired men on the ranch. She told of getting up extra early on the days they had pancakes for breakfast. One of the hard-working hired men ate as many as ten plate-sized pancakes, and the stove could not keep up. She would feed him first and then fry the pancakes for all the other men.

In the early 1900s, young men were migrating from the East seeking employment. One was Linza S. Crow, who came from Wheeling, West Virginia. He met Sadie Clayton, love blossomed and they were married September 22, 1906. They established their home in Dodge City. He worked for a time at the Dodge City Flour Mill. He also worked for a time for Charlie Towell, a well-known Dodge Citian who did carpenter work. Later Linza went to work for the Santa Fe railroad, where he worked until his retirement. A son, Paul, was born to them, but he only lived 16 months. He was sick and kept them up at night, so when he could afford it, Linza bought a used rocking chair—it cost \$2.00. Fern still has that solid wooden rocker.

On August 21, 1911, Fern was born. Fern attended grade school in the old Third Ward School building on Boot Hill. She attended junior high and all but her senior year of high school in the red brick building at 1000 Second Avenue. She was in the first class that attended and graduated from the new high school building on North First Avenue in 1929.

Linza Crow died in 1953, and Sadie in 1954. They are buried in Maple Grove, Dodge City.

Fred Gall was the first child born in

the United States after his parents immigrated from Germany, probably through Ellis Island. He later married Lizzie Feebeck in Knob Noster, Missouri. While he was still an infant the family came to Kansas in a covered wagon. They lived for a time in Girard, Kansas, and went into Oklahoma but apparently did not get a claim or find work. They lived near Great Bend for a time before coming to Ford County. They were living on "The Wright Place," east of Ford in 1910. Fred was a farm worker in several locations in Ford County and is buried in Mount Hope, Kansas. Lizzie is buried in Dodge City.

Marvin Gall was the oldest of nine children with four brothers and four sisters. He and Fern Crow were married September 8, 1935. They have lived all of their married life at 1205 West Trail in Dodge City. Marvin was in the oil business for several years before starting to work for the Santa Fe railroad, where he worked until he retired in 1971. They have three sons, James of Paonia, Colorado; Russell of Dodge City and David of Leesburg, Florida. James has a son, Vince, who lives in Denver, Colorado. David has a son and a daughter, Dustin and Denise.

In 1958, Fern started the Christian Book House. She operated it from her home until the flood of 1965 about wiped them out. The store was reestablished at 113 Gunsmoke. In 1983, the store moved to 702 Second Avenue. Her son, Russell, joined her in the store in 1976, and now runs it.

Fern Crow Gall

### DR. SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE

Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine was born in Pennsylvania, September 17, 1862. His father died in Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, as a prisoner of the Confederate Army. Dr. Crumbine graduated from the University of Ohio Medical School at Cincinnati, in 1889. He practiced medicine at Spearville, Kansas, for a short period of time before locating in Dodge City, where he remained until 1904.

Dr. Crumbine, who was to become a most outstanding doctor, came to



Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine

Dodge City, in 1885. Then 22 years old, Dr. Crumbine told later of his first nighttime tour through Dodge City with Dr. Plummer, who was in Dodge City for a short time in 1885.

Dr. Plummer took the newcomer to see the gay ladies in the dance halls south of the tracks, then showed him the drinking and gambling at the Long Branch and then suggested a stroll through the red-light district. Dr. Crumbine was reluctant but let himself be persuaded.

Dr. Plummer explained as they walked along, "Your practice is going to come more from these women than from the cowboys and all you need to do is be reasonably friendly and normally human and understanding with them. At heart many of them are fine girls and I figure that they're worth saving. One thing more—when they're in trouble they'll listen to your advice, if you are sincere and they trust you."

Dr. Crumbine stated: "At one of the places we went to, I saw an illustration of what he meant when he went up to a girl who was sitting apart, crying her eyes out. Because she had been a patient of his, he felt free to question her. Her problem was to give up the life in which she found herself, and get back to her heartbroken parents. When I reflect on the help Dr. Plummer rendered that wayward and unhappy girl, I realize that one can do good even in such an environment."

## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

Dr. Crumbine, along with other doctors of that time, helped the homesteaders through the terrible drought and depression of the 1890s, by accepting product and giving them credit on their bills for it. In his ledger he had notes telling that J.D. Brown brought him many chickens and turkeys during that period, for which he was credited 25 cents each for chickens and one dollar each for turkeys. They were not sold by weight unless they were dressed. On October 2, 1897, Mr. Brown had a credit for a 20 and one half pound can of honey, for which his price was five cents a pound. On one occasion when Dr. Crumbine was out at his farm, Mr. Brown noticed that the doctor had a shotgun with him, so he kindly invited his doctor to take a look at his "private" covey of prairie chickens. The doctor said that he had the good fortune of a rank amateur and got five. In 1902, John Ridenour was given credit for 81 pounds of beef at seven cents a pound. With a ledger full of such accounts the doctor and his wife evidently had plenty of fresh farm produce most of the time.

In 1902, Dr. Crumbine was appointed to the state board of health. From that time on, he began to make a name for himself in state and national medical circles, in fact, his name was soon in all of the health and hygiene books in America.

Dr. Crumbine planned and displayed the first traveling health exhibit in a Pullman car which went all over the state of Kansas. He became the first full-time State Health officer. Doctors were becoming aware of the danger of spreading disease by public drinking cups and towels. Dr. Crumbine went about the state giving talks about the danger from these common public "conveniences." He also put up a fight to "swat the fly" and to ban spitting on the sidewalk. In 1909, the public drinking cup was abolished, soon to be followed by the disappearance of the dirty old roller towel that had hung in every public washroom. Brick makers joined in his sidewalk spitting campaign and made bricks with the motto "Don't spit on me" cut on the top surface. Fly poison "sticky fly paper" and all kinds of

ingenious fly traps made great inroads on the fly population. These campaigns spread nationwide and eventually Dr. Crumbine resigned from his position as secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health and became Director of the American Child Health Association with headquarters in New York City.

After his retirement from active duties he remained as a consultant in preventive medicine and health advisor of the Save the Children Federation as well as executive vice-chairman of the organization which ministered specifically to the needs of underprivileged children in the southern mountains and other neglected areas.

Dodge City's Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine did make a name for himself nationally but most important to Dodge Citians. Dr. Crumbine was a crusader who has saved and prolonged the lives of millions of people by his campaigns against the spreading of disease germs. Dr. Crumbine left Dodge City in 1904. In 1948, the famous doctor published his memoirs entitled *Frontier Doctor*. He died July 12, 1954, in New York City.

Julia J. Hull

*Dodge City Daily Globe*, Aug. 14, 1972

Kansas Heritage Center

Ford County Medical Society - A Memorial History to the Early Doctors of Ford County

### LILLIAN HEBERLEE DAVIS

Lillian Heberlee Davis's great grandfather, John Heberlee, came from Holland to Canada, then to Michigan, and then the family came by covered wagon to Marion, Kansas. This was probably in the late 1800s. Young John Heberlee, Jr. walked barefoot alongside the wagon from Michigan to Kansas. His sisters got to ride on the wagon, but being a boy, he walked. The Heberlees didn't care for that part of Kansas, so they traveled back to Red Oak, Iowa. Later, however, John Jr. came to Kansas on the wheat harvest crews to earn some extra money and liked what he saw at that time so he and his family came to Kingsdown, in Ford County, in 1913.

At this time he had married Isabelle Godfrey who had lived in Illinois and then Griswold, Iowa. Her family had only paid \$1.50 an acre for land there

in Griswold, then sold it later for \$1000 an acre. Seven brothers and sisters were born to this union, but only four lived to adulthood. These were Lillian, who was born October 22, 1897, her brother Walter of Spearville who married Thelma Wells, her brother Chester who lived in Washington state and her sister, Minnie Barnes, of Syracuse.

Lillian's aunts and uncles on her father's side were all homesteaders. John's oldest sister, Minnie Heberlee Hoard, homesteaded in Kingsdown; his sister, Kitty, homesteaded in Lake Andrew, South Carolina; his sister, Effie Groves, in Spaulding, Nebraska, and his two brothers, Ed and Jim, at Lakin. Later John and the family moved to Scott City where they lived until he eventually bought the telephone system at Spearville. Young Lillian came to Spearville at the age of 19 to manage it for her folks until they could tie up all the loose ends and get everything sold at Scott City to move to Spearville. She finished her schooling at Spearville High School.

Lillian met and married Thomas Milton "Milt" Davis on July 26, 1926. They had a son, Byron Dean, known as Dean. They moved to Dodge City in 1936.

Lillian was a school teacher for 41 years. Her first school, called Marian, was northwest of Wright, then she taught a year in Spearville. They didn't want married teachers there at this time, so she finished the year out and taught at the Bluebell School, two miles east of Richland Valley School south of Dodge City.

When she taught at the Marian School, she was paid \$100 a month, an excellent salary for those days because the school was in the railroad district. One of her most vivid memories of teaching at the Marian School was of a storm that blew in during the winter.

She had been staying with the Jim Hull family who lived about a mile north of the school, and he arrived at school to tell her a terrible storm was coming and that everyone should go home. All the kids hurriedly left, and then when she started out in her Model T Ford, the storm hit. She eventually

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couldn't see at all and the car went into the ditch. She got onto the railroad tracks which ran along the roadway to follow them into Spearville. Her dad had given her a big black cowhide robe to keep in the car. She had wrapped it around herself to keep warm.

She heard some noise, and discovered that two young rug salesmen had gotten stuck also, so when she appeared out of nowhere, they cried, "Oh girl, what in the world are you doing in this storm?" She got in their car to keep warm until another motorist returning from the Eckles store in Dodge City came along on his way to Greensburg, so they packed her in with him to head to Spearville, as they didn't know when they'd ever get their own car unstuck. However, this vehicle also got stuck eventually. She walked to a home nearby that she knew was there. Lillian remembers that the wife was in bed with a new baby. The husband took her back to her car and got it unstuck. Fortunately the storm was lessening by then. She also remembers that by this time her legs were frozen clear past her knees! When she finally arrived at her school the next morning, it was 10 a.m. and she found all her pupils already there waiting for her to put in an appearance.

Lillian says those country schools were pretty good at schooling and that the kids really learned. Every one of her eight-grade pupils had to learn the constitution, and there was lots of emphasis on memorizing. Maybe today's modern schools could take a lesson on what children used to learn.

Lillian is 95 now and, since 1994, has been staying at Manor of the Plains in Dodge City. She attends the First Church of the Nazarene each Sunday. She has an aunt, living in Iowa, who is 106 years old and still bowls.

By Ann Warner for  
Lillian H. Davis

### JOSEPH A. DEMMING

Joseph Anthony Demming was born May 2, 1853, to Franz and Elizabeth Wigger Demming in Suedholm, Westphalen, Germany. In 1871, when Joe was 18, he and his older sister, Christine, came to the United States.



Joseph A. Demming



Mary Margaret Schawe Demming

They settled in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In the fall of 1877, Joe, as a member of a 12-man team, came to Kansas to complete a land deal in Ford County for the Cincinnati Aurora Homestead Society. On February 24, 1878, he returned, along with a colony of German-Catholic settlers, to Windthorst. His sister married Henry Hessler and remained in Cincinnati.

He filed a claim south of Windthorst but did not stay long. He went to Chicago, Illinois, to seek his fortune as a gilder and formed a company by the name of Joseph A. Demming Co., but the west and the friends he made there were hard to forget and he soon returned. This time he purchased a relinquishment on a claim NW 1/4 S18 T26 R21 one-half mile north and 1 1/2 miles west of Windthorst.

On April 29, 1889, he married Mary Margaret Schawe. Mary was born in Cincinnati, September 22, 1866, and moved to this community with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schawe, when she was 12 years old. Joe and Mary had three children: Mary Catherine (Katie) born January 24, 1891; Frederick Joseph (Fred) born October 19, 1892, and Anna Elizabeth, born February 4, 1895.

A small three-room frame house was built in the 1880s. It was replaced with a two-story L-shaped home around 1903. The first house had a kitchen-living area and two bedrooms with a dug-

out outside that was used for food storage and as a storm shelter. The second house was built on the same site as the original house after the kitchen section was moved across the driveway and a lean-to added as temporary shelter until the new house was built.

Joe fenced off two pasture areas, one for 13 or 14 milk cows and the other for bucket calves and horses. There was native buffalo grass and many wild prairie flowers. Cool water from a nearby windmill was piped to a stock tank in the pasture and was also used to chill cream until it was taken to market. Hand dug open wells provided water before windmills.

There was always a large garden. Lettuce, radishes, carrots, peas, green beans, tomatoes, turnips, rhubarb, onions, cabbage (for sauerkraut), beets, cucumbers and of course, potatoes, were among crops grown. They had a grape arbor, gooseberries, red and black currants, and peach, cherry and mulberry trees but because of frosts, they often had little fruit. Of course, canning and preserving were very important activities. They also raised chickens for eggs and meat. Coyotes, skunks, and chicken hawks were natural predators of chickens and rats ate eggs and baby chickens.

In the early years, beds were made with springs on wooden slats. Mattresses were made of ticking sewn to-



## DODGE CITY AND FORD COUNTY, KANSAS 1870-1920 PIONEER HISTORIES AND STORIES

gether and stuffed with feathers in winter and corn husks in the summer as they were considered to be cooler. Wide widths of muslin made sheets. Underwear was made from flour sacks, which had many other uses. Work shirts and dresses were homemade. Quilts were made from scraps of material. Mary knitted socks and stockings from black wool yarn; in the summertime the children went barefoot much of the time and "boughten" cotton socks were worn to church on Sunday. Joe patched shoes on rainy days.

They survived the many rigors and hardships of the early pioneers; prairie fires, droughts, and crop failures, dust, snow and hail storms, illness and HARD work.

In order to feed the animals during blizzards, they tied ropes around themselves so they could find their way back to the house.

In 1890, when Katie was a year old, they lost a barn and livestock to a prairie fire but with the help of neighbors, saved the house with wet gunny sacks and water sprayed on the home.

Mary, who often helped with the field work along with the children, developed an infected blister while pitching hay. The infection became severe and she was very ill most of the summer and came near death. She was left with a permanently crippled right hand.

The children attended school in a one-room parochial school close to the Windthorst church until they finished the fourth reader, at which time they transferred to a district public school which was one mile west and one and one-half miles south of the home. At the parochial school the children learned geography, grammar, history and arithmetic in English and reading, writing, spelling and Bible history and catechism in both English and German as the parents wanted to keep their German heritage alive. At the district school, all classes were in English and eight grades were taught. Fred Laudick, Will Umbach and George Heskamp were some teachers named. Of course, they walked to school.

Entertainment was barn dances (square dances, waltzes, schottische,

and two-step) baseball, picnics, quilting bees, box suppers, and parlor games. It was a special occasion when work could be left behind and neighbors could get together. Occasionally, about once a year, a chatauqua or the Barnum and Bailey circus would make the rounds.

Joe and Mary lived their entire life together on the farm they homesteaded and farmed with the exception of two years when they tried to retire to San Diego but found they were not happy there. Joe died May 19, 1929, at the age of 76 years and was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery at Windthorst. Mary died a year later at the age of 63 and was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Their older daughter, Katie, and son, Fred, lived with and cared for their parents until the parents' death. They continued to make the farm their home until January 1953, when they moved to Spearville. Fred died suddenly of a heart attack in May 1953, and Katie died in January 1975. They are both buried in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Anna, Joseph and Mary's younger daughter, married George Heskamp, born December 24, 1890, the son of John George and Anna (Anniken) Heskamp, on September 28, 1915. George and Anna had seven children. Except for a few short years living away from the area, they lived in Spearville most of their married life. George died August 2, 1974, and Anna died November 18, 1984. They are both buried in St. John's Cemetery, Spearville.

Erma Vierthaler

### JESS AND JULIET DENIOUS

My dad took the train to Dodge City in 1910. While he was working for Henry Allen and *The Wichita Beacon*, he always said that he would head west as soon as the train did. And he did.

He was Jess C. Denious, born in 1879, in Mogadore, Ohio, to Oliver and Martha Denious. I don't know what brought them to Kansas, but Jess, Wilbur, Ada (Amy) and Lilly were reared in Erie, Kansas, where their father, Oliver, had a furniture store with the usual funeral parlor sideline. Both of these grandparents died before I was

born in 1919, but I did know the rest of the family.

Jess arrived in Dodge City, in 1910, with the purchase of a newspaper in mind. Dad and Will Smith, of Topeka, bought the *Ford County Republican*, one of several weekly papers in Dodge City in 1910, making it into a daily in 1911, when Dad became full owner, editor and publisher.

Renting a room at the Pettijohn home on Central Avenue in Dodge City proved a good move, for that is how he met Juliet Pettijohn, who became his wife in 1915. Juliet had arrived in Dodge City, in 1898, when her family, L.J. and Emma Pettijohn and brother, Horace, came to Dodge City from Garden City. Both Horace and Juliet were born in Hugoton, in 1890 and 1892.

On June 30, 1915, in the yard at the Pettijohn home, Jess C. Denious and Juliet Pettijohn were married. Making up the wedding party were a Titus girl who had been a college friend at Washburn College and Hazel Milliken. The ribbon holders were June Taylor, Marjorie Evans and Virginia Evans. Best man for Jess was Chester Jacoby. Candlelight required borrowing brass candlesticks from friends and neighbors, the Grobetys, Millikins, Jacobys and Scates.

Jess and Juliet lived at 1109 Central, 1209 Central, then built their home at 1109 First Avenue, to which they added a second story in 1931. To this day I still visualize young Jess Jr., halfway up the tall ladder being used by the builders. He was three years old, having been born in 1928. The Denious home at 1109 First Avenue remained home for Jess and Juliet until their deaths in 1953 and 1986. It is now occupied by their grandson, Howard Muncy, Jr.

Dad served in the Kansas Senate and as Lieutenant Governor of Kansas. The family moved to Topeka, where we lived in a hotel, during his terms in that city. I attended Topeka schools in my eighth grade, sophomore and senior years of high school, making friends that lasted all through high school, college and until this day.

After serving as Lt. Governor of

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**Jess C. Denious**

Kansas. Dad declined to run for Governor on the Republican ticket, although pressured by many Kansas politicians. He consulted his family from whom he received very little encouragement.

Mother was a joiner, a club woman. Besides taking an active part in many Dodge City clubs, she attended meetings with Dad, traveling far and wide and she remained active socially even after Jess' death. Trips to Europe were exciting times for them, besides many domestic travels. Sometimes when visiting Dad's parents in Erie, Mother would join Oliver Denious to sing at funerals in his funeral parlor, in connection with the furniture store. They both loved to sing. Dad must have inherited some of the musical talent. I can remember his playing on our piano when relaxing at our home on First Avenue, and a good job he did. Mother always was musical, playing the piano and singing, solo or in group. The wonderful Mason and Hamlin grand piano is still in our family.

Dad was also an avid hunter and fisherman. I can remember his trips to Branson, Missouri, before Branson became the entertainment center it now is. He and other Dodge City anglers would go to Branson for the float trip on the White River. As there was no such thing as television in those days, my parents were great readers. During my children's early years, television became readily available. We Muncys



**Juliet P. Denious**

bought a TV set in the late 1950s and have had one ever since. Radio was big in our family especially since my Dad was one of the founders of Dodge City's first radio station, KGNO. The station began in 1930 and was in the family until 1987.

Possessing many friends in Kansas and across the U.S., Jess and Juliet Denious enjoyed a full life together.

The Denious family consisted of Martha Elizabeth, born November 5, 1919, and always called "Betty"; and Jess C. Jr., born June 4, 1928. I married Howard Muncy of Elkhart, June 5, 1943, divorced in 1969. Jess married Jean Alexander of Kansas City, Missouri. He died in August 1969. His widow later remarried. Their adopted daughter, Jennifer Lynn Denious survives. She is living in Wichita.

My children are Martha Juliet Muncy Gilbert, born 1947; Suzanne Muncy Kerr, born 1949; and Howard Muncy, Jr., born 1951. Grandchildren include Douglas Edward Muncy, born 1970; Bryan Wayne Muncy, born 1972; Kent Jason Muncy, born 1977; Melanie Dawn Muncy, born 1982; Graham Nathaniel Gilbert, born 1979; and Lauren Elizabeth Gilbert, born 1981. My great grandchildren are Brittany Nicole Muncy, born June, 1992; and Jamie Leanne Muncy, born July 5, 1994.

Jess Jr. served in the U.S. Navy after high school graduation, and after his

service, he graduated from Baker University at Baldwin City, Kansas. Jess, Sr. also attended Baker University and Drake University at Des Moines, Iowa. Juliet graduated from Washburn College in Topeka, in 1914. I went to Lindenwood College for Women for one year after high school graduation and graduated from the University of Kansas, in 1941. Both Jess and Jess, Jr., were members of Kappa Sigma; Juliet, Martha and I were members of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Our love of the land is evident. The Pettijohn ranch land in Stevens and Morton counties came to me, making me feel a part of the beginning of the family. It is farmed for me by Vincent Youngren and Kay Youngren Murray and her sons. The Duck Creek farm in Ford County now is Howard Jr.'s, where he and his family raise horses, following in his Uncle Jess's footsteps. All of the young Muncys seem to be rodeo-oriented, loving to rope and ride. Mother's uncles in Oklahoma and the Liberal area would be proud to see the continued interest in the land.

In 1958, Juliet invested in some Colorado property on the Cucharas River in Huerfano County. This "Casa del Rio" is a favorite spot of mine and of my family. It is private, restful and an ideal place for communing with family and with God.

Martha Elizabeth "Betty" Muncy

### LAURENCE DURR

Laurence Durr was born in Dodge City, Kansas, on December 17, 1908. He was a farmer. I was born in Chamisal, New Mexico, on August 21, 1921. Later we moved to the Dodge City area. My dad, Rubel Martinez, was also a farmer and farmers had meetings for themselves and their families. At one such meeting in 1937, our families attended. I met Laurence there, and on December 1, 1937, we were married and we kept our promise to keep each other until the Lord parted us.

I did a lot of farm work along with him. The time went by so fast. We have five boys and three girls. Their names and birthdays are: Charlie, October 4, 1938; George, November 9, 1939; Jane,

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December 14, 1940; Lorina, March 4, 1944; Edward, January 29, 1947; Ruby, September 18, 1948; Richard, March 24, 1952; and Laurence, June 13, 1954. We did lead all of them the right way. First of all, we told them to be faithful to God and do good deeds always, that the Good Lord loved them all. Well, we both were very proud of our children. They all helped us on the farm.

Laurence went to the Navy on August 4, 1942. When he came home, we sold the farm and moved to Garden City, Kansas. Then, 15 years later, we moved to Colorado. We settled in Fort Dodge for retirement at the Kansas State Soldiers Home, where Lawrence passed away on April 19, 1990, at the age of 79.

So we never can tell what the Good Lord has for each one of us all. I'm faithful to the good Lord and thank Him for His care and love.

Frances Durr

### THE ETRICK FAMILY HISTORY

The Etrick Family History began in the Royal House of Kruse, part of the Hapsburg lineage, which owned and ruled the principality of Kruse in Prussia. The principal city was Parize. As a daughter of the royal family, young Florentina Kruse was accompanied by military escort on all public appearances. Florentina's favorite escort, Captain Kornak, was a dashing officer who had received many honors from her family. Inevitably, the two young people fell in love and wanted to marry. The royal family refused to allow the wedding. They admired Kornak's brilliant military career, but he was not of royal blood.

When Florentina married Captain Kornak in a private ceremony, her parents disowned her and banished the couple to Holland. From that time, Florentina never spoke about her parents, and they, in turn, referred to her as "the little duchess." Tragically, they never saw each other again. A Russian invasion destroyed the principality of Kruse. The story of "the little duchess" was told to early generations of Etrick family members with the admonition, "Never talk about your royal ancestors.

The world will not understand."

The only child of Captain and Florentina Kornak was Julianne Kornak, who was born in Holland in 1816 and died in East Prussia in 1899. Julianne Kornak married Frederick Augustus Lamkey (1810-1899) in East Prussia. Their firstborn child was Fredericka Henrietta Florentina Lamkey (1838-

1912). Fredericka became the second wife of Carl Freidrich Itrich, near Danzig in East Prussia in 1857. He was an innkeeper and a Lutheran. Carl and Fredericka Itrich had four children: Atilia (1859-1867); Frederick Augustus (1861-1944); Amalia Augustus (1863-1926); and Amanda Matilda (1868-1946).

Fredericka's first son, Atilia, died in 1867, at age eight, and her husband, Carl, died the next year. Following her husband's death, in 1868, Fredericka brought her three surviving children to America. She anglicized the spelling of Itrich to Etrick (which is pronounced the same), and settled near Springfield, Illinois, with her Lamkey relatives. They had anglicized Lamkey to Lemke. Fredericka had three younger brothers: Ernest Frederick, Frederick Augustus and Rudolph Frederick Lemke, and two younger sisters: Julianne Ernestine and Matilda Lemke. Most of them came to America, in 1868, and settled in Illinois.

### Ford County History

In 1885, at the age of 24, Fred Etrick (born December 17, 1861, died April 9, 1944) came to Ford County by train with his mother Fredericka, and his two sisters, Amalia 22, and Amanda 17.

When the mother and her three children stepped off the train, Dodge City was a booming cowtown. Bat Masterson was still walking the streets and Chalkley Beeson owned the Long Branch Saloon. The last big herds of



Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Augustus Etrick.

buffalo had been eliminated in 1883. The last cattle drive to Dodge was in 1885, when the State of Kansas put a quarantine on cattle from Texas entering Western Kansas on the Western and Chisholm Trails. The ranching business had peaked in the 1880s, but the blizzard of '86 ruined most cattle speculators. Dodge City had been the site of two illegal Spanish bullfights, in 1884 and 1885. Bullfights were against the law in the United States, but that didn't bother the promoters in Dodge City.

The first temperance meeting was held in June 1885, five years after the state of Kansas enacted the prohibition law in 1880. Dodge City was considered the most flagrant violator of prohibition. The Eureka Irrigation Canal Co. (Asa Soule's ditch) was organized in 1883, and the ditch construction began. Dodge City was declared a city of the second class on March 5, 1886, by Kansas governor John A. Martin. Mining fever struck the town in 1888, and the city bought \$8,000 worth of stock in the Dodge City Gas and Mining Co. to prospect for coal. No coal was ever found. The bodies buried on Boot Hill were dug up in 1879, so the Third Ward School could be built on the site. About 34 persons had been interred on Boot Hill and they were reburied in a cemetery located north of Dodge.

Fred Etrick's two sisters, Amalia and Amanda, lived in Dodge City and Ford County for a short time before marry-

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ing and moving elsewhere. Amalia Augustus Etrick married James Watt Hogue in Globe, Arizona. Amanda Matilda Etrick married William Adams in Dodge City, had two children, Freda Adams and Waldo Adams, both born in Dodge City. Amanda taught piano and organ to many young people. Freda married Charles Augustus Austin in Dodge City, in 1909. Waldo married a girl named Nellie near Springfield, Illinois, in 1909.

Fred Etrick homesteaded 13 miles southwest of Dodge City and bought a quarter section of land located three and a half miles southwest of Dodge City. He farmed his land, ran cattle and built a house, barn and silo. The homestead and bottom land were located west on Beeson Road. Fred Etrick used the road south of the Arkansas River to drive to town. About halfway to town he passed a house on the south side of the road that was the Peacock family home.

The Peacock family (originally from England) had settled in the Dodge City area at about the same time as the Etrick family. Rancher Nahum Osgood Peacock (1849-1910) and his wife Samantha Oliver Gidley (1851-1883) were married, in 1875, in Decorah County, Iowa. They had two children: Mary Tryphina Peacock (1876-1913) and Harry Peacock (1882-1978).

Fred Etrick met Mary Peacock along the road to town, and he eventually married her on December 14, 1895, in Dodge City. This was about the same time that Fred Etrick established his printing business and a farm publication, *The Live Stock Farmer* in Dodge City. Fred and Mary moved into Dodge City to a house on the southeast corner of Division Street and 5th Avenue.

Fred and Mary's first child was Carl Frederick Etrick (1896-1954.) Their second son was Herbert Nahum Etrick (1898-1992). The third son was Milo Melvin (Mike) Etrick (1902-1993). Mike was not given a middle name when christened. He added Melvin later in life. The fourth child was a daughter, Ethel Mae Etrick (1910-1989). All four children were born in Dodge City.

In June 1900, Fred Etrick wrote the following in his farm publication, the

*Live Stock Farmer* which he edited and printed in Dodge City: "Fifteen years ago (1885), the writer landed in Ford County and decided to make it his home, a land agent was consulted with the result of the filing on a tract of government land about 13 miles southwest of Dodge City. After living on the claim five years, proof was made and a patent secured. In the meantime a purchase was made of a quarter section, second bottom land, three and a half miles southwest of Dodge City, where a permanent home was established, stock-raising and farming was followed and a lot of experience gained that has proven valuable."

Fred Etrick had a varied and interesting career. In addition to being a master printer, he dabbled in politics, presented the first outdoor movies in Dodge City in the Airdome during the teens. He developed and marketed a breakfast cereal made from wheat. After Mary died on November 24, 1913, Fred married Rosa Allen Hardin (1899-1953) in Dodge City, in 1914. There were no children from this marriage.

### Children of Fred and Mary Etrick

Carl Frederick Etrick (born December 23, 1896, died 1954) served in the Army in World War I, including a tour of duty in France. He was an accomplished artist, designer and historian. He joined his father in the printing business until the depression of the '30s when he served as Quartermaster at Fort Dodge. He never married.

Herbert Nahum Etrick (born November 9, 1898, died January 13, 1992) also joined his father in the printing profession. He married Vivian Helene Box in October 1927, in Cameron, Missouri. They had no children. He moved to Liberal, Kansas, in 1952, to establish his own printing business, Herbert Etrick Printers. He was active in Boy Scouts, served as president of the Santa Fe Trail Council, and was awarded the Silver Beaver, scouting's highest honor. Vivian was active in the Business and Professional Women's organization and Soroptimist Club. She was elected State President of the BPW in the '80s. In 1990, Herb and Vivian returned to Dodge City and lived at Manor of the

Plains. After Herb's death, Vivian continued to live there.

Milo Melvin (Mike) Etrick (born April 10, 1902, died March 29, 1993) was an outstanding athlete at Dodge City High School (1918-1922), where he excelled in football, basketball, track and baseball. He was chosen one of the 50 greatest athletes in Dodge City for the first 50 years of the 20th century at a ceremony in 1962. He attended college at Kansas State University on an athletic scholarship.

Mike married Ethel Marjorie Elizabeth Ann Winfrey (born August 26, 1912 Kingman, Kansas) in Kingman, Kansas, on March 11, 1930. They had four children: Paul Frederick (born December 28, 1930, Dodge City); Mary Patricia (born February 9, 1934), Sara Susanne (born September 14, 1938) and Joseph Field (born April 4, 1948), the latter three born in Garden City, Kansas.

Mike worked with the rest of the Fred Etrick family at the Etrick Printery in Dodge City before moving his wife and family to Garden City in 1933, where he established The Garden Press-Printers. Mike retired in 1983, selling his printing business. He and Marge moved to Olathe, Kansas, in 1985. Mike died March 29, 1993, in Olathe Medical Center.

Ethel Mae Etrick (born August 1, 1910, died June 1, 1989) was an accomplished newspaperwoman and writer. She attended Kansas University. Ethel married Carryl Charles Austin on February 3, 1937, in Phoenix, Arizona. They had one child, a daughter, Karla Fredrica (born March 3, 1938, Globe, Arizona). Ethel wrote for the Huntington Beach newspaper in California, the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, and was editor of the *Bonner Springs Chieftain* in Bonner Springs, Kansas, for a number of years. She married Horace Hamilton Watkins (born September 1, 1901, died November 20, 1955) on August 6, 1949, in Garden City, Kansas. They lived the remainder of their lives in Dodge City. Horace adopted Karla Fredrica Austin September 1, 1949, changing her name to Karla Watkins.

Karla Fredrica Watkins married