

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

America. Maren & Jorgen faced a possibility of growing old with part of their children "an ocean away." So, at last, they made plans to respond to Tommy's urging and move to America. They left Horsens, Denmark, on April 30, 1904, to cross the North Sea to England. From England a boat named "The Lake Erie" took them to Quebec, Canada, arriving there on May 15. They left Quebec by train heading for Detroit, Michigan, where they entered the United States. They continued, changing trains when necessary, until they arrived in Dodge City at 2:30 a.m. on May 19, 1904.

Arriving with them were five children: Peter, 15; Marie, 13; Henry, 10; Stinne, eight; and Sigvald, four. Jorgen's brother, Thomas, met them at the train station. He had left Denmark 23 years earlier and except for the occasional talks with Eske, he had no Dane to speak with, so his Danish was "broken" but he called out: "Ae der Danskere heah?" (Are there Danes here?) as he hurried up the platform. Maren whispered, in Danish, "Glory be to God!" They had family and a home in their new land.

Jorgen and his family joined Thomas, Belle, and Emma on their homestead and for a short time they all lived in the small combination adobe and frame house. It was located in Ford County very near the Hodgeman County line, approximately one and a half miles west of an extension of what is now Dodge City's 14th Avenue. Later Tommy's family moved to Dodge City where they lived in the 1100 block of what is now Second Avenue. Tommy went to work first laying cement sidewalks throughout the city. Later he became a custodian at the local post office.

When Tommy's family moved to town, Jorgen's family remained on the homestead and continued to farm the land. Later they acquired other homestead land, purchasing a relinquishment of a homestead that had not been lived on the required five years. This land was on the other side of the county line in Hodgeman County. They also farmed other Ford County land. In May 1905, their daughter, Belle, was born—

Maren's and Jorgen's only child born in America.

Maren died on July 4, 1920, and Jorgen died on April 14, 1936. Both are buried in St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery in rural southern Hodgeman County. Their children who remained in Ford County included daughters: Marie who married Carl Schoen, Stinne who married Bert Snyder, and Bell who married Charlie Hahn. The sons were: Henry who married Myrtle Smith and Sigvald who married Vilda Geoffrey. Pete moved to Iowa and married Cora Erickson. After her death, he married Etha Pogue of Missouri. Jim never married. He moved to Missouri, returned to Ford County in the 1940s. He died February 18, 1948, and is buried beside Maren and Jorgen.

Fifteen grandchildren of Jorgen and Maren who presently live in the Ford County area include the following: Arnold, Clarence, Al and Roy Schoen and Corinne Harms and Lola Boger who are children of Carl and Marie; Harry, Robert, Norman, and Ethel Peterson and Arlene Dumler and Viola Steinkuehler who are children of Henry and Myrtle; Raymond Snyder, son of Bert and Stinne; and Don and Danny Hahn who are the sons of Belle and Charlie.

Raymond Snyder

LOUIS AND EMMA PETTIJOHN

The Pettijohns came to Ford County in 1898. L.J. Pettijohn and wife, Emma Wright Pettijohn, arrived with their son, Horace Wright Pettijohn, and daughter Juliet Mildred Pettijohn, after having lived in Garden City for six years. Through the years in Dodge City the Pettijohn family lived at 712 Avenue A, then 1109 Central until their deaths in 1934 and 1940.

Horace was born in 1890, in Hugoton, Kansas. Except for a few years in the 1960s, when Horace spent some years in Topeka for health reasons, both Horace and Juliet lived their entire lives in Dodge City. Horace was in business with his father in real estate. He married Mary Menefee, of Urich, Missouri. For a time Horace and Mary lived at 1706 Avenue A. They later were

divorced. Horace died in 1965. He had no descendants.

Juliet was born in 1892, in Hugoton, Kansas. After graduating from Washburn College in 1914, she married Jess C. Denious on June 30, 1915, in the garden of the Pettijohn home on Central Avenue. At that time, Jess Denious was editor and publisher of the predecessor of the *Dodge City Daily Globe*. She taught school briefly in the old school on Boot Hill. Jess and Juliet Denious lived at 1109 Central, 1209 Central and built their home at 1109 First Avenue, where they lived until their deaths in 1953 and 1986. Their brick home began as a one-story house; in 1931, a second story was added. Jess died in 1953 and Juliet on January 7, 1986.

Louis Pettijohn was the son of a doctor in Indianapolis, the only son of seven who did not choose to become a doctor. Instead, he headed west and married Emma Wright, who had lived over the state line in Oklahoma Territory, south of Liberal. She moved to Woodsdale, then to Hugoton, where they were married on October 6, 1890.

Emma Wright Pettijohn was born in 1868, in Iowa. Her parents were Charles and Elizabeth Wright. [Their] family consisted of Emma, Lillie, Dolly, Carson, Kate, Charles Ray and Burris. At some point the family moved to Liberal for the schools. Today, only four of the offspring of the above children of Charles and Elizabeth are surviving: Mary Doris, Agnes, and Ray, children of Burris; and Elaine Black Kapp, daughter of Dolly.

Lil and Dolly Wright were early-day liberated women, even publishing a little newspaper in Voorhees, and later working at Emery, Bird, Thayer department store in Kansas City. Mother Elizabeth [Wright] died in 1919, at the age of 73. Charles Ray Wright left Kansas for Mexico and the copper mines; Burris went too, but returned to Liberal when father Charles [Wright] died of a stroke. Carson remained in Liberal, Kansas; Kate became the librarian for Liberal. Dolly married Mr. Black, and later married Dr. Schuyler Nicholson. [Their children were:] John, Charles,

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Old Soldiers' Reunion in Wright Park, August 1914.

Elaine, and Ruth. As noted, Emma married L.J. Pettijohn, moving from Hugoton, to Garden City, then to Dodge City. Their children were Horace Wright Pettijohn and Juliet Mildred Pettijohn.

One of the tales from the early days in this area was of the Hay Meadow Massacre, a county seat war between Woodsdale and Hugoton. The Hay Meadow was a lake bed in Oklahoma. This conflict resulted in the killing of all six Woodsdale men, leaving only one wounded boy. Many bodies were waiting to be picked up when Elizabeth Wright got the boy, hid him, and sent Dolly and brother Ray from Voorhees to Liberal for a doctor for the boy. When possible, they put the boy on a train headed East. So the Wrights definitely were involved in this massacre. Incidentally, the county seat was situated in Hugoton as a result.

In Stevens County, Louis Pettijohn [started out] living in a dugout and teaching school in Hugoton. Afterwards, he served as Register of Deeds for Stevens County. After serving in the land office in Dodge City, Louis Pettijohn was elected to the legislature, serving in 1915, and then was Kansas Secretary of State in 1918. He went to Wichita to serve on the Federal Land Bank and was appointed to chair the Federal Farm Loan Board in Washington, D.C., by President Harding in 1923. He and Emma lived in Washington for ten years.

During World War I, Louis served on the Ford County Ration Board, issuing sugar rations to German families of the area, as well as to all others. One

must remember that Germans were not too popular in those war days. Horace served in the Rainbow Division during this war.

Louis had left Indiana enroute to Las Vegas, New Mexico, but got off at Cimarron where he filed a claim to 160 acres of land. Teaching school for income and attempting to farm took his time then. He finally ended up selling all his wheat for seed, starting a widespread wheat farming area. He became Register of Deeds in Hugoton, and handled land claims. Handling homestead claims was a difficult job in those days, because it entailed having to check up on all those who had not lived on their claims long enough. When in Dodge City, he was in the real estate and loan business. At this time he also was instrumental in starting a telephone service in Dodge City and Spearville.

A big event in those early days was the annual Old Soldiers Reunion for Civil War Veterans held in Wright Park in Dodge City. Families looked forward to this event every year, many traveling to Dodge to see old friends.

In early-day Dodge City, entertaining was steady. Large parties were the rule. But the main thing was that Democrats did not entertain Republicans, and vice versa. This division among families in Dodge saw some Republicans not even willing to speak to Democratic friends. Emma Wright [Pettijohn] and Mrs. Milliken used to combine their china etc., for big parties since their china was an exact match.

Minnie Vollmer from Stubbs Grocery would call Emma Pettijohn each

morning to see what she wanted from the store. Sid Stubbs would deliver [the order] by wagon pulled by small mules, using the alley.

Condensing a great quantity of material into these few words was difficult and I am certain that there have been mistakes made. I hope the story is fairly correct and interesting.

Martha Elizabeth "Betty" Denious Munev

EVA SHINN PINE

Eva Shinn did not come to Kansas in a covered wagon. She did not come to take a homestead and raise a family. She came to Dodge City, Kansas, via the Santa Fe Railroad, in 1878, to teach school on Boot Hill. She made her home with her two brothers, Walter and Lloyd Shinn. One was an attorney and the other was a Probate Judge and Postmaster and together they edited *The Dodge City Times*.

It would be interesting to conjure up and review the details of life as a teacher in Dodge City, from 1877 to 1885. These were the years when such men as Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Ham Bell and Dr. McCarty made their reputations in Dodge and their children went to school on Boot Hill.

Of this time, *The Walnut City Blade* wrote: "The gentlemen of Dodge City are whole-souled fellows and fine business men. We can say that Sutton, Whitelaw, Winnie Gryden, Bob Wright, Shinn, Klaine, and Frost, are each a whole team with a mule colt following.

Records of social and school life found in *The News* files, read—"The Union Church, on Christmas Eve in 1879, was jammed to the doors for the town's first Christmas Tree; and Lloyd Shinn, no mean writer, wrote a lyrical account of the occasion."

No doubt the children of his sister's primary group furnished much of the program.

I do not know what salary a teacher received in those days, and whether or not they lived on buffalo meat but at the end of the eight years, Eva and her brothers owned two of the newest business houses in Dodge and a piece of land now known as the Shinn Addition to Dodge City,

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After the early death of Lloyd, Eva left Dodge City. She spent two terms teaching school in Spearville, Kansas, where she met and married a widower, Smith L. Pine. He also was a teacher and the father of two children, Walter F. Pine, 16 and Luella Pine, 12. Walter became Dr. W.F. Pine, one of the early-day doctors of Dodge City. At the time of the marriage, October 26, 1886, Mr. Pine owned and operated one-half of the Pine-Reed Lumber Yard in Fowler, Kansas. Here the family lived for four years.

To the 12-year-old step daughter, Luella, Eva became a much-admired and loved Mother. A boy, William Lloyd, was born on March 23, 1888, followed by a girl, Laura Rebecca, on August 13, 1889.

Following the depression of 1890, the family moved back to the homestead near Spearville, previously acquired by Smith. Then followed 37 years of pioneer farming. The last five years of this decade Eva's aged mother and blind sister shared their home and helped to feed, clothe and educate the children.

Then in 1918, WAR! The second son was in the Air Corps. The second daughter was an Army Nurse. Will, the oldest, enlisted in the infantry in July and came home in October in that all too familiar flag-draped box. This was perhaps Mother's darkest hour. Her aged mother died in October. In February, her husband finding life and war too strenuous, passed away quietly. Eva sold the farm and moved to Denver with the two younger children who were, by now, ready for advanced education.

These were better times. The youngest son graduated from Denver University with a degree in law, fulfilling one of her fondest dreams. She had grandchildren to enjoy. When a daughter-in-law said, "Mother is the most selfless woman I know." The whole community agreed.

Eva Edith Amanda Shinn (how she disliked that name!) did not live to be old. Though she lingered bedfast all one summer, she never lost interest in things about her. In the last few days of her life, she said to her son-in-law, "Tell me, what do you think of the Russians?"

This was in 1929. She had lived as much in 69 years, as many do in 96 years. She had served her apprenticeship, thus she was ready to move into better living. Perhaps it is best to move on while you will still be missed.

Laura Pine Carlson

DR. WALTER FREDERICK PINE

Dr. Pine was born February 12, 1870, at Kiskatom, New York, and came west to Kansas as a small boy when the journey by train required six to seven days to reach Pawnee Rock. From there the Pine family moved to a farm west of Larned and to Ford county in 1878.

It was on a Ford county farm that the 12-year-old boy saw his mother burned to death in the yard, as he and his father returned from a trip to town. His father, Smith L. Pine, was an early-day school teacher in northeast Ford county. As a boy he engaged with his father in freighting lumber across to Fowler from Dodge City before the Rock Island railroad came through.

At 16 he went to work in a drug store which E.R. Garland started here. Dr. Pine often told of his first experience at that job. It was to sweep out in the morning and he swept with violence and gusto, and then dusted with a feather duster. He thought he had finished the job. But the dust he had raised sweeping did not settle until after his dusting job was finished and he had the work to do over.

Three years later, while still a youth, he bought an interest in a drug store, after starting as a second clerk in Dr. T.L. McCarty's drug store and lived in the doctor's home. In 1890, he was admitted to practice as a registered pharmacist in Kansas and he kept up his registration until he died as one of the oldest registered pharmacists in the state.

He later was in a partnership with the late O.A. Bond in a drug store. C.M. States was also a member of that firm. Pine kept this partnership until he took up the practice of medicine. His friendship with Mr. Bond continued until that pioneer's death, and Dr. Pine's first daughter was given the middle name of Bond.

In comparative youth he was mar-

ried to Carrie Belle Markley of Dodge City. She died of tuberculosis in New Mexico a few years afterward. He contracted the disease, and was unable to remain in Philadelphia where he had taken up the study of medicine. He came to Kansas City to complete his medical work. In 1908, he and the late Dr. W.O. Thompson as partners bought the practice of Dr. C.A. Milton in Dodge City and a little later opened a hospital, which Dr. Thompson continued after the Thompson and Pine partnership was dissolved.

He married Sally Brunk Patterson in 1905. They had two daughters, Luella Bond Pine Dulaney and Martha Pine. Dr. and Mrs. Pine had an adopted grandson, Bill Pine Dulaney and he had a sister, Mrs. Fred Sheldon, of Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Pine was one of the founders of the Ford County Medical society and served as its secretary for many years. He was a 32nd degree Mason, a Shriner, an early-day member of the Chamber of Commerce, of the Kiwanis Club, was a Santa Fe surgeon at one time and was one of the organizers of the Presbyterian Church in Dodge City.

Dr. Pine was by nature a scientist, with an inquisitive turn of mind that served his profession well, and occa-



Dr. W.F. Pine

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sionally resulted in amusing incidents, his friends recall. When the use of anesthetic became general, he was consumed with a curiosity to learn the sensations they caused, and old friends recalled, and once in his drug store Dr. Pine was found groggy, just coming out of a deep sleep due to self-administered anesthetic. He assisted in treatment with the X-ray before the dangers of exposure to the rays were well known, and for several years he had been subject to serious spells of infection from burns on his hands which he incurred in the early days of the ray treatment.

Dr. W.F. Pine died January 24, 1938, at Murray Hospital, Dodge City, Kansas, at the age of 68 years.

Julia J. Hull
Dodge City Daily Globe, January 1, 1938
Dodge City Journal
Kansas and Kansans
A Sketch of the Life of Dr. Walter F. Pine.
Kansas Heritage Center
A Memorial History to the Early Doctors of Ford Co., Ford Co. Medical Society

WILLIAM AND ROSA

RECKNOR POTTORFF

William Henry Pottorff was born in Indiana on December 12, 1855, the son of George Lemman and Nancy Jane (Streck) Pottorff. The Pottorff family moved to David Co., Iowa, where William (Bill) married Rosa Anna Recknor on December 29, 1878, in Bloomfield, Davis, Co., Iowa.

Bill and Rosa's two oldest children were born in Davis County. James Arthur was born September 29, 1879, and Lydia Jane on November 8, 1881. Sometime between 1881 and 1886, the family had moved to Union Co., Iowa, near the town of Creston where other members of the Recknor family had settled.

In the summer of 1886, the William Pottorff family decided to move to western Kansas. Bill's sister, Lydia and her husband Garrett Fresh accompanied them. They were enticed by the advertising of free land that could be had by filing a claim on 160 acres and living on it for five years. They brought furniture, machinery and livestock on the train to Wichita, Kansas. From Wichita,



The Pottorff family about 1918. Left to right: Callie Pottorff, Arthur Pottorff, Rosa Pottorff, Lydia (Pottorff) Adams, Will (Bub) Adams and W.H. Pottorff.

they loaded all their possessions on covered wagons and headed west to Ford County. The memorable event on that trip was at one of the crossings of the Ninnescah River. The Garrett Fresh wagon was in the lead and made the crossing safely, but suddenly the Pottorff wagon began to sink in the quick sand. It was a frightening experience that four-year-old Lydia never forgot. When it looked as though all of the Pottorff possessions would be lost, her Uncle Garrett hitched his team in front of the Pottorff team and the two teams pulled the wagon out of the river.

The two families arrived in Ford County in August 1886. Bill and Rosa filed on a homestead about 14 miles southwest of Dodge City. Garrett Fresh after looking the country over, decided to hunt greener pastures and headed for Oregon. However, several members of the Recknor family came later to try their luck. Rosa's mother and father homesteaded a couple of miles southeast of the Pottorff's but neither they, nor any of their family stayed through the dry, hard years of the late eighties. They, along with so many other Easterners, returned to their old homes. The Pottorffs always said that the reason that they didn't go was because they didn't have the money to make the trip back to Iowa. However, after a few more years of struggle on the homestead, Bill

and Rosa let some former neighbors, convince them that life on a farm near Joplin, Missouri, would be easier. They sold their homestead and this time they headed east in the covered wagon. By that time they had another son Calvin, always called Callie, who was born July 16, 1890.

Bill and Rosa were disappointed and disgusted with the rocky ground that their friends were farming. They did spend the winter in Missouri, but 12-year-old Arthur got the "chills and fever" (malaria) and suffered all winter. When spring came, they were anxious to get back to Ford County. Since they had sold their homestead, they settled in South Dodge. Arthur, Lydia and Callie attended school on Boot Hill. On October 27, 1897, Maudie Lillian was born but tragedy struck two and one half years later when the beautiful little girl died with double pneumonia.

Both Arthur and Callie quit school to go to work but Lydia remained in school because she had set her heart on being a teacher. She did realize her dream and taught seven years in the rural schools of Ford and Hodgeman counties.

Working for wages on the railroad in Dodge City did not satisfy the farmer's heart of Bill Pottorff. Within a few years the family moved to a farm three miles north of Dodge City. Later

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they were able to buy a farm two miles farther north and west. As the years passed, they added three quarter section to the farm. They remained on their farm until their deaths. Bill, or W.H. as he was known to many, died October 26, 1938. Rosa, with the help of her oldest grandson, Will, or W.W. Adams, as he was known, lived on the farm until her death February 20, 1948. W.W. is the son of Lydia Pottorff and her husband, Arthur Adams.

Arthur Pottorff, the oldest son of W.H. and Rosa Pottorff, married Fannie Stapleton on December 22, 1904. They were the parents of six children: Neola, Dorothy, Clarence, Viola, Mildred, and Ellsworth. They lived on various rented farms in Ford, Gray, Haskell and Johnson counties while the children were growing up. Neola married Edward Hessman and Dorothy married Howard Gall in Ford County. Clarence married Nadine Goloby at Cimarron. Arthur, Fannie and the four younger children moved to Lane County near Healy in the middle 1930s where Viola and Mildred married. During World War II, Arthur, Fannie and their youngest son, Ellsworth moved to Stratton, Colorado. Ellsworth married there. He and his wife still live at Vona, a small town near Stratton. Fannie died June 17, 1968, and Arthur died May 19, 1970.

Lydia married Arthur Adams. Their family story is found elsewhere in this volume.

Callie Pottorff, the younger son, married Belle Anderson on September 25, 1911. They farmed for many years in Ford County but they, too, found good ranch land in Lane County in the middle '30s. It was Callie who first moved to the area. Arthur, seeing the ranching possibilities soon followed. Both families lived in Lane County in the rough ranch land near the Smokey Hill River until the government chose that area as a good site for a bombing practice range during World War II. They gave the ranchers good prices for their land. The Pottorff brothers took their money and invested in good farm land in eastern Colorado near the town of Stratton.

Callie and Belle were the parents of

eleven children: Neva, William (Bill), Homer, Helen, Laurin, Ernest, Doris, Harley, Lela, Kenneth and Robert (Bob). All except Kenneth and Bob were born in Ford County. The two younger were born in Lane County. All moved to Colorado, but Neva and her husband, Albert Wasson, who were the first to move, returned to the old Callie Pottorff farm and still live in the home east of the end of 14th Avenue on the Correction Line Road north of Dodge City. Their son, Jim, does their farming. Albert and Neva have four children: Clarence, who lives on the farm one half mile west of theirs; James (Jim), Patsy (Wasson) Hutchinson and Coralea (Wasson) Feasel. The daughters live in Colorado.

Will, or W.W. Adams, and his wife, Vera live on the W.H. Pottorff farm. Their son, Wayne and Larry have done the farm work since W.W. retired from active farming.

Lola Adams Crum

THE TRIMPA AND PRESTON

FAMILIES

Frank Trimpa and Catherina Ann Molitor Trimpa

Catharine Ann Molitor was born in Stuttgart, Germany, on February 5, 1861, and died August 9, 1939. She came to the U.S. with her parents, Joseph and Frances Molitor in 1865.

When their ship landed in New York harbor, our nation was mourning the death of Abraham Lincoln. The family spent nine years in Joliet, Illinois, then came by railroad to Kinsley, Kansas, in 1874 and homesteaded land in Wheatland Township (Pleasant Valley). A grandson, Edwin Molitor, still lives on this land.

Frank Trimpa, of Stuttgart, Germany, came to Ford County as a farm worker in the 1870s. Frank Trimpa and Catharine Molitor were married in 1882 and farmed in Ford County until 1889, when Grandpa Frank took his family by horse and wagon to Indian Territory near Ada, Oklahoma, on land to be homesteaded. The family lived there until hard times and illness caused by contaminated water from open wells occurred. At the urging of Catharine's brother, George Molitor, they moved back to Pleasant Valley in 1901, where their last three children were born in Ford County.

James Frank and Leola Scott Preston

The Preston heritage extends back to pioneer Samuel Preston, born in Scotland in 1753. He immigrated to the Colony of New Jersey (Sussex Co.) in the late 1760s, where he met Mary Pugh. They married and had two children before Samuel enlisted in the Revolutionary War. He was an Ensign



Frank and Catharine Molitor Trimpa Family. Back row (left to right): Mary Trimpa Stewart, Jeff Trimpa, George Trimpa, Suzzie Trimpa Padget, Allen Trimpa, Ted Trimpa, Frank Trimpa. Front row: Bessie Trimpa Mallory, Lizzie Trimpa Preston, Francis Trimpa Cook, Catharine Ann Trimpa Molitor, Tom Trimpa, Maggie Trimpa Matkins.

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whose duty was to carry the regimental colors. He served the winter of 1777-78, with General George Washington at Valley Forge. Family records tell of a letter to his wife, Mary Pugh Preston, that stated that he sometimes awoke to find his hair frozen to the ground.

After the Revolutionary War, Samuel returned to his family and farm. He lived there until 1793, when he moved with James Preston, Sr., his brother and three sisters, and their belongings west over the Allegheny Mountains by oxen and wagon to Uniontown, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, about 28 miles southeast of present Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

From Pennsylvania, James Preston, Sr., the oldest in his family, moved west another 100 miles to the Pennsylvania and Ohio border just west of Pittsburgh. His son, Joseph Preston, (Clem Preston's grandfather) born at Jamestown, was apprenticed as a chair maker. Joseph engaged in the carpenter trade until he married Philenda Waldo. The couple moved to the Waldo Farm at Shallerville, Ohio, and made their living by farming.

Their son, James Frank Preston, was born in 1854, in Shallerville, Ohio. He married Leola Scott. They farmed at East Liberty, Ohio, until they moved to Walnut, Kansas, in 1882, to be near his older brother, Waldo Preston, a preacher. In 1886, he moved his family by railroad to Cimarron, Kansas, and from there by horse and wagon to Old Ravanna, a ghost town near Kalvesta, Kansas. While in Ravanna (1886-88), James Frank Preston broke sod and also freighted with his wagon for extra income. He helped haul stone for the court house in Ravanna which was never used because the county seat was lost to Eminence, another town company to the southwest. The family went back east by covered wagon to the Hutchinson, Kansas, area in 1888, because of the blizzard of 1886 and the lack of schools for the family. Back in Reno County, the family of James Frank Preston lived on two or three different farms. During these years their son, Clem Preston, was growing up (age three through 16). They raised corn, sorghum, and wheat and had a small orchard. Clem remem-



James Frank Preston, Sr. with his sons George "Print" Preston and Clem Scott Preston.

bered taking sugar cane to be made into sorghum. It was ground or pressed in a machine powered by an ox driven in a circle around the press. They took wheat and corn to grinding mills in the area.

In 1901, with the financial aid of J.P. Harshey, a banker and mayor of Hutchinson, the family moved to Bucklin, Kansas, in Ford County. They needed more room for their growing herd of Black Galloway cattle. They shipped the 70 to 80 cattle by Rock Island Railroad. They moved their personal goods by horse and wagon. The trip took two and a half days. The first night was spent just east of Belpre, Kansas, and the second night at the Henry Wetzel farm near Windthorst. Their new home was on the Arkansas River where Clem and his father built a prospering ranching operation for the next ten years.

Clem Scott Preston and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ethel Trimpa Preston

This family has been in Ford County or this region since 1886. Of this large family of 12 children, seven have spent the majority of their lives in Ford County.

Clem Preston was born at Walnut, Kansas, on September 21, 1885. He was the son of James Frank and Leona (Scott) Preston. Clem's wife, Lizzie,

was born in Ford County April 22, 1888, the fourth of 13 children of Frank and Catharine Ann (Molitor) Trimpa.

In 1903, Clem met Lizzie, who lived only about four miles to the north across the Arkansas River. He had returned from spending a year attending Kansas Normal College in Emporia, Kansas. Clem had worked for a doctor, caring for his horses and carriages and driving him at night to his patients while attending school during the day. He played football on the KSN team against College of Emporia, the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri. He left college after one term to work full time in the growing ranching business in Ford County.

Before his marriage (age 18 to 23), Clem spent long hours on horseback working the cattle, mending and building fences, hauling feed for the cattle so they could be hand fed early each morning. In spite of this, he would take his spirited trotter and his carriage and make the 44 mile round trip to Dodge City on Saturday afternoon and return late that night to repeat his duties on the ranch the next day. He mentioned that the horse learned the way back on his own. He always expressed his love for a good and spirited horse. He also mentioned that there were no large trees on the Arkansas River during those years due to frequent prairie fires, with the exception of a large grove located at the present Wilroads Gardens, south of the river at Fort Dodge and at the Arkansas River bridge in Dodge City.

Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Trimpa) Preston would laugh and tell of raising cotton



Wedding photo of Clem Scott Preston and Elizabeth Ethel (Lizzie) Trimpa Preston, May 28, 1908, at Offerle, Kansas.

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Family of Clem and Lizzie Preston. Back row (left to right): Frank James Preston, Charles Scott Preston, William Allen Preston, Kenneth Marion Preston, Harold Earl Preston. Middle row: Robert Glen Preston, Helen Irene Preston Morris, Burnice Verna Preston Shelly, Katherine Miriam Preston Campbell, Vera Pearl Preston Schellhamer. Front row: Eleanor Ruth Preston Helfrich, Elizabeth Ethel "Lizzie" Preston Trimpa, Clem Scott Preston, Elizabeth Maxine Preston Hullman.

at her parent's, (Frank and Catharine Trimpa) farm in Indian Territory in Oklahoma. While she and her two older sisters were hoeing the young cotton plants, her sister said, "Just hoe it out, Lizzie, and we won't have to pick it." Lizzie also remembered being afraid of traveling Indians who stopped and asked for food and water.

Clem and Lizzie were married at Offerle, Kansas, on May 28, 1908. Their reception and dance was at Aunt Mary (Molitor) Oliphant's. That night they went by horse and carriage to Kinsley, Kansas, for their honeymoon, and then back to the ranch and their new home the next day. Their home was located at S28 T27 R21, near the Bucklin Bridge on the south bank of the Arkansas River. Their ranch house and out-buildings were at the base of the sand hills pasture land that is about four miles in width. They leased a plot of land three miles by four miles directly south of them towards Bucklin, Kansas, and raised cattle for the next ten years on this Railroad Grant land.

They maintained this large cow and calf operation, keeping the best heifers

and selling the culls and steers at two to three and a half years. Clem would get enough for a full train car on the Rock Island Railroad and transport them to the Kansas City Stock Yards on the Missouri River. He would ride on the caboose. Because they did not stop to check or unload, he would walk the top of the moving train and crawl down into the car and check on the cattle. He said the floor would get slick when wet and the only way to get the cattle up was to prod them with a pocket knife. Imagine standing among these long-horned steers and doing this! After all this growing time, hard work and travel Clem got only an average price of \$20 a head for them.

The family lived on the ranch from 1908-1913, where their first four children (Frank, Vera, Burnice and Scott) were born. All 12 of their children were born at home, ten miles from the nearest town with the assistance of a doctor and a mid-wife (usually a neighbor or older relative).

In 1913, J.P. Harshey passed away and due to only a previous verbal agreement the heirs of Harshey chose to with-

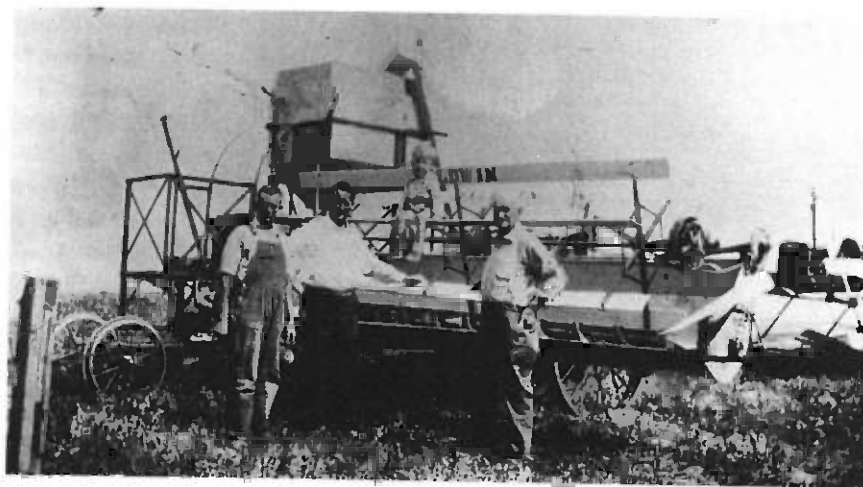
draw. As a result Grandfather James Frank Preston decided to move Grandmother Leola Preston, who had a severe illness, and his two youngest daughters to Glendale, California. This move allowed Clem and his brother, George "Print" Preston to restructure the business. They formed the Preston and Preston Corporation, an agreement (recorded in a Deed Book in Ford County) and farmed and ranched together from 1913 to 1921. This new business was to include more dry-land farming so they moved south across the sand hills six miles to their new farms (NE 1/4 and S 1/2 of S22 T28 R21). This site has a sandy loam soil better suited to raise cash crops and feed for the animals. They needed more work horses so Clem invested in a purebred Percheron stallion and raised a very fine group of draft or work horses for their own use. For eight years they raised row crops, cane for forage, corn and wheat and continued in the cattle business.

During this period Clem and Lizzie's family had grown to seven (Bill, Harold and Helen) and in the summer of 1921, they moved to Grandmother Trimpa's farm two and a half miles west of Ford, Kansas, to S25 T27 R23. This site was just south of the Arkansas River and north of the railroad. They lived here for one year until the spring of 1922, when the twins (Katherine and Kenneth) were born on December 19, 1922. The next move was to the Frank Cook Place S15 T27 R22, where the last three children of the 12 were born (Bob, Betty and Eleanor). Eleanor's birth came in Lizzie's 44th year and Clem was 47. This last child was also born at home with no problems.

The Preston family continued to live on the farm during the twenties and the depression of the thirties. Clem used his team and helped build roads and Ford County Lake on the WPA program. Their children grew up and four of their sons, (Scott, Bill, Harold and Kenneth) served in the armed services during World War II. Clem worked for Fairmont Foods and maintained the truck farm during the forties.

By 1954, their family was grown and gone, building their own lives and fami-

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



Left to right: John Challfont of Bucklin, Robert Preston, Clem Scott Preston and Frank Cook.

lies. Clem and Lizzie lived in Wilroads and enjoyed traveling. On December 7, 1961. Lizzie passed away at St. Anthony Hospital in Dodge City. Clem and their youngest son, Bob moved to Dodge City in 1962, where Bob was a teacher and coach for 39 years at Dodge City Jr. High School. On December 10, 1973. Clem passed away at Trinity Hospital in Dodge City. Both are buried at the Ford, Kansas, cemetery.

Clem and Lizzie Preston lived in a unique period experiencing such rapid progress in transportation (from horses to jets) and living conditions (from the necessities to the luxuries of life). We as a family have so many cherished memories of these two loving, positive parents who gave us all a solid pattern for our own lives.

As of 1994, they were the roots of 12 children, 31 grandchildren, 58 great grandchildren, 22 great great grandchildren and growing.

Genealogy of the Preston Family

Clem Scott Preston, born September 21, 1885, Walnut, Kansas, occupation rancher/farmer, died December 10, 1973, Dodge City, Kansas, married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ethel Trimpa, May 28, 1908, Offerle, Kansas. She was born April 22, 1888, Ford Co., Kansas, died December 7, 1961, Dodge City, Kansas, occupation homemaker. Their 12 children: 1. **James Frank** Preston, born Mar 21, 1909, Bucklin, Kansas, farm, died February 28, 1956, Spokane Wash-

ington, farm, beverage worker. 2. **Vera Pearl** Preston, born September 6, 1910, Bucklin, Kansas, farm, died January 23, 1974, Emporia, Kansas. She married Ralph Evert Schellhamer, March 25, 1933, Ford, Kansas, occupation school teacher/homemaker. They had two children, eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. 3. **Burnice Verna** Preston, born June 3, 1912, Bucklin, Kansas, farm, married Donald W. Shelly, May 12, 1934, Ford, Kansas, occupation homemaker, employee of USD 443. They had two children, two grandchildren and one great grandchild. 4. **Charles Scott** Preston, born March 16, 1914, Bucklin, Kansas, farm, married Hazel Lorean Schwartz, April 26, 1947, Spokane, Washington. Served in U.S. Army in Alaska, France and Belgium (1942-45). They had one child, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. 5. **William Allen** Preston, born January 17, 1917, Bucklin, Kansas, farm, died September 12, 1985, Halstead, Kansas. He married Faye Tipton Waggoner, May 17, 1947, Ford, Kansas. Served in U.S. Army Air Force in England (1941-45). 6. **Harold Earl** Preston, born August 30, 1918, Bucklin, Kansas, farm, died March 3, 1992, Dodge City, Kansas. He married Fern H. Woker, August 20, 1948, Woneveu, Kansas. Occupation finish carpenter and contractor. Served in U.S. Army in France and Germany (1942-26). They had two children and three grandchildren. 7. **Helen Irene** Preston, born May

17, 1920, Bucklin, Kansas, farm, married John Max Morris, October 5, 1940, Dodge City, Kansas, occupation homemaker. They had six children and eight grandchildren. 8. **Katharine Miriam** Preston, born December 29, 1922, Twin, Ford, Kansas, farm. She married Leonard A. Campbell, May 30, 1945, Dodge City, Kansas, occupation beautician/homemaker. They had three children and seven grandchildren. 9. **Kenneth Marion** Preston, born December 29, 1922, Twin, Ford, Kansas, farm, married Leona Stafford Woker, October 28, 1858, Dodge City, Kansas, died January 11, 1992, Dodge City, Kansas. Served in Kansas National Guard, U.S. Army Tank Corps France (1942-46). Occupation finish carpenter and contractor. They had three children and eight grandchildren. 10. **Robert Glen** Preston, born October 13, 1926, Ford, Kansas, farm. He was a single school teacher and coach with USD 443 Dodge City Junior High for 39 Years. 11. **Elizabeth Maxine** Preston, born January 30, 1929, Ford, Kansas, farm. She married Loren A. Hullman, June 30, 1954, Ford, Kansas. Occupation school teacher at Kingsdown and Larned, Kansas, and homemaker. They had three children and two grandchildren. 12. **Eleanor Ruth** Preston, born January 3, 1932, Ford, Kansas, farm. She married Cletus Alfred Helfrich, September 7, 1954, Wright, Kansas, died April 22, 1988, Wright, Kansas. She was a school teacher in Bloom, Kansas, and a homemaker. They had five children and nine grandchildren.

Robert (Bob) Preston

DANIEL PORTER "PETE"

RAGLAND AND NANCY MATILDA

MOORE RAGLAND

Daniel Porter "Pete" Ragland and Nancy Matilda Moore were married December 25, 1879, in Marion Co., Missouri. When they decided to come west, they settled in the small town of Colusa, Kansas, which was ten miles north of Copeland. They had a sod building for a grocery store and a half-soddie dugout for a home. They lived there until 1890, when they moved to

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Dodge City. They operated a store in the 700 block on Second Avenue, living in the back of the store. The wooden sugar bin from the store is still in the family.

The Raglands were the parents of nine children: Vincent, Ora (Ragland) Vawter, Lily (Ragland) Hubble, Fleda (Ragland) Bourn, Maud (Ragland) Perry, Esta (Ragland) Ritter, Lena (Ragland) Johnson, Victor and Reba (Ragland) Howard.

Mr. Ragland had learned the paper hanging and house painting trade. With this work he raised his seven daughters and two sons. He was City Marshall for a time. He became interested in the real estate business and with Mr. Orebaugh as a partner had an office in the basement of the Dodge House. His brother-in-law, Clem Moore, was managing the Dodge House at the time.

Vincent, Ralph Miller, and a few others ran the first telephone lines to their homes. Eventually, Vincent became the first manager of the new telephone company.

The Ragland family were Baptists. Before the church was built, the members met in each other's homes. After the church was built, Mr. Ragland, being a painter, offered to paint the interior. Unfortunately, many of the congregation were so opposed to having the interior of their church painted red that about half of the congregation left and joined the Christian Church.

The Raglands lived on First Avenue when Victor was born in 1893 but soon moved to the 900 block on Second Avenue. The family needed a cow and there was no room on Second Avenue. They found a suitable place on Avenue D. The young ladies in the Ragland family declared that moving to that part of town ruined their social standing but they did have milk. Cows owned by the various families were gathered together each day by a hired herdsman and were driven out north to be pastured on grassland north of town. Victor Ragland often helped with the herd.

It was with pride that the parents entered the church each Sunday followed by their seven lovely daughters all dressed in white.

The girls married and moved into their own homes. Lily went to Los Angeles. Maud's first husband was killed in a train accident, she married again and was living in Copeland, Kansas, when she died. Reba married a railroad engineer and lived in Dodge City for a while but later moved to Newton. Lena married a man who lost his arm. They lived in Newton. Esta married and died in childbirth. After Fleda married she lived in Kansas City. Ora was born November 25, 1883, in Audrain, Co., Missouri. She moved to Texas when she married William Albert Vawter, of Sterling, Colorado, on October 20, 1907. After three daughters, Margaret, Emilia, (also found as Amelia) and Barbara, were born, he deserted his family and Ora moved back to Dodge City.

Vincent Ragland built a house in the 1500 block on Central Avenue. It had a rare flush toilet, something the kids in the neighborhood had never seen. They would all stop by on the way home from school to get to use it and to see it flush.

Victor Ragland lived in Newton. His oldest daughter, Lucille, married Loren Hopkins. Loren came to Dodge City to work for Nelson Johnson, the husband of Leila (Woolwine) Johnson as a carpenter. Later he became a rural mail carrier. Victor's daughter, Mary, has become an aeronautical engineer and Billie, the youngest, is a Lt. Commander in the Navy.

When Ora Ragland Vawter returned to Dodge City with her daughters, she became the town librarian. Until she came, the library was just a building with books on the shelves. She learned how to catalog the books and arrange them on the shelves correctly. She did this with the help of kindly volunteers and her children. Not only did Ora Vawter care for the books, she was also the janitor and had to "wrestle" with the old coal furnace in the basement.

Victor's daughter, Lucille, was near the age of Ora's daughter, Barbara. Lucille knew that her aunt kept butter-scotch drops and chocolate kisses in a drawer of her big roll-top desk. The cousins spent many hours playing in the upstairs or cupola of the old Carnegie Library. It was a good place to be when



**Ora Ragland Vawter
1883-1954**

parades went by. Aunt Ora always cautioned the girls to play in their stocking feet, so as not to disturb those who were reading in the library. Their favorite pastime was cutting out and playing with paper dolls.

Ora's daughter, Margaret, married Hoot Berger, who at that time was a popular local prize fighter. They had one daughter but were later divorced. Margaret remarried and moved to Kansas City. Amelia had asthma and moved to New Mexico. Barbara lived in Dodge City where her daughters, Sidney and Gene grew up.

Ora Vawter worked in the Dodge City Public Library for 29 years, from 1922 until 1951, when she retired. She died February 2, 1954, at age 70.

Ora's father, Porter Ragland, always known as Pete, died April 14, 1910, but her mother, Nancy Mathilda, lived until November 27, 1937.

None of the Ragland descendants now live in Dodge City except Victor's daughter, Lucille Hopkins, her three children, David Hopkins, Diane Hasik and Denise Hopkins and their children and grandchildren. Other descendants are Reba Ragland Howard's son, Melvin, and his daughter Steffany and son, Scott, and their grandchildren.

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ISAAC AND MARY ELLEN RAINS

Isaac Rains was born December 26, 1832, the son of Nathan Rains and Lydia Troth Rains who married July 28, 1831, in Polk Co., Missouri. Isaac's mother died when he was a small boy. His stepmother did not like having him around. His father served in the Mexican War and died of typhoid fever when Isaac was eight.

When he was 12 years old, his stepmother burned Isaac's little trunk that contained his mother's clothes which he treasured. He was so heartbroken that he ran away to his Uncle John and Aunt Ruth Rains Darby's home. This devout Quaker family loved and cared for him until he was a young man and saw that he had a good education. He then moved to Mills Co., Iowa. He worked for 25 cents a day and saved his money. He bought 40 acres of land, then each time he got \$50 saved, he would buy more land. By the time he was 22, he had 200 acres of land, his house and other buildings, cows, oxen and horses. It is quite evident that Isaac was an industrious and thrifty young man to save and buy as he did. He had worked for Amos and Candice Brewer Williams. Amos was born about 1801, in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and Candice was born in North Carolina. They were married August 26, 1826, in Christian Co., Kentucky. This couple became his in-laws several years later when he married their daughter Mary Ann September 20, 1854. She was one of a family of eleven children and she had much of the care of the little children, which she was sick of. But ironically Isaac and Mary Ann had eight children of their own. She was a wonderful, loving and talented mother. She kept busy spinning, dying and weaving yarn to make the clothing for all of the family, making blankets from the wool of the sheep. She was known as a wonderful cook by family and neighbors. Their children were: Francis Marion, born June 30, 1856; Harvey, born July 1858; Alfred, born September 1860; Harrison, born December 1863; twins Lawrence and Mary Ellen, born March 8, 1866; Anna, born September 2, 1868; and Amos,

born 1871. The parents gave their children a good education. They were devout Christians, attending church each Sunday and studying their Bible at home.

Isaac's ancestors were mostly Welsh with some Scotch and Irish. He was slightly built, 6'1" with black, curly hair, brown eyes and fair skin. Mary Ann's ancestors were from England, immigrating to Jamestown, Virginia, and on to Kentucky. She was 5'8", slender with thick, dark hair, blue eyes and fair skin and she moved like lightning. In 1839, her father Amos and three other men gave three men \$100 each to build four cabins for them in Missouri. One hundred dollars was a lot of money in those days. The Williams and the three other families started on their journey from Kentucky to Cedar Co., Missouri. The Williams family took their furniture, drove two teams of horses, six yoke of oxen and all of their stock. It was quite a perilous journey, traveling by covered wagons. There were no bridges, so crossing the rivers was some feat. One wagon packed with comforters, featherbeds and pillows overturned and was completely lost, so they had to save feathers from the wild duck and geese and make new bedding. They could not take feed enough along for their stock so it was necessary to stop often to graze which added to the length of the journey. When the four families arrived in Cedar Co., Missouri, they found the men had built two cabins and skipped out with the rest of the money. So they doubled up until they could build two more cabins. After a few years they



Isaac and Mary Ellen Rains

moved on to Iowa, which seemed to be the California of that day and it was there that they made their wealth. In 1867, when Isaac was told by the doctor he must move to a warmer climate for his bronchitis, Isaac and Mary Ann moved back to Cedar Co., Missouri. Anna and Amos were born there. In 1883, Isaac and the oldest son, Marion, went to Kansas looking for a location and found a place four miles south of Pratt. Isaac stayed to build a house. In early spring, 1884, after Isaac had sold the Missouri farm, they shipped their furniture by freight to Wichita, Kansas, which was as far west as the railroad went. They loaded their wagons and struck out for Wichita. When they arrived, their furniture had not yet arrived, so they camped out for two weeks waiting for it, then moved on to Pratt.

Isaac Rains and D.H. Connaway, Sr. were good friends in Missouri and enjoyed sitting together at Masonic Lodge meetings. The Connaways were enroute to homestead 18 miles northwest of Dodge City and they stopped to visit the Rains family. In 1885, because of glowing advertisements of Ford County and the influence of the Connaways, Isaac and Mary Ann Rains and their three younger children, Mary Ellen, 17; Anna, 15; and Amos, 13, moved to Ford County.

They homesteaded 12 miles northwest of Dodge City, six miles east of the Connaways. The Rains family lived in a dugout until their frame house was built. After living very comfortably in Missouri and Iowa, it took pioneer blood to survive and be happy until their home was established. The fear of rattlesnakes, storms and prairie fires was great among the Rains family. They plowed several furrows around their land, ready to use as a backfire guard. Wild meat was plentiful; jackrabbit, possum, and wild geese were a hunter's joy, so they never went hungry when times were hard through lack of rain. Mary Ann and her daughters were excellent cooks. Anything they prepared was delicious.

The machinery was primitive and the power to pull the plows and other implements was by man, oxen, teams of

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D.H. Conaway, Jr. with a new buggy, Una, Anna Rains Connaway and Bernice.

horses or mules. It took long days of toil and labor to break the prairie sod out a few acres at time and get ready for planting the wheat, rye and millet. Trees were planted for shade. Amos was a natural carpenter and worked for many Ford Countians when he and his father were not busy on the farm. The northwest called Amos to pioneer at Weippe, Idaho, and on to Forest Grove, Oregon, to the lumbering and logging business where he prospered and where he enjoyed living close to his brothers. Mary Ellen married Charley Dillman, a Cimarron homesteader and childhood sweetheart. Two of their eight children, Merle and Illene Dillman Norton, stayed in Cimarron. On April 24, 1891, Isaac's daughter, Anna, married Dennis H. Connaway Jr., at the Rains home by a Christian preacher, Mr. Ridenour. Parents of D.H. Jr., were Dennis and Serena Connaway, Sr. "H" took his bride. Anna, called Ann, to the Connaway home which he had built for her. They had two daughters, Bernice Winifred, born February 26, 1892, and Una Ethel, born January 29, 1894 (Kansas Day), at the Connaway home where their weddings also took place. On January 10, 1917, Bernice married Frank J. Converth, the son of Joseph and Frieda Converth, early pioneer farmers of northern Ford County. They had one son, Joe Dennis Converth. In 1942, he married Maxine McComas, daughter of F.M. (Marion) and Jennie Mabbitt McComas who were early settlers 12 miles north of Dodge City. Maxine was

one of eleven children. Joe and Maxine farmed and lived north of Dodge City when they were first married. Later they moved to Dodge City and continued their farming operation. In 1909, Una Ethel Connaway married Zack H. Taylor, a farmer south of town, the son of Edmund and Annie Hill Taylor, early settlers four miles south of Dodge City. Their four children were: Bernice Y. Taylor, Virgil E. Taylor, Jean Connaway Taylor, born April 23, 1929, died at eight months of pneumonia, and Cleo Lorraine Taylor.

The Isaac Rains lived with their children, D.H. Connaway and Anna Connaway, in their latter years. The granddaughters, Bernice and Una, had treasured memories of Isaac reading the Bible aloud often and the family discussing it, the discussion of politics and local and national events. They learned to be good gardeners. There was lots of teasing and love in their family with a deep bond of love and respect for each other. Isaac died January 6, 1907, and Mary Ann, December 22, 1914. They were buried at the Ridenour Cemetery, a few miles from their homestead. Their descendants live on in Ford County, 108 years after they came seeking a better home for their families.

Cleo Taylor Fischer
See the Edmund and Anna Hill Taylor and
the D. H. Connaway family entries

CHARLES RATH

Charles Rath was born in Germany and came to America with his family when he was about 11. They settled on a farm in Ohio. In the early 1850s, Charles left home to make his way in the West. He went first to Bent's Fort where he worked in the commissary then went out on his own as a trader among the Cheyenne Indians. When he was 24, he married Roadmaker, a Cheyenne woman who may have been the sister of William Bent's wife, Owl Woman. The couple had one child, Cheyenne Belle. In 1864, they were living at Walnut Creek Station, near the present city of Great Bend, when the Cheyenne attacked the trading post and carried Roadmaker and Belle away with them. Rath continued his trading and



Charles Rath

freighting business over the Southwest and into Texas.

In 1870, he went home to Ohio to visit for the first time and while there, he married 19-year-old Caroline (Carrie) Markley who had just graduated from college. Carrie was born September 23, 1851, in Sweetwine, Ohio, the daughter of Henry and Catherine Markley. In 1872, they came to Dodge City and Charles went into the mercantile business with Robert Wright and A.J. Anthony. Charles Rath and Company was the biggest and most profitable business in town. They bought and sold buffalo hides as well as all kinds of outfitting goods. After five years, Rath sold his store interest to Wright



**Caroline "Carrie" (Markley)
Rath Bainbridge
1851-1923**



Roadmaker, first wife of Charles Rath

and concentrated on freighting and outposts that supplied the buffalo trade at Fort Griffin, Fort Elliott, Mobeetie and Rath City, all in Texas. He also was one of the most successful hunters. Once he killed 103 animals from one stand.

Carrie was a cultured and talented lady. She loved to play the fine piano which she had brought from the East. Charles and Carrie had three children: Jesse who died in early childhood and Robert Rath and Bertha Rath Meyers who lived in Dodge City. Robert and Bertha both married and neither had children. Carrie was left alone with her children for long periods by her ambitious husband who established stores in many frontier towns. They were divorced in 1885, in Texas.

Charles then married Emma Nesper, a Philadelphia socialite. After 10 years



Hattie Crump, daughter of Cheyenne Belle

they were divorced. Carrie married Thomas Bainbridge, a Dodge City railroad man. He was killed in 1899. Carrie and Thomas Bainbridge had a son, Roy Bainbridge. Emma Nesper's son, Morris Rath, grew up in Philadelphia and became a major league baseball player. Cheyenne Belle was married twice and had six children, three of whom attended Carlisle Indian Institute. Her son, Mike Belanti, played shortstop for the Cincinnati Reds. Belle herself became one of the most able Cheyenne women and at one time acted as interpreter for General Phil Sheridan.

Charles Rath died penniless at his sister's home in Los Angeles, July 30, 1902. Carrie died in Dodge City, November 28, 1923.

Betty Braddock

GEORGE WASHINGTON

REIGHARD

George Washington Reighard was born February 1, 1847, in Pennsylvania. At the time of his death on August 22, 1936, he was 89 years old and had been a resident of Dodge City for 64 years. He was one of the first residents of Dodge City when it was founded in 1872. He was engaged in the freighting business, operated a ranch and was one of the early buffalo hunters.

He served two Civil War enlistments before coming west, entering the 22nd Pennsylvania Cavalry, August 1, 1863, and reenlisting February 10, 1864, in Company A, 184th Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded in the Battle of Cold Harbor and came out of a hospital in time to participate in the national funeral ceremonies for Abraham Lincoln.

Following his discharge on May 15, 1865, he came west to Hays in 1867, to enter the government freighting service between Fort Hays and Fort Dodge. His supplies were for General Custer's famous 7th Cavalry. After two years he acquired freighting outfits of his own, headquartering at Fort Dodge. He drove bull trains and mule trains through the Indian Territory to Fort Supply in northern Oklahoma and into the Texas panhandle through buffalo country. During his freighting days a government wagon train consisted of 30 six-mule teams. His own outfit later consisted of six teams of six mules per team.

On the trail he was never out of sight of buffalo from one end of the trail to the other, and often had to stop to let herds of buffalo pass. While hauling freight on those long drives from Fort Hays to Fort Dodge and south to Fort Supply, he became interested in watching the buffalo herds as they migrated to the north each spring. As soon as the grass, which had been brown all winter, began to take on a greenish tinge, the first buffalo would appear from the south beyond the Arkansas River, singly and in groups of twos and threes. They were the advance skirmishers of the main herd. As the grass grew and the prairie greened, the buffalo became thicker and thicker until the whole earth

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as far as the eye could see was covered with them. They moved slowly northward, grazing as they went.

He stated that this northward drifting herd had a frontal width of 100 and often 200 miles. He said he stood on top of Mt. Jesus, south of Fort Dodge, and saw the whole area covered with one mass of buffalo. To the east, north, west and south, there was one huge herd of buffalo. This was not just in one year, but in every spring for years.

The prairie was not "black with the buffalo," as the buffalo never herded that closely together. A grazing herd, undisturbed, would be divided in small groups, each group close together with about 25 to 30 buffalo to an acre. They drifted along, about as closely as cattle cluster when grazing loosely on the range. But looking at a herd of buffalo from a knoll or hill, it seemed to be almost a solid mass, with the green sod showing only here and there, between the groups. He said the herds of buffalo on the plains of the southwest numbered at least three million.

It was natural in the early '70s when the buffalo slaughter began that he took up that business for a living on the prairie. In 1872, he organized his own outfit on Bluff Creek, south of Fort Dodge, where he acquired a road ranch at which buffalo hunters headquartered. Reighard did the killing. Jim Whalen, Tom Rooney and Zeke Ford provided the supplies and removed the hides.

In an interview he said, "We kept moving the camp as the herd moved. Each morning I would ride or walk until I came to a rise where I could see the buffalo. I would choose my spot behind a natural screen, lie flat on my stomach and shoot until my guns got hot. The time I made my biggest kill, I lay on a slight ridge 100 yards from about 1,000 buffalo. With 91 shots I killed 79."

He often told of one expedition in which his party shot and skinned more than 3,000 of the animals in one month.

His buffalo stories made him famous as an authority on the subject and his reminiscences were sought by historians and writers. However, he did not capitalize on it nor was he a braggart. Although he could tell hair-raising sto-

ries to a select group, he seldom indulged. He was a quiet, unassuming frontiersman who was a factor in establishing the new frontier.

He drove land buyers from Fort Dodge to buy business locations on the proposed town site of Dodge City, west of Fort Dodge along the railroad in the summer of 1872. At the time only a couple of tent saloons and H.L. Sitler's sod ranch house marked the site of the future Dodge City.

When the first toll bridge was built over the Arkansas River at Dodge City, his mule train coming from Fort Supply, was the first to cross the bridge. Prior to that he forded the river at Dodge City and Fort Dodge with his freight wagons.

He traded his Bluff Creek ranch where he headquartered for his buffalo hunting for a hotel in Dodge City which he operated for a short time.

When the freight business was over in Dodge City, he loaded his wagons with flour and sugar and went to Deadwood, South Dakota, to sell his wagons and mules. When he arrived there he found a ready market in the mining country where he could sell his goods at fabulous prices. He remained there for a year and freighted while business was booming.

He returned to Dodge City in the late '70s, bought land south of the river for \$1,000, put in a ranch and travelers headquarters and sent for his brother-in-law, William States, living in Pennsylvania. The two men ran the road ranch operation as a headquarters for those who did not wish to cross the toll bridge for supplies. Their ranch was located where South Dodge is now. Reighard and States ran a meat market where buffalo, antelope and other wild game were butchered and sold as often as beef.

George W. Reighard married Anna Gyles, daughter of an early homesteader on January 13, 1881. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Mr. Shipe. Anna was born August 4, 1863, in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gyles who had moved to Kansas in 1869. The Gyles had settled eight miles west of the site where Dodge

City was founded three years later. The Gyles family lived southeast of Dodge City at the time of Anna's marriage.

George W. and Anna Reighard took a wedding trip to Chicago. Upon their return from their honeymoon, the couple made their home on the Reighard and States Ranch south of the Arkansas River. They lived in and near Dodge City all their married life. The couple observed their 55th wedding anniversary in January 1936, a few months before his death at their home at 211 Military. Mr. Reighard was engaged in the livestock business until his retirement a few years before his death. He was the last member of Lewis post, G.A.R. of Dodge City. Mr. Reighard never missed a G.A.R. encampment as long as his health permitted. Funeral services for George W. Reighard were at the Hulpieu-Morgan funeral chapel, burial at Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City.

Anna Gyles Reighard died July 19, 1957, at age 93 in Denver, Colorado, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Goodwin. Services were at Sacred Heart Cathedral with burial in Maple Grove Cemetery. Three children born to the couple survived; George H. Reighard of Dodge City, Mrs. George (Dorothy) Goodwin of Denver, Colorado, and Mrs. Cecil (DeEtte) Steward of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The couple had five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren at the time of Anna's death. Also a sister, Mrs. Lillie Gyles Holley of Huntington Park, California, was alive in 1957.

Daisy Plotner

The information for this article was taken from various newspaper accounts of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Reighard from the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, *Dodge City Journal* and *The Kansas City Times*.

P.G. (PHILANDER GILLETE)

REYNOLDS

P.G. Reynolds, our great grandfather, was born in Elmira, New York, November 5, 1827. His family moved to Coldwater, Michigan, in 1857 and to Lawrence, Kansas, in the late 1850s or early 1860s. In 1874, after operating a freight line in Lawrence, P.G. moved

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to Dodge City.

Memories of early Dodge City were kept alive in the Reynolds family by the stories told to us by our Grandfather, S.P. (Sidney Philander) Reynolds.

One of the first stories we remember was of the stage coach lines run by Great Grandfather P.G. There were stages leaving every evening on a 198-mile run to Fort Supply, Indian Territory and to Fort Elliott. Grandfather told us of the trips he made with his father and of the friends he made among the Indians in Oklahoma. One of our favorite times was when he would show us the beaded moccasins given to him by some of those friends.

Another favorite story was the tale of Nellie, the buffalo calf, found by some friend of the family and given to S.P. for a pet. Nellie was tied in the front yard, a system of restraint that did not work. Often Nellie would feel the urge to see the town and would cause damage to stores and gardens as she wandered. The crowning blow to Nellie's wanderings was the time the circus came to town. As was the custom, the circus had a parade up the street, complete with bright uniforms and a marching band. The bright colors and the noise of the band were more than Nellie could tolerate. She broke her moorings and attacked the band. That was the end of Nellie.

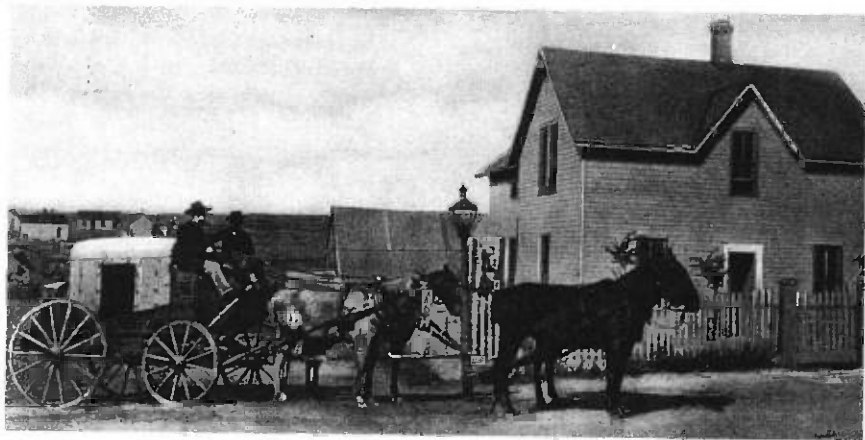
S.P. had an older brother, George Alexander, whom we never knew because he died in 1911. George was always remembered by us as the man who



Nellie, the pet buffalo.

sat with the group of Indians to have their picture taken. The story was that the band of Indians had left the Oklahoma reservation to return to their home in the Dakota Territory. The army sent a group of soldiers to return them to Oklahoma. During the march back to the reservation a stopover was made in Dodge City. Someone wanted to take the Indians' photograph, but the Indians, fearing the camera would harm them, would not pose for pictures unless Great Uncle George would sit with them. George did speak some of their language and they trusted him. That is the only reference we ever heard of the older son, George Alexander Reynolds.

P.G. was married to Lamira Hard in 1852. Lamira was a very religious woman and a devout Methodist. The first meeting to organize a Methodist Church in Dodge City was held in the Reynolds home on June 14, 1873. Lamira was also the first president of the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church in Dodge City. That society was organized on November 4, 1878,



Stagecoach operating between Dodge City and Fort Supply in Indian Territory in 1882.

with Lamira as President, Mrs. Phillips as Secretary and Mrs. Conwell as Treasurer.

S.P. grew up in Dodge City, attended school there and at one time he attended the Haskell Institute in Lawrence but for how long we do not know. Grandfather played bass viol in various bands and orchestras, some under the direction of Thurlow Lieurance, who later was a professor at Kansas University. S.P. worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for a time and participated in the building of the Soule Ditch Irrigation Project, although we do not have a record of what capacity. He held various county offices such as Register of Deeds and County Treasurer. For many years he was the Finance Commissioner for Dodge City. In addition, S.P. ran an insurance and real estate business with his youngest son, Sidney Easton Reynolds. S.P. died at the home of his oldest son, William Shadford, on January 1, 1942.

All of the Reynolds grandchildren remember the old friends of S.P. such as Dr. Claude McCarty, whose father was one of the first doctors in Dodge; Ham Bell and Heinie Schmidt. Dr. Claude McCarty was the family doctor for the Reynolds family, as was his father before him.

We remember growing up with members of the old families of Dodge City; the Sughrues, the Nevins, the Herzers, the Russells, and many others. Our father, Shad Reynolds, told us of going to school up near Boot Hill and of knowing Gussie Mootz, who was principal of Lincoln School when we were growing up. Eulalia Nevins, one of our teachers, was also a teacher of our father's.

The Genealogy of the Reynolds Family

Philander George/Gillette Reynolds (P.G.) was the son of Alexander Reynolds, born March 22, 1797, died March 23, 1875. P.G.'s mother was Rebecca Hiles, born November 18, 1804, died August 8, 1849. P.G. Reynolds born November 5, 1827, married Lamira Hard, December 29, 1852, died July 17, 1888. P.G. and Lamira had two sons that lived: George Alexander and Sidney Philander.

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George Alexander Reynolds with Indians in Dodge City.

George Alexander, born August 3, 1857, married Lyda Norvell, September 28, 1888. They had two sons: Philander Gillette, born January 13, 1889, and Sidney Rex, born February 2, 1891. Philander Gillette, or P.G. as he was known, had no children that we know. Sidney Rex, or Rex, m Anna Clara Smith in 1928 and had two step sons, George and Roy, both deceased, and one son, Rex, born October 30, 1930. P.G. died October 13, 1950. Sidney Rex also died in the 1950s.

Sidney Philander, always known as S.P., was born in Lawrence, Kansas,



S.P. Reynolds, Old Settlers' Day.

December 4, 1867, married August 6, 1898, in Dodge City, to Mary Shadford Easton, born August 6, 1874. She died April 1932. They had two sons: *William Shadford* and *Sidney Easton*.

William Shadford or Shad, born August 31, 1899, married on June 4, 1924, in Emporia, Kansas, to Mary Louise Parrington, born May 28, 1900. They had four children: Mary Elizabeth, known as Betsy; John Sidney, Jean Louise and Patricia Joann. Shad died August 30, 1972 and Mary Louise died April 11, 1974. Both died in Wichita, Kansas.

Mary Elizabeth, "Betsy," born January 23, 1925, married Leo Donald Myer, August 26, 1944, divorced April 1980. They had four children: John Rea, Joel Reynolds, Jeffrey Ross, and Kathryn Louise. John born October 16, 1945, married Anne Brown, August 19, 1967. They were divorced in 1986. John married Debby Ownby McCarthy, June 24, 1991. They have one son, John Ownby Myer, born December 27, 1991. Joel born April 12, 1949, married Cheryl O'Brien, March 20, 1970. They have two children: Christopher Joel, born September 28, 1970, and Cyndra Jill, born August 22, 1974. Jeffery, born September 29, 1951, married Marsha Poulsen, June 9, 1973, divorced September 28, 1992. Kathryn, born October 7, 1956, married Rick Womack, June 5, 1983, divorced December 2, 1988.

John Sidney, born April 13, 1926, married Marge Hannegan, September 1, 1951. They had three children: Marjean, born August 8, 1955; Mary Kathryn, born February 17, 1957; and Marie Louise, born August 28, 1959. Marjean married Donald Mitchel, May 9, 1986. Mary Kay married Mark O'Brien, November 1982. They have three children: Sean Michael, born April 7, 1983, Nicholas, born August 18, 1986, and Kathryn Marie, born March 6, 1990. Marie Louise married Gregory Lodge, August 19, 1977, divorced August 1993. They have two children, Christopher, born March 10, 1978, and Jacob Branson, born May 1, 1981. Marie married Eric Rieck, December 1993.

Jean Louise, born January 17, 1928, married Gordon Cooke, December 1, 1946. They have three children. Caroline Louise, born May 30, 1949. Peggy Jean, born May 10, 1952, and Douglas Gordon, born December 2, 1955. Caroline married Donnie Kemper, December 1977. They have one child, James Gordon, born October 6, 1981. Peggy married Tony Fiedler, May 1, 1974. They have two children: Andrew Dillon, born June 8, 1977, and John Thomas, born March 11, 1988. Douglas married Mary Jo Powell, September 1976. They have three children: Amy Jean, born December 6, 1976; Lucas Gordon, born April 24, 1979; and Holly Jo, born May 19, 1981.

Patricia JoAnn, born February 2, 1930, married John Zellner, June 21, 1954. They have three children: Anna Louise, born October 9, 1955; Patricia Jaylene, born September 25, 1957; and John Randell, born October 11, 1960. Anna married James Kearl. They have two children: Bethany Louise, born April 26, 1986; and Emily Elizabeth, born July 24, 1988. Patricia married Kenneth Curry, August 14, 1978. They have three children: Nicola Elizabeth, born Mar 15, 1986; Alexandra Madison, born June 20, 1990; and Parker J., born July 24, 1993. John Randell (Randy) married Nancy Frost and they have two children: Jonathan Roy, born January 8, 1986 and Matthew Reynolds, born August 8, 1989. All of the chil-

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dren and grandchildren of Shad and Louise Reynolds are living.

Sidney Easton, born September 24, 1902, the youngest son of S.P. and Mary, married Velma Walker, December 17, 1931. They had two children: *Virginia Ann*, born November 1932, married Paul Ashcraft. They had one daughter, Debra. Virginia Ann, died September 15, 1972. The second child is *Sidney Duane*, born August 11, 1937. He married Carol Starosta, September 1, 1962. They have two children, Rebecca Elizabeth, born October 27, 1964, and Heather Easton, born September 17, 1966. Rebecca married Ross Sullivan March 27, 1993. Heather married Ted Park, April 20, 1991. Sidney Easton died January 17, 1979.

Betsy Reynolds Myer

THE RICKMAN, BARROW, BEGGS, BAILEY AND FOULKS FAMILIES

The Rickmans, pioneers in Ford County, trace their ancestry to John and Dicey Rickman of Halifax Co., Virginia. John and Dicey were the parents of Thomas Rickman whose son, William, was born in Allen Co., Kentucky, March 25, 1835. William married Elise Weaver in Kentucky, in 1853. They had three sons; James, Joseph and Wesley. William moved his family to Lawrence Co., Missouri, in 1856. He joined the army during the Civil War, fighting for the North. He furnished his own horse and gun. By the time he returned from the war, his wife, Elise, had died.

On November 19, 1868, William Rickman married Mrs. Permelia (Bailey) Youngblood, a widow whose husband had been killed in the Civil War fighting for the South. All five of William and Permelia's children were born in Lawrence Co., Missouri: Martha Jane in 1869; John H. in 1872; William Major in 1874; Rosetta in 1876; and Charles "Doc" in 1877.

Armed with a Land Office receipt for land in Ford County, the William Rickman family settled in Concord Township on parts of Sections 20, 21, 24 and 26. The Bailey relatives settled on other quarters of the same sections.

Martha Jane, daughter of William and Permelia Rickman, married James Barrow, December 4, 1888, in Wilburn, Kansas, now a ghost town in southwest Ford County. James "Jim" Barrow had moved to the area earlier in the year to take care of property that his father, Henry Clay Barrow of Sedgwick Co., Kansas, had purchased in 1882. Jim was born in Grant Co., Indiana.

Martha and Jim Barrow's children were William, Pearl, Rosa, Flora, Edith, James and Jewell. William Henry, named after his two grandfathers, Wm. Rickman and Henry Barrows, lived only 15 days after his birth in 1891.

Pearl was born June 20 1892 and died February 16, 1964. She did not marry.

Rosa Lee, born August 16, 1893, taught school in Ford County for several terms before marrying Frank Prather. They were married on April 12, 1914 in Dodge City. They were the parents of seven children. All but the middle child was born in Kansas. Their fifth child, Jacob Lee, was killed by a car at Second and Spruce at nearly four years of age, in June 1928. Rose and Frank moved to Florida, near St. Cloud, in 1935. Rosa died on February 11, 1965, at St. Cloud, Florida.

The fourth Barrow child, Flora, was born September 19, 1895. She married William Smith on July 3, 1912. They had one baby, Edith Evelyn, July 27, 1914, who died in June 1915. Flora died soon after Edith's birth. William Smith (1868-1944) is buried in Concord Cemetery, between his second wife, Maude and their son, and Flora and their baby girl. He also had two other wives.

The Barrow's fifth child, Edith Rejina was born November 14, 1897. She married Clarence Beggs, May 16, 1917, in rural Ford County. They were the parents of three children: Howard, born January 22, 1918; Lois, born October 10, 1920; and Marguerite "Rita," born October 28, 1924. Edith died November 27, 1924, one month after the birth of her youngest daughter. Edith taught school at Wilburn rural school in 1916.

James Robert was born December 15, 1902 and died in December 1902.

Jewell was born July 15, 1906. He married Alice Royal, September 16, 1929, at Grand Junction, Colorado. They had three children: Janie, Sam and Blaine. Jewell died December 22, 1947, in Colorado.

Howard Beggs married Virginia Volker who died about 15 months after their marriage. This was soon after their daughter Nancy Lynette, was born. Nancy was raised by her Volker grandparents.

Howard joined the Army and fought in France during World War II. While in France, he married Jacqueline Lacoste in a suburban town of Paris. She came to Kansas with him but she stayed only a few months. She got homesick and returned to Paris in August. On December 8, 1947, their son, Patrick, was born. Howard and Jacqueline were divorced and Patrick grew up in Paris. However, he has made several trips to the U.S. to visit his father. Patrick is married to Yanou and has one son, Irwin, born January 14, 1976.

Howard Beggs married Mrs. Pluma (Gardner) Webber, April 13, 1952. He adopted her small son, Robin. Robin married Janet Kline of Dodge City, on September 8, 1970. Robin and Janet have eight children, the oldest daughter and oldest son are each married. Howard and Pluma have a son, William "Bill," was born June 2, 1953. Bill has two children: Rachel, 15 and Allen, 12. His wife, Helen, died in August 1994. Howard and Pluma have 12 grandchildren including Patrick's son in Paris.

The Bailey Family

Jeremiah Benjamin "J.B. or Ben" Bailey was born in 1849, in Springfield, Missouri. He was the son of William and Lucinda Bailey and was eight years younger than his sister, Permelia (Bailey) Rickman. He had grown up in Lawrence Co., Missouri, with his sister and her husband, William Rickman. He went to Texas in 1880. He married Ida Ellen Beedy in 1882, in Luling, Texas, where their first two children were born. They were twin boys, Ralph and Raymond. Raymond died at age six months. Ben and Ida Ellen lived near San Antonio, Texas, for about 13 years,

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but in 1893, he made the "Sooner Run" in Oklahoma. They lived on the land he claimed for about three years. The family came to Ford County, February 5, 1901. The oldest son, Ralph, married Sarah Gracen Pomery in 1909, in Dodge City and had four children: Raymond, Addie, Paul and Mary Irene. All were born in Dodge City.

Ormel Beedy Bailey was born in Lancaster, Schuyler Co., Missouri, where the Beedys lived. He married Ida Florence Kimbrel, June 11, 1916, in Dodge City. They farmed for many years southwest of Dodge City where their five children were born. Their first child, Dale, only lived four days. Clyde was born in 1918. Lucille in 1922, Dorothy in 1925 and Olin in 1929. Clyde married Ruth Cloverdale. They were later divorced. Their children are: Rebecca (Bailey) Helburg and Gerald Wesley Bailey. Clyde's wife is Louise (Sayer) Bailey. They live in Oregon. Lucille married Clinton Barnes. They have four children: Steven, Marsha, Kevin and Gina. They live in Oregon. Dorothy married Milton "Bus" Kidd, they had three children: Linda, Frank and Gary. Linda died at four years of age. Dorothy and Bus raised the boys in Dodge City. After Bus died, Dorothy moved to Casa Grande, Arizona. Olin, who was born almost totally blind, lives in Oregon near his sister and brother. Ormel Bailey married Louise Knapp May 20, 1952. He died December 29, 1980. Louise died December 30, 1984.

Elsie, the youngest child of J.B. or Ben and Ida Bailey, was born in Pierce City, Missouri, in 1896. She married John B. Hurley in Ford County. She died in Dodge City, in 1984. John Hurley was born in 1884 and died in 1932. Both are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City.

William Major Rickman, the third child of William and Permelia Rickman, married Elvira Walker in 1893, in Ford County. Their children were born in Ford County. They were: Buford, Maude and Jewell (twins), Claude, Marjorie and Madge, (twins.) The family moved to Colorado, 23 years before Bill Rickman was killed in an auto accident in Rocky Ford, in 1937. He had

become one of the most prominent farmers in the Holbrook District near LaJunta, Colorado.

Charles "Doc" Rickman, the third son of William and Permelia, was always known as "Doc." He married Flora Pfleiger in 1901. The Pfleiger family had also settled south of Dodge City. Doc and Flora had one son, Jesse. Flora outlived both her husband and her son. Doc died in 1937, Jess in 1964 and Flora in 1971. All are buried in the Concord Cemetery.

Rosetta "Rosie" Rickman, the fourth child of the Rickmans, was born about 1876. She married Samuel K. Foulks in 1898. They had five children, all born in Ford County. They lived on a farm southwest of Dodge City for many years. Their first baby died in infancy. Mary was born in 1900. Permelia Irene, born 1905; Charles, born 1906; Clara was born in 1909. In 1993, all of William and Permelia's children are deceased except Irene who lives in Arizona. Their only son, Charles, married Juanita Love, the daughter of Noah and Idelia Love, in 1927. They had four children: twins Harley and Charley, Joy and Gene. The children grew up on a farm in Concord Township. After Charlie and Juanita, "Juan," moved to town, their son, Charlie, continued to farm the same acreage for several years. Juan now has 13 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren. Charles Sr., died August 3, 1989.

Pluma Beggs

THE JOHN RIDENOUR FAMILY

About 15 miles northwest of Dodge City, in Royal Township, is an old cemetery that was the final resting place for some of the pioneers who settled that part of Ford County. This cemetery is on land that was homesteaded by John Ridenour and donated to Royal Township. It bears the name Ridenour Cemetery and 19 members of that family are buried side by side along the east side of the cemetery.

The Ridenour story in Ford County began in the fall of 1878, when John Ridenour and his brother Charles, both Civil War veterans, came west from Belleville, Ohio, and took up home-

steads on government land. Their first home was a dugout in which they pitched a tent. The winter of 1878-79 was very severe. The brothers lost a team of oxen—their only livestock, in a blizzard. John got lost coming home from town on foot. Luckily a neighbor boy, John Crawford, found him and got him to his home. That night it was 22 below zero.

In the spring of 1879, John built an 18' x 20' sod house and his family came by train from Belleville to join him. There was his wife, Caroline, one son, Beach, and four daughters named Maggie, Alice, Jennie and Caroline (better known as Cora). School was one of the first priorities in the neighborhood and District No. 15 was organized that year. John plowed two furrows across the prairie from his home to the school house so that his children would not get lost if the weather turned bad.

The first summer, they hauled water from a spring four and a half miles away. About Christmas time, the brothers finished digging wells ending that chore. More of the five Ridenour brothers and their parents migrated to Ford County and established homes.

As for John Ridenour's children, Beach moved to Cherokee, Iowa, married and owned a drug store. Maggie died in 1887, after falling from a wagon. Alice married John Evarts, whose family the Ridenours had known in Ohio. She raised her children in Englewood, Kansas. Jennie married Warren Lierle, another Royal Township homesteader. Cora married Henry B. Wood, a widower with two children and they lived on his homestead on the Sawlog Creek in Royal Township.

Three of John Ridenour's grandchildren are living; Caroline (Lierle) Yost lives in Needles, California; her brother, Warren "Andy" Lierle and their cousin, Howard Wood, both live in Dodge City. Fourth, fifth and sixth generation descendants are scattered over many parts of the U.S.

Howard and Ieyl Wood

RIDENOUR-LIERLE FAMILY

To begin with, I would start with the



John L. Ridenour
(1848-1922)

Ridenour family. They came to America first from Holland and settled in Pennsylvania, becoming known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. Prior to that time they were the Holland Dutch. They moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio, the Buckeye State. When I was a boy, we had many buckeyes around the place, also peacock feathers. I suppose they were memories of earlier days. From there the Ridenours moved to Keokuk, Iowa, and then to Kansas.

As far as I can find out or remember, they first homesteaded out northeast of Dodge, then later acquired the land that would become known as the Adams place. This would have been in 1879 or 1880. My mother, Jennie Ridenour, had two sisters, Cora and Alice Ridenour. Later Cora married Henry Wood and they lived up north on the Sawlog Creek, about 12 miles north of our place. Henry had a daughter named Sarah by a previous marriage; she was raised with their two boys, Lester and Howard Wood. Lester has been dead for some time. Howard still lives in Dodge City.

Alice married John Evarts at Englewood, Kansas. Their children were Ross, Alan, Dorothy, and Walter. They are all gone now; most of them moved to California and Colorado. John Ridenour was the father of the family. There were some brothers, Ben, Charlie and Beach Ridenour. They were also



Caroline K. "Carrie" Ridenour
(1846-1904)

related to the Beach family.

Ben donated the ground that became known as the Ridenour Cemetery which later became the neighborhood cemetery where others from the same area were buried, such as the Schoens, Smiths, Petersons, Harms, etc.

Now for my dad's side of the family, the Lierles. Warren P. Lierle, my dad, passed away in 1939, at the age of 69, so he would have been born in 1870. The family came to Kansas from Quincy, Illinois, when he was 18. This would mean that they came in 1888. I guess they all came out here at once. I



Warren and John Lierle

remember his telling me that they did stop in Kansas City, where he bought his fiddle in a pawn shop.

The Ridenours at that time lived in the two-story frame house about three-quarters of a mile west of what later became known as the Adams place. Later on Dad went to work for the Ridenours—that was how he and my mother, Jennie Ridenour, met. She and Dad had three children, Cecil, Caroline, and Warren Anderson. We were all raised on our farm five miles northeast of Dodge City. Percy Lierle lived on a farm out southwest of Wilroads Garden. They had five children: Lilly, Lucille, Hazel, Martha, Maybell and one boy, little Percy. He later sold his farm, moved to Dodge for a few years, then moved to California. They are all deceased now. An uncle, Adam Lierle, lived in South Dodge; they had three children—Eulah, Rita, and Alvernon. They are also all gone, except perhaps Eulah Lierle McGregor, who may still live at Huntington Beach, California. I haven't heard from her in a long time.

Kenneth, who is writing the family history from the tape I sent him, has traced the Lierle family back 600 years to County Cork, Ireland. I have at hand at this time a book by Fritz Ridenour; I gave Kenneth the name of his publishing company, but so far no luck finding anything about the man. Clarence and John Lierle never married, so they left no family behind.

Warren Anderson Lierle

CHARLES RIDENOUR

Charles was the oldest son of Dr. Benjamin and Margaret Ann (Ekey) Ridenour of Belleville, Ohio. There were six Ridenour brothers and all of them fought in the Civil War. Ephriam Ernest died of wounds he received in the war. The other five brothers, Charles, John, Walter, Frank and Robert, along with their parents, Benjamin and Margaret Ann were among the pioneers who settled Ford County.

Charles enlisted in the 81st Ohio Volunteer Regiment in 1861. He was discharged after being wounded in the Battle of Shiloh, stayed home for one year reenlisted in the 32nd Ohio Vol-

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unteer Infantry and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. He was married to Emma Turner in 1866. They had two children, Hattie and Homer. Emma died in about 1869.

In 1878, Charles and his brother, John, were the first of the Ridenours to migrate to Kansas. Charles left his children and John left his wife and children in Belleville. The brothers secured homesteads in Ford County in Royal Township about 12 miles northwest of Dodge City. The first winter they lived in a tent which they pitched inside a dugout on the boundary line of their claims. They bought a team of oxen together but lost them in a blizzard that first winter.

In the spring of 1879, the brothers built sod houses and their families came from Ohio by train to join them. Both of Charles' children died quite young, in their 20s, and are buried in Ford County; Homer in the Ridenour Cemetery and Hattie (Ridenour) Abbot in Maple Grove. This left Charles very lonely and after a long distance courtship with an old friend, Emma Charles, they were married. She was the daughter of Hiram Charles and Sarepta (Durbin) Charles of Belleville. She came to Dodge City by train and they were married shortly after her arrival. For a few years, they lived on Charles' homestead and then moved their wood frame house to 1104 Second Avenue, Dodge City, where they lived until both of their deaths. Their house still stands just as it did when it made the journey from the homestead to the city.

On June 14, 1993, Lola Crum taped an interview with Bessey Kingery Welsh, a niece of Emma Charles Ridenour.

Lola: Charles Ridenour had been well educated back in Ohio, had he not?

Bessey: He educated himself. He went to Hiram College. He took his two children with him and went to Hiram College in Ohio for two years.

Lola: And I suppose at that time is when he studied the ministry.

Bessey: Yes, he studied a num-



Ridenour Cousins. Front row, left to right: Alice, Jennie, Cora, Hattie. Back row: Homer, Berton and Beach.

ber of things. He loved knowledge. Ministry was his main interest.

Lola: When he came out here, there weren't many people out here and they were scattered. There were so few people who were able to give them any sort of religious services that he, as I understand it, developed churches.

Bessey: He and my Auntie went all over this area here by horse and buggy and their pay was whatever the neighborhood gave them.

Lola: She came out here to marry him. He didn't go back there (to Belleville) What do you remember having been told about her coming out here?

Bessey: Well she came out by train in 1898 and they were married as soon as she arrived.

Lola: You have their marriage certificate, don't you?

Bessey: Yes, I do. They were married by William Westwood right here in Dodge City.

Lola: We started to tell about his ministry and how she helped him.

Bessey: Well, they would have moved in (to his homestead) and a cyclone took their home. Later they moved their new

house in to 1104 Second—they went by horse and buggy to different areas and established religious services. The churches met in homes and school houses.

Lola: How could Emma help?

Bessey: Oh, she had a beautiful voice. She led the singing and she also was a student of the Bible. She taught for years in the Berean Class in First Christian Church here.

Lola: You see I remember her music because I used to take vocal lessons from her. I lived with her for a year and a half at 1104 Second when I was in high school. So I've heard a lot of your Aunt Emma's stories about early days. One thing about your Aunt Emma that I admired so very much—she never said one word against anybody. If anybody was mentioned, she had something nice to say. I think she was one of the kindest ladies I ever met.

Bessey: That's a beautiful thing for anyone to leave behind. Then soon after they came out here, they started a music studio. That would be my mother and Aunt Emma.

Lola: Tell about your mother.

Bessey: Soon after they (Charles and Emma) were married and got established Grandma Charles, (Sarepta (Durbin) Charles), and my mother, Bessy Belle (Charles) Kingery came to visit. My mother stayed and Grandma Charles went back. Both my mother and Auntie were good musicians. My mother had had very fine training and Auntie had taught around Belleville in all the different areas of music, so they decided to set up a studio and teach. My Auntie taught the vocal and my mother taught piano. She would ride the train from Dodge City to Offerle, stopping in Spearville and Offerle to teach. She taught piano lessons.

Lola: She married Albert Kingery.

Bessey: They lived at Fullerton in Hodgeman County. Fullerton was a school house where Uncle Charles and Auntie held services. That is where my mother met my father. They were married here in Dodge City in the house at 1104 Second. I think Uncle Charles married them.

Lola: Oh, undoubtedly, he did. He was what they called in those days an "Itinerant preacher," wasn't he, because he went from one community to another holding services. That was quite common in those days. I remember my mother talking about him. She usually said, "Preacher Ridenour." He would come to their school house and hold religious services—he and his wife, Emma. Then they would have baptisms, but they usually had to hunt up a farmer's horse tank for the baptisms. I can remember after your Uncle Charles and Auntie had been there one Sunday, my mother's brother was a little fellow, four or five years old.

The next day, he "baptized" all the sticks he could find.

Did they have just the music conservatory here in Dodge or did they have one in Kinsley or Offerle?

Bessey: I don't know whether they had a particular place where they met and taught or whether Auntie taught in her home.

Lola: I know that I took lessons from her in her home. But your mother had long since gone to Kinsley and was raising her family. You were about four years old when I stayed with your Auntie. That was about 1924. You said Uncle Charles died in 1914, so he had been dead a number of years. She had not too long before married John Higgins so I lived with Auntie and John Higgins. Do you have the date your Uncle Charles was born?

Bessey: His tombstone reads Charles M. Ridenour was born in Belleville and served in Co. E, 32nd Ohio Infantry and died in Dodge City, 1914.

Lola: You don't have the month that he died—so he lived from 1843 to 1914. What was on your Aunt's tombstone?

Bessey: She was born in 1853 and died in 1944—she was born in Belleville and died in Dodge City. His daughter, Hattie, died in 1893.

Lola: You have several souvenirs here. There's one particular souvenir that I'm interested in. It's a cane that was given to your Uncle Charles by his brother. Will you tell me about that?

Bessey: Yes, I understood that it was made by John. The cane is hand carved with the head of an Indian. It was made from the wood from the first White House that burned. John got this wood when he was living and working in Washington, D.C.

Lola: You have a sewing kit and a billfold that are interesting.

Bessey: Uncle Charles carried them in the Civil War. He was the captain of his regiment. The sewing kit was rolled up with needles and thread for his men to use when needed.

The rest of the tape is the interesting story of Bessey's three daughters. The youngest, Stana, with her husband, Terry Slattery, and their two sons lives in Dodge City. Gayla Rothermich and her two children live in St. Louis and Besse lives in Switzerland. All three are very musically talented. Besse plays the flute; Gayla the violin and Stana the 'cello. During their growing up years, in addition to being very outstanding members of the local bands and orchestras, they all played in the Wichita Symphony. From the time that Besse was in the fifth grade until Stana graduated from high school, Bessey and her husband, C. Stanley Welsh, made weekly trips to Wichita so the girls could be there for rehearsals and concerts.

Besse, named for her grandmother, Besse (Charles) Kingery, has enjoyed a most rewarding musical career. Following her graduation from Yale, which she attended on a music fellowship, she went to Europe for further study and performance. She graduated with highest honors from Hamburg Conservatory in Germany. She played with the Hereford Orchestra where she was the first woman to hold first chair in that symphony. In addition to playing in Carnegie Hall, she has played concerts all over Europe. At present, she is president of the Bach Festival. The musical legacy that was brought by the Charles sisters from Belleville, Ohio, to the plains of Southwest Kansas is alive and well.

Lola Adams Crum
Interview with Bessey Kingery Welsh

THE PETER RINK FAMILY

Peter and Bellah Rink had four children, all born in Jersey City, New Jersey. They were Hamilton Albert Rink, Bella Rink who married Mr. Crocheron, Harry Rink, and a daughter who died young. Following Peter Rink's death,

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Bellah decided to move west to be near her two sons who were living in Kansas. Harry Rink lived southwest of Ford, Kansas, in the early 1900s. After living in Dodge City in the early 1900s, she returned to New Jersey where she died.

Hamilton A. Rink was born in September 1864. He met Margaret Drake, born August 8, 1867, in Marshalltown, Iowa. They were married in Dodge City on December 5, 1895. Margaret was the daughter of Hayes and Jane (Coe) Drake. Hamilton and Margaret Rink had four children: James, born January 1, 1897, in Dodge City, David, Harry and Jess, born September 4, 1909.

Hamilton and Margaret with their young son, Jim, moved to Chicago just after the turn of the century (about 1901-03), while Hamilton attended Moody Bible Institute. Their second son, David, was born there.

After Hamilton became an ordained minister, he served a Presbyterian Church, in Tribune, Kansas, around 1912 or 1913. About 1913 or 1914, they moved to St. John, Kansas, then to Arlington, Kansas, for about two years, then in White City, Kansas, for a year. The family moved back to Ford County around 1917.

Their oldest son, Jim Rink, had returned to Ford County and finished high school in Ford. He stayed on the farm alone before the family arrived in 1917. He attended college at Emporia, Kansas, but left before completing his studies to enter World War I. He completed college later in 1922. He taught school for a year then went into YMCA work. He received a Bachelor of Physical Education degree in 1929, from the YMCA college in Chicago. He met Aymee Applegate in Parsons, Kansas, when she was working for the *Parsons Sun*. They were married in Chicago, on December 25, 1925.

Daisy Lockman Ploner

THE ROTH FAMILY

Webster Tyler Roth

Webster Tyler Roth was born November 11, 1842, in Bureau Co., Illinois. He married Anna Juliette Dillon Wright, January 28, 1867, in Clinton Co., Iowa. Five of their children, Eva,



Webster Tyler Roth

Ida, Alwilda, Edna and Chesterfield were born in Calamus, Clinton Co., Iowa.

Webster brought his family to Kansas, in 1878. He filed on a homestead in Hodgeman County near Horsethief Canyon north of Dodge City on the Buckner Creek, planning to make a permanent home there for his family. Life on the plains was difficult and since his wife, Anna, was in poor health, he decided to move to Florida. However, in Florida the whole family got sick, so he returned to Kansas. When he returned his claim had been taken over by another family so Webster and his family went farther west in Hodgeman County and filed on another claim. It

was on this claim that he raised his family of 11 children. Annie, Pearl, Glencoe, Faridy, Devern and Yvette were born on this farm.

Webster Roth had served in the Civil War, enlisting August 14, 1862. Because of this service, he was entitled to a home in the Soldiers Home at Fort Dodge where he lived after he became unable to farm. He died April 23, 1923, and was buried in the cemetery at Fort Dodge. Webster's wife, Anna Juliette Dillon Roth, preceded him in death by 24 years to the day. She died April 23, 1899 and is buried in the Fort Dodge Cemetery.

Chesterfield Roth

Webster and Annie's son, Chesterfield, was always known as Chester Roth and called "Chet" by his family and friends. He was born February 29, 1878, in Clinton Co., Iowa. He was only a few months old when the family moved to the homestead in Hodgeman County. With four "big sisters" the small sod house became very close quarters for a lively little boy. Once outside, this restless youngster, even at five years old, would be off across the grassy prairies. Usually he went in search of wild creatures for playmates. It was not an uncommon sight around the Roth homestead to see one of those



Roth Family. Back row, left to right: Edna, Ida, Chester, Alwilda, Eva, Annie. Front row: Devern, Faridy, Glencoe, Mother Annie, Yvetta, Father Webster, Pearle. Taken between 1895-1900.

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Chesterfield (Chet) Roth

big sisters with bonnet flying out behind in the wind, dragging the reluctant youngster back toward the soddy. He even remembered more than once of being hunted on horseback and roped like a runaway calf.

Chet was not always alone on his excursions across the prairies. At times, he and his father would take the team and wagon and pick up buffalo bones that had been left to bleach in the sun by the hunters who had killed them, down to the last buffalo. A load of buffalo bones sold in Dodge City, would buy groceries for Webster's growing family. One day the boy's sharp eyes saw something round and velvety under the whitened bones of one of the big beasts. To his amazement he found it to be a pipe, undoubtedly dropped as the hunter skinned out the buffalo. With considerable cleaning and a new mouth piece, young Chester became the proud owner of a real pipe, one that he treasured for the rest of his life. The pipe can now be seen displayed in the Home of Stone in Dodge City.

Back in those early pioneer days, many ideas and customs were different from what they have come to be in later years. It was not shocking nor even surprising to the Roth family that a neighbor, beloved Grandma Door, should smoke a clay pipe nor that she should teach her little neighbor boy how to do the same. She even gave him a clay pipe. So it was that young Chet felt all grown up when he graduated to the buffalo hunter's long-lost pipe.

Chester Roth was 22 years of age when he married a neighbor girl, Maude

Chestina Burdue in November 1900. Maude was the daughter of Isaac and Eliza Jane Burdue. She was born January 10, 1883, in Sherwood, Michigan. She came with her parents in Hodgeman County, in 1888. Chet and Maude farmed near their parents until 1907 when they moved to Dodge City where Chet got a job on the railroad. Four children were born on their homestead, but the girls, Elva and Alva died in early childhood. The baby born in 1905 lived only five days. Webster, born in 1903, lived to adulthood and died in 1948.

Edna Bell was born in 1908; Neva, who was born in 1910, died in 1918; and Isaac was born in 1912. All three were born in Dodge City. In 1912, Chet Roth was transferred by the railroad to Liberal where he lived until 1926. Five children were born in Liberal: Eugene, Chester, Donald, Verl and Alwilda. Of the 12 children born to the Roths, only eight grew to adulthood. Chet retired from the Santa Fe as a car inspector and moved back to Dodge City. His wife, Maude, died September 21, 1956. Chester died 10 years later on November 12, 1966. Both are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. Their son, Eugene, who was a local barber, died in 1983.

Edna Roth Garrett

Chester and Maude's daughter, Edna Bell, born in Dodge City on March 17, 1908, grew up and attended school in Liberal, Kansas. She married Gilbert Harrison Hoggatt, also of Liberal on February 12, 1927, in Kansas City, Kansas. Gilbert Harrison was always known as Harry. Their three children, Harry, Maude Ellen and Robert were born and grew to adulthood in Kansas City, Kansas. Edna and her husband, Harry, were divorced in 1946 and he moved to Nevada. Edna married Silas D. Garrett on June 14, 1947. They lived on a farm in Missouri for several years but later moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where they were divorced in 1963.

Edna moved to Dodge City to be near her four brothers, Isaac, Eugene, Donald and Verl. Soon after moving here, she became interested in the Ford County Historical Society and its activities.

By 1969, the Ford County Histori-



Edna Garrett

cal Society was in desperate need of a guide to show the Home of Stone to visitors. Edna was persuaded to take the job when the home opened in May 1969. She moved from her brother, Donald's, home in South Dodge to the home of Lydia Adams and her daughter, Lola, at 803 Third Avenue. This was within walking distance of the Home of Stone at the corner of Vine Street and Avenue A.

Edna Garrett's enthusiasm and sincere interest in the history of the old home did much to build up local interest until it became accepted by the community as one of its main points of interest. Through the years, Edna became such a part of that historical building that she was often called "Mrs. Home of Stone" by her young visitors who came from local and area schools.

Year after year, Edna climbed the winding stairs and told the story of the Muellers and Schmidts. In the bedroom of the Schmidt's son, Heinie, she told of how much the town was indebted to him for his community activities and his recording of much of our early-day history.

In Elma's room she showed Elma's doll collection and in the Pioneer Mothers' Room she told of Elma Schmidt's desire to have the home dedicated to all pioneer mothers. As she showed the home from kitchen to parlor, she was able to make her listeners see life as it was lived in the early days of Dodge City. No one could have done this job with more love and sincere interest than Edna Garrett did in the 17 years that she cared for the Home of Stone.

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After her retirement Edna continued to live in Dodge City until the time of her death, December 14, 1983. She, too, along with so many members of her Roth family, is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Lola Adams Crum
Roth Family Records

THE ROTH AND CLARE FAMILIES

Webster Tylor Roth and wife, Ann J. Roth came from Calamus Co., Iowa, in 1878 and filed a claim in Hodgemen Co., Kansas, near Horsethief Canyon north of Dodge City on the Buckner Creek. My mother, Glen Coe Roth Clare, told of her father building a rock pile perhaps six feet high, on which they placed a lantern and lighted it to help the people traveling by wagon going west to settle the country. The Roths were a hardy bunch with eight girls and three boys in their family. When I was a boy, (I still am—only much older) one could still see the remains of a corral for their horses. This was made by carrying or dragging rocks from Horsethief Canyon and stacking these high enough in a half circle against the high part of the canyon.

The Roth family later moved to a place at the head of the canyon where shortly after, the house caught fire and one girl was lost in the fire. The family were forced to move into the barn and my mother was born in the barn on January 14, 1885. The girls all herded cattle for the neighboring homestead-



Cousins Edna Garrett and Carl Clare.

ers, since there were no fences at this time.

W.T. Roth was a Civil War veteran and moved to Fort Dodge, Kansas, where the remaining kids at home went to school. My mother graduated from the high school at Fort Dodge and was a very accomplished fiddle player even as a young girl playing for many old-time barn dances around the area. She also played the banjo and guitar. Glen Coe Roth Clare passed away September 18, 1952, at the age of 66 and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City, Kansas.

My father, Harry Cleveland Clare, was born at Hiawatha, Kansas, on February 17, 1883, and came to Dodge City in 1904. He married Glen Coe Roth in 1906. Harry's folks came from Clare County Ireland and had four children: Harry, Carl, Ray and a daughter, Elsie Clare. The Clare family settled in the Oklahoma Territory and their family for the most part was raised near the Indian tribes of the area. Harry and his younger brother, Ray, were both very good prize fighters and boxed professionally in Oklahoma and on the west coast. My older brother, Clinton, also was a boxer in the mid 1920s. He won the Kansas Lightweight Boxing title during this time. I, on the advice of my older brother, Clyde, did not take up boxing, because he said I needed my hands to make a living (and besides—I found out those dog-gone guys hit back!).

Harry Clare and Glen Coe Roth Clare had four children, all boys, Clinton, Clyde, Carl and Laurence. Clyde passed away in 1934, at the age of 25. Laurence passed away in 1926, at the age of five and Clinton Clare died in July 1993, at the age of 85. Clyde was an accomplished musician and was a school teacher near Emporia, Kansas, when he died from infection after what was supposed to be a minor operation for removal of a cyst in the lower back area. Laurence Clare died from bronchial pneumonia, as did many others after the flu epidemic of 1918-19. Laurence had the flu as a baby and never fully recovered from the illness that took the lives of so many people during this time. Harry Cleveland Clare

passed away March 1, 1955, at the age of 72 and was laid to rest in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City, Kansas.

Clinton C. Clare married Eileen Harvey of Dodge City. They had one child, a girl named Doris, before being divorced. Clinton later married Fae Morrow of Dodge City, and they had four children: Dale, Shirley, Harry and Glenda.

Carl Dale Clare married Billie Gaskill Trent in 1939. Billie had one son, Donald Wayne, born in 1938. She was married to Jack Trent, of Dodge City at this time and they were divorced shortly after Donnie was born. Carl adopted Donnie, and Billie and Carl had four children: Laurence Dale, Melvin Eugene, Sharon Irene, and Roxanna Louise. Donald Wayne Clare died November 24, 1984, at the age of 46 after an operation for a malignant brain tumor. Billie died in 1966, while undergoing surgery for a long-time heart ailment at KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas. Carl Clare and Thelma Hammer Pugh were married July 15, (payday) 1967. Thelma was the widow of Clifford Pugh, Dodge City, Kansas. Clifford passed away in 1963 and Clifford and Thelma had two boys, Donald Pugh, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; and Keith Pugh, Fort Worth, Texas. Donald married Roberta Stucky of Dodge City and they have one adopted son, Clifford Ray of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Don is an accomplished musician and works in a music store in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Keith is an electrical engineer for the plane manufacturing plant, General Dynamics, Fort Worth, Texas. He is not married.

Thelma Clare was born on a farm near Mullinville, Kansas, on November 22, 1913. She graduated from Mullinville High School and attended Bethany College at Lindsborg, Kansas, majoring in music. She taught piano and accordion lessons for many years and also plays the organ and was a cake baker and cake decorator.

I am Carl Clare. I was born December 11, 1917, at 1010 Third Avenue, Dodge City and live within one block of where I was born. I attended the old Third Ward School, Lincoln School,

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Dodge City Junior and Senior High Schools before going to work at the Dodge City Harvey House or El Vaquero, first as a dishwasher and then as salad man or pantry man for the next four years. My mother and I lived near Fayetteville, Arkansas, from April 1935 through March 1936, on a trial basis to see if the family would want to buy a partnership in a small farm and move there to get away from the Kansas dust storms. We decided the hills, rocks, trees blotting out the pretty sunsets and sunrises, the ticks, chiggers, high humidity, etc., were not to our style of life so, though we left Dodge City in a very bad dust storm, we came back in a worse storm and were so happy to get back to our home and old friends!

After working at the Harvey House, I worked at the Chevrolet garage for about six months after a winter lay-off at Fanslers Service Station where I had been working. I was then rehired by Steve Fansler and worked there until Mr. C.O. Vinson, the owner of Vinson Dental Laboratory hired me to work for him, as a dental technician. This was January 2, 1942, and I worked for Mr. Vinson until 1965 when Victor Sidebottom, a co-worker and boyhood friend, and I purchased the dental lab and ran it together until retiring in 1985. I was active in the Southwest Softball Association, and was president for about seven or eight years. I played on the first American Legion junior baseball team, I was president of the Ford County Historical Society for several years, treasurer of the Kansas 7th District Authors Club, and have written articles for the *Kanhistique Magazine*, *Dodge City Legend*, Ford County Historical Society and several others. I feel my biggest accomplishment though, is the many hours Thelma and I, along with the Ford County Five Band and others, have been able to play music, at no charge of course, for the people in the rest homes. And for the other senior citizens and so forth who like the old-time music that they grew up listening to. We feel that playing music is a God-given talent that should be shared.

Carl Clare

JOSEPH MICHAEL SCHLERETH

Joseph Michael Schlereth came to Hodgeman County from Nicktown, Cambria Co., Pennsylvania. In his early life, he was a logman and operated a sawmill. Later in life he was employed in a foundry where he became foreman but lost his place because of a labor strike. Securing employment as a miner, Mr. Schlereth found in that work one of the most harrowing experiences in his lifetime. He was entrapped by a cave-in for two days and three nights.

Michael married Miss Threasia Moore in Pennsylvania, in 1875. To this union were born two children, both of whom died while young. About two and a half years after their marriage, Mrs. Schlereth died.

Greatly discouraged as a result of his numerous misfortunes and heartbroken from the loss of his whole family, he left Pennsylvania in 1879, for the west. He found employment in a stone quarry at Hanover, Kansas. Learning that an old friend lived in Kinsley, Mr. Schlereth left Hanover for that place, but by a turn of fate, he was asleep upon arrival there and the train brought him to Dodge City. The conductor explained that he might ride back to Kinsley the following day.

Mr. Schlereth had heard of the bad men and the wild life in Dodge City, so he did not leave the small railroad station, planning to spend the night there. He had been there but a few moments, however, when several of the town's gunmen started a battle near the station. A stray bullet entered the railroad station and missed one of Mr. Schlereth's shoulders by only a small margin. The new settler at once left the building and the town as well. By the time the next day's train had reached Kinsley, Mr. Schlereth was already there. He had walked the 40 miles during the night!

Mr. Schlereth took a government homestead in southeastern Hodgeman County where he built a sod house with a roof made of willow branches and sod. He lived on the claim for about three years, when he relinquished it for a tree claim in the southwest part of the county.

In 1886, Mr. Schlereth was united in married to Mrs. Ida Sperk, and they had three children, John Michael, William Frank and Mary Schlereth. For 41 years and until his death, Mr. Schlereth made his home on the old homestead.

During that time, he endured many hardships and made untold sacrifices to help make the southwest the land of plenty is it today. Through his dogged resistance against all obstacles and through hard labor, he gradually accumulated more land until at the time of his death, his holdings were quite extensive.

During the great blizzard of 1885, Mr. Schlereth watched over his herds night and day and suffered greatly himself from the cold. He was an eye witness to many gun battles during the wild days in Dodge City. During the years of 1889, 1890 and 1891, he was the mail carrier on the route from Dodge City through Wittrup, Kalvesta and to Ravanna.

Mr. Schlereth died November 15, 1926, at the age of 78. He was one of the few survivors of the days when the struggle for existence itself was a bitter fight and when the suffering and sacrifices of the scattered settlers was of a degree far beyond the comprehension of even the most imaginative mind of the present generation.

To Mr. Schlereth and the others who settled the southwest Kansas area we owe our sincere gratitude, for without them, things would be very different from the way we know them today.

Margaret Schlereth Wolfe

Genealogy of the Schlereth Family

Joseph Michael Schlereth and Ida Sperk had three children: John Michael, William Frank and Mary. All are deceased and buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City.

John Michael born December 19, 1887, Hodgeman Co., Kansas. He married Anna Knopp in Okeene, Oklahoma, May 9, 1917. They had six children: Raymond, Henry, Howard, George, Margaret, and Agnes.

Raymond Schlereth, born August 27, 1918, first married Agnes and they had two daughters, Ann and Elaine.

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Agnes is deceased. Raymond married Kathie, lives in Dodge City, Kansas. Ann lives Jetmore, Kansas. Her son Mike Williamson, and wife, Kim and daughter, Jordan, live in Dodge City. Francine and Roger Webber live in Ulysses, Kansas. Elaine and Jon Felver, live Goodland, Kansas. They have three children: Richard, Josef and Alicia.

Henry Schlereth, born Dodge City, Kansas, March 23, 1920, died March 23, 1986, Dodge City, Kansas. His wife, LaVeta, lives in Dodge City. They had five children: Henry Jr., Betty, Gerald, Vickie and Gayle. Henry, Jr. and Ethel, live in Spearville. They had two children, Heidi and Holly. He has a son, John Michael Schlereth, Burnet, Texas. Betty and Richard Johnson, Spearville. They had three children: Shani, Dennis Jr. and Dustin. Gerald and his wife, Deanna, live on a farm across the road from the Mike Schlereth homestead. He has an adopted daughter, Kimberly. She and her husband, Will Eckels, live in Ponca City, Oklahoma. Vicki and Darrel Peterson, live in Dodge City. They had two children, Darrel, Jr. and Kacie. Gayle Ratzlaff and daughter, Elizabeth, live in Dodge City.

Howard Schlereth, born Bellefont, Kansas, December 14, 1921. Howard and Maurene live in Dodge City, Kansas. He has four children: Sharon, Sandy, Greg and Deanna. Sharon Guthrie and Christie live in Jetmore, Kansas. Sandy Hendrickson and sons, John and Mike, live in Jetmore. Greg and Donna Schlereth and children Ryan and Mandy live in Jetmore. Deanna and Roy Unruh and two children Christopher and Tara live in Jetmore.

George Schlereth, born in Bellefont, Kansas, July 22, 1923. His wife, Kathy, is deceased. He lives in Boulder, Colorado. They had a daughter and a son. Kathy Baker lives in Broomfield, Colorado. She has a daughter, Christie and granddaughter, Jessica. Jay Schlereth and Tammy live in Mulvane, Kansas. They have three children: Jennifer, James and Lacy.

Margaret Schlereth Wolfe, born May 31, 1925. Margaret and Ralph Wolfe live in Dodge City. They have three children: Terri, Lillian and August.

Terri and Riley Barnes live at Page, Arizona with their daughter Tanzia. Lillian and Lew Parks live in San Diego, California, with their daughters Sara and Amanda. August and Laurie Wolfe live in Dodge City. Their two sons are Eric and Justen, both live in Wichita while attending WSU.

Agnes Schlereth Gladden, born June 14, 1927, Dodge City. Agnes and Kenneth Gladden live in Dodge City. They have three sons, Darrell, Larry and Mike. Darrell and Beverly Burkhart live in Dodge City. He has four children: Kimberly Border, Hutchinson, Kansas; Donna and Kenny, Dodge City and Angela and her daughter, Cessia Lauters, of Fowler, Kansas. Larry and Linda Burkhart, Dodge City, have one daughter, Nicole. He also has two daughters, Matesia and Dana Jo, Ensign, Kansas. Mike and Mindy Burkhart live in Dodge City, with their one son: Michael Linn. He has a daughter, Michelle Burkhart. Hays, Kansas.

ADAM SCHMIDT

Adam Schmidt was born in Bavaria, Germany, December 16, 1840. He came to America with his parents and brothers and sisters when he was 12 years old. In the Schmidt family group were the parents, six children and a grandmother. While on the way to America, one girl died and another was born. Just before they reached land, the grandmother died. The small trunk in Elma's

room in The Home of Stone is the only thing that the Schmidt descendants had that had come with the family in the sailing vessel.

They settled in St. Louis and two months later both parents and the baby died in an epidemic. Adam then lived with an uncle who apprenticed him to a blacksmith. During the Civil War when Adam was about 21, he served three years with the First Missouri Light Artillery. He participated in the Battle of Pea Ridge, and later was with Grant at Vicksburg.

After the war Adam plied his trade as a blacksmith at Abilene, Kansas, then at its prime as a cow town. He followed the cattle trade to Ellsworth, then Hays City and finally in about 1874, to Dodge City where he established a blacksmith shop on Trail Street, east of Fourth Avenue, at the site where the Rock Island depot stood for many years. The Schmidt's first home was just south of the blacksmith shop on Trail Street.

Elizabeth Berg was the daughter of Frederick Berg who had come to this country from Hamburg, Germany. When Elizabeth was 16, she and her sister came to Dodge City by train in March 1878, to be with their parents who were already settled here. Her father was a baker and confectioner and operated the first bakery in Dodge City. He originally lived just west of the Great Western Hotel on Trail Street near Bridge Street, later known as Second



The Adam Schmidt Family. From left to right: Adam, Heinie, Elma, Louis, and Elizabeth.

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Avenue.

John Bender, who had brought the first passenger train into Dodge City six years earlier, was conductor of the train the night that the Berg sisters came to town. He was concerned about the two young girls departing from the train at night in this wild frontier town. He would not let them leave the station until he had brought their father to get them.

Coming to Dodge City when she did and working with the public in her father's bakery, Elizabeth knew personally most of the men and women who made Dodge City's history. She was a champion of the cowboys, and said that they were gentlemen, if left alone. She served ice cream to Buffalo Jones. She saw Colonel Lewis lead his troops through the city to quell the Indian massacres to the west. A few days later she saw his body return in a government ambulance. In January 1881, Elizabeth Marie Berg and Adam Schmidt were married. It was said of her that her whole life was that of a faithful, kindly, loving wife and mother. Elizabeth Berg Schmidt died December 1, 1938.

While Adam Schmidt was mending wagon wheels and shoeing horses, John Mueller was making boots and saddles

at his boot shop on Front Street just west of the Dodge House. Through the years, John used the profit from his shop to buy cattle. In 1879 and 1880, he built the fine stone house on the hill above the wild life of Front Street, where he lived comfortably with his wife and two children.

All went well until the big blizzard of 1886. Hundreds of thousands of cattle were frozen in the severe cold and snow including those of John Mueller. So devastating was his loss that he was compelled to sell his boot shop and his home and return to St. Louis, his former home. It was at this time in 1890, that his good friend, Adam Schmidt, bought the stone house that became the Schmidt family home until 1965, when it was sold to Ford County to be made into a museum. Adam Schmidt lived in the home on the hill until his death May 1, 1911, four years after he retired.

His obituary, published in the *Dodge City Journal* of Friday, May 5, 1911, states: "The body was laid to rest in Maple Grove Cemetery. The body bearers were: H.B. Bell, O.A. Bond, A.J. Anthony, Chris Behl, Fred Bader and Peter Mootz, all of whom were pioneer citizens and life-long friends."

The Schmidts were the parents of three children, Heinrich, always called "Heinie," Louis and Elma. The three children of Adam and Elizabeth Berg Schmidt were all born in the home on Trail Street, located just south of their father's blacksmith shop.

Heinie Schmidt was born January 4, 1882. He attended school on Boot Hill and after graduation worked for seven years as a clerk in a hardware store.

Adam had always thought it his patriotic duty to attend all public meetings having to do with the betterment of the state or community and he believed that Heinie, being the oldest son, must go with him.

Heinie Schmidt, who never married, served as Register of Deeds in 1908 and was appointed postmaster December 29, 1914, and served in that capacity during the Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt administrations. This was a political appointment, and Heinie, an ardent Democrat, received

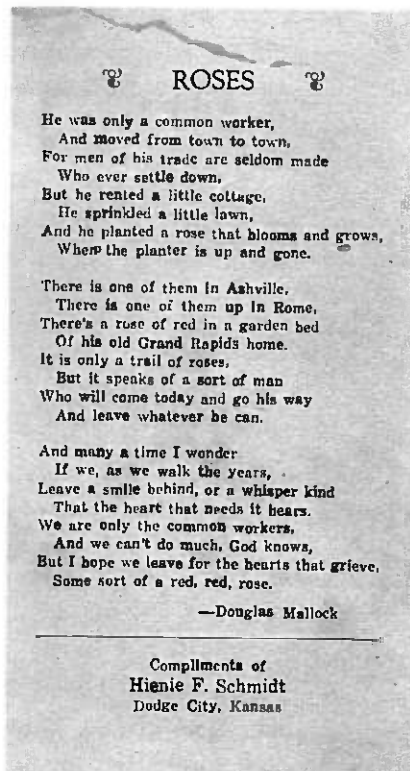
the appointment only during Democratic administrations.

Perhaps his chief distinction in Ford County in the early years of the 20th century was as a worker and leader in developing social centers in the rural areas of the county. This movement received his complete enthusiasm and interest. He was successful in organizing 26 societies in the 64 school districts of the county. The object of these societies was for educational improvement and literary entertainment. The local superintendents and teachers, even in the adjoining counties, gave their active support. Hardly a literary meeting went by that did not see Heinie and some of his talented city friends in attendance, singing, debating or auctioning at box or pie socials.

Heinie Schmidt was a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club, and he was a member of the Lutheran Church, St. Bernard Masonic Lodge and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Old Settlers Club and a life member of both the Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas Authors Club.

Heinie's literary interest and ability extended not only to his love for poetry but to local history. He wrote poetry and also collected poetry that appealed to him. He had bits of poetry printed on cards which he passed out to people he met. Always at the bottom was printed "Compliments of Heinie F. Schmidt" We are indebted to him for much of the pioneer history that he recorded in his weekly column that appeared in the *High Plains Journal* in the 1940s and 1950s.

Ray Pierce, editor of the *High Plains Journal*, a Southwest Kansas farm weekly, selected and put in book form some of the many stories that had appeared in Heinie's weekly column called "It's Worth Repeating." The Rotary Club, of which Heinie was a member, underwrote the price of the first printing of the book *Ashes of My Campfire*. This was on April 7, 1952, shortly before the 179th District Rotary Club meeting which was held in Dodge City. The books were given out as souvenirs at the meeting. According to Ray Pierce,



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writing in the preface in the first edition, it was first published without Heinie's knowledge as a tribute to him as a friend, a Dodge Citian, and a Rotarian. A second printing followed on August 1, 1952. In the *Dodge City Daily Globe* of January 4, 1982, Tim Wenzl quoted Ray Pierce as saying of Heinie's writing, "Heinie had a style all his own. He wrote in a phraseology that could be termed as being out of the 1800s. The words that he chose and the way that he said things were eloquent. The best way to describe his writing is like color over a pen and ink drawing."

In his youth, he was the promoter of minstrel shows in which he took the part of the interlocutor. Very few Democratic gatherings before elections saw the candidates attending without Heinie Schmidt and his long-time friend, Joe Hulpieu.

Heinie never married but lived with his sister, Elma, in the home that had been theirs since early childhood. Severe arthritis crippled him in the last few years of his life and when his sister could no longer climb the stairs to care for him, they sold the home to Ford County and moved into a ground level home. Heinie died January 7, 1964, and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Elma Schmidt, the second of the three Schmidt children, was born December 27, 1885. Elma and her brothers went to school in the Third Ward School House on Boot Hill. She graduated in 1904. Others in her class were Fred Riney, Sadie Hanna, Audrey Sturgeon Martin, Lillie Stubbs Garrett, John Van Riper and Betty Hickerson.

One of Elma's first jobs after graduation was as a clerk in the York store in Dodge City. It was a ladies' wear and variety store. She also worked for several years in the Register of Deeds office and then went to work in the State Bank of Dodge City which was consolidated with the Kansas State Bank during the bank holiday, January 6, 1933. The two then became known as the Fidelity State Bank, located on the southeast corner of Second Avenue and Gunsmoke. Elma worked there until she retired.

Elma was a member of the Presby-

terian Church and a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, in which she held many offices. Part of her estate was given to them to be used for scholarships.

In disposition, Elma was the direct opposite of her older brother, Heinie. He was outgoing, jovial and a friend of everyone. She was quiet, quite proper and conservative in both her manner and dress. As a business person, she was just that, business. She was not the type of person that customers joked with, in fact, she could be very curt.

She had a strong affection and admiration for her mother. In later years, when she and Heinie began to plan for their home to be a pioneer museum, she insisted that at least one room be dedicated to the pioneer mothers. This wish of hers was carried out by the Ford County Historical Society when it became the custodian of the home. The society made the old dining room into the Pioneer Mother's Room. From the very first, the society insisted that the building be called the Home of Stone not the House of Stone. Home is a much warmer word and somehow it seems to tie it to the families who lived there. Elma died October 26, 1972, and is buried in the family plot in Maple Grove Cemetery.

The third of the Schmidt children, Louis Schmidt always known as Louie or Lew, was born November 16, 1884. In 1912, he began working at the electric power company. At that time it was known as the Midland Water, Light and Power Company. Because he was an electrician, the Schmidt home at Avenue A and Vine Street was one of the first homes in the city to be wired with electricity. He worked as a lineman, then as line superintendent, later stock salesman and storekeeper. He retired in 1956. On November 15, 1952, he married Mary Small. They lived all of their married life in the home next door west of his father's old stone house. His house was built on some of the original lot that was bought from John Mueller in 1890. Lew died November 8, 1969.

Lew never visited the Home of Stone after it opened as a museum. He said that he wanted to remember it as it was

in the old days. He remembered playing with other boys in the neighborhood. On hot summer days when the front door stood open, the neighborhood children would slide down the banister and land out on the front porch.

Lola Adams Crum

ANNIE E. ALBRIGHT SCOTT

My father and mother lived in Kansas City, Missouri. Father was a painter by trade, but after several years of painting, the lead in the paint affected his health. At this time there were a number of people going West, taking up homesteads and it seemed to be a very healthy country to live in. So my folks decided to go West, too. They came to Dodge City by train, arriving July 3, 1885.

They stayed at the Dodge House Hotel until they got away to go to their claim northeast of Bloom. They took with them only the bare necessities. They managed to live and build a half dugout and with the help of my uncle and neighbors they dug a well. A little later they built a small frame house.

The well was handy for three neighbors. It was a big job to dig a well as it had to be dug by hand, going 180 to 185 feet to water. The water had to be drawn with windlass and buckets.

Each year my father planted corn or feed but hot winds usually destroyed the crops. Many people who had settled around here had to leave because they could not raise anything to live on. However, in a few years the Rock Island Railroad started to build its roadbed and this gave work to the settlers. They could work single-handed or use their team. This work enabled some of the settlers to stay.

My father got work on the roadbed and after the railroad was built in 1887, he got a job as section hand and a few years later became section foreman. This enabled him to stay. He could buy or lease some of the claims that had been deserted and raise cattle. Most of the settlers had left and we lived in the depot at Bloom for nine years.

Times were hard but my folks had good health, they were thankful for that. As far as I know we never had a doctor.

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Farmers tried to raise corn, oats and barley but the dry hot wind withered up their crops. Prairie fires set out by the engine of the trains quite often burned off thousands of acres of good grassland that the ranchers needed and depended upon for their livestock.

I was the only child, born November 6, 1889, in a sodhouse three miles northeast of Bloom, Kansas. Life on the prairie was very lonely. For part of my school life, I was the only pupil. About the only people we saw were the ones in the covered wagons going by the Bloom depot. We were always glad to have them stop and get water at the pump. They were very friendly and we enjoyed their friendly chat.

In 1901, the year my father left the railroad, we began to have more rainfall with fewer crop failures. People began drifting back, buying up some of the cheap land that was for sale and people began to prosper.

Annie Scott
from *Annie, Child of the Prairie*

Annie Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Orr and Josephine Albright was born November 6, 1889. She was born in a sod dugout near Bloom, Kansas. She married Thomas Earl Scott at the Methodist Church in Bloom on December 31, 1916. Their children are: Myrland Scott Hertlein, Samuel Walter Scott, Wilbur Albright Scott and Josephine Scott Swenson. In 1968, Ethel Etrick Watkins wrote and published the book, *Annie, Child of the Prairie*. It is the story of the lonely, only child, Annie, who grew up on the Kansas prairie.

Lola Adams Crum

EDWARD (SHEEHAN) SHEAN

Edward Shean is thought to have been the eldest of the children of Peter Sheehan and Eliza Fitzharris. He was born in Wexford, Ireland, on May 10, 1847.¹ Some time after this, the family of probably at least five children moved to the United States. All of the family, except Edward and his father, Peter, are believed to have died in New Orleans of the Black Plague. These two remaining members of the family then moved to Chicago, Illinois, where the father

remarried.

Edward did not get along with his new stepmother. One day he did something which aroused her temper and she slapped him. Unfortunately, she was holding a knife in her hand at the time and the resulting cut scarred him across the upper lip. The scar was thought to be the reason he thereafter always wore a mustache. This domestic incident evidently was the straw that broke the camel's back, so to speak and Edward left home to join the Army.²

This probably was done with no little difficulty because of his rather tender age of about 15. However, this was also the time of the Civil War (1861-1865) and he eventually did find a way to enlist. It is thought that he enlisted as a drummer boy on August 20, 1861, and then enlisted as a fighting soldier on December 29, 1863, in F Company, the 72nd Regular Illinois Volunteers and then transferred to G Company, the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry on July 17, 1865.³ He served until December 6, 1865, at which time the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry was disbanded with the close of the Civil War.⁴

During the Civil War period he went by the original family name of Sheehan. After the close of the Civil War, he then attempted to enlist for a standard term with the regular army, but because of a report which stated he had contracted a chronic ailment in the Civil War, he was rejected. It was at this time that he shortened his name to Shean, made application to another recruiting station in Chicago, passed their exam, and was enlisted for a three year, and later another three and then two five year terms. This first enlistment was made with Company I, 10th U.S. Regular Infantry Army on December 14, 1865.⁵ He did not tell the second recruiting station that he had been in the Civil War and the chronic ailment was not found. Trouble came years later when he tried to prove his years of service for a pension claim.⁶

Also the ill health that had evidently plagued him during Civil War service seemed to continue to follow him, as military Medical records show a great amount of treatment for ailments such as catarrh, diarrhea, ulcers, rheumatism,



Edward Shean

cuts, sprains, and so on, throughout his years of service.⁷ During this enlistment, much of his time was spent in Minnesota. He was discharged on December 14, 1868, due to expiration of term of service at the rank of private.

On February 19, 1869, he again enlisted for three years with Company G, 10th Infantry at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota.⁸ He was appointed to the rank of corporal on March 10, 1869, and then reduced to private on May 12, 1869.⁹ Apparently, 1869 was not a good year for Edward for he was ill a great deal of the time, and spent several months in a hospital in Helena, Texas. He was discharged on January 17, 1870, on a Surgeons Certificate of Disability. Then on February 3, 1879, he once again re-enlisted, this time with Company G, 19th Infantry and using the name *Shane*. He was appointed again to the rank of corporal on June 1 and then reduced to private on December 27, 1870.¹⁰

1. Pension Claim, 1904.

2. Edward Shean, grandson.

3. Military and Pension records received from Nat'l Archives, Washington, D.C.

4. *History of the Thirty-Third Illinois Veteran Volunteers Infantry from 1861 to 1865*. General Isaac H. Elliot, Press of Gibson Courier, Gibson City, Illinois, 1902.

5. Military and Pension Records from National Archives, Washington, D.C.

6. *History of the Thirty-Third Illinois Veteran Volunteers Infantry from 1861-1865*. General Isaac H. Elliot, Press of Gibson Courier, Gibson City, Illinois, 1902.

7. Military and Pension Records from National Archives, Washington, D.C.

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*

10. *Ibid.*

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Probably during the year 1870, the government found they needed army men out in the forts of the western plains to combat Indians who were making raids on the wagon trains as they were hauling supplies along the route to Santa Fe.¹¹ To fill a specific need at the time, the government drew 10 names from the list of regulars. Edward Shane's name was among the 10. These 10 men were to be sent to Fort Dodge in western Kansas. They made the slow train trip to Hays, Kansas, and from there they traveled with horses over the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge trail to Fort Dodge. This was several years after Fort Dodge had been organized on March 18, 1865.¹² (I have not found records yet to show for certain when this took place.)

When Edward arrived, there probably hadn't been too much change from the following account of the early fort:

The post rested on the northern bank of the Arkansas River on a narrow meadow about one-fourth mile wide. There was a limestone bluff to the north that rose from 70 to 80 feet above the elevation of the post and to the north of this bluff there was a series of prairie ravines which blended into the open plains. This was not an ideal location for the fort because it did not command the high ground which circles the post except on the river side. This fact was later used by Indians to attack the post. There was little choice on the site, however, because the main consideration was the availability of water.

The Arkansas River offered almost no timber of construction quality, which meant the only abundant material available was buffalo grass sod. During the first year of the fort, 70 sod dugouts were completed—each 10 by 12 and seven feet deep, the bottom being five feet under the ground, covered by a two foot sod ledge and topped with cottonwood branches, brush, and tents. The wind was soon able to tear these tents from their moorings. A shallow door faced the river and a

hole was left in the roof to provide fresh air and light. Each was equipped with a sod chimney for heating and cooking. Banks of earth left around the inside provided sleeping bunks. There were from two to four men quartered in each dugout.

During the spring the river usually flooded and the under flow would seep into the dugout even if they were not actually flooded. Malaria, diarrhea, dysentery, and pneumonia were common because of the unsanitary quarters and constant exposure. In 1866, a sutler's store was built (also of sod) and the merchandise which was then sold (including whiskey) offered some diversion for the soldiers of the plains.

Throughout 1866 and 1867, they worked at raising permanent facilities, while at the same time keeping an eye on the Indians. First came two barracks, a hospital, a quartermaster's building, a supply building, and a headquarters for the commanding officer. All of these structures were built of limestone which was quarried by civilians and soldiers. Each of the barracks was designed to hold approximately 50 soldiers (a company), with a kitchen and mess, plus a dormitory for the men. Latrines were erected just behind the barracks.

During 1868, a frame building that had been quickly erected the previous summer to house cholera victims was converted to a recreation parlor. This action drew quite a protest from the post chaplain and as a result he was offered the use of the building during the day as a school, on Sunday morning as a church, and the remaining time it was to be used for recreation. (This is probably where Edward was married.)

Mess was organized on an individual company basis. Cooks were detailed monthly from among the men in each company and the food served was equal to

the talents of the cooks chosen each month. Each enlisted man was given a bread allowance of 18 ounces daily.

A soldier, in addition to regular military duty, was assigned to work details at the stone quarry, the lime kiln, the hospital, the hay fields, and the fort's timber tract. These assignments lasted from one to three weeks. Because these jobs were usually very difficult, men were often sent to these as a result of disciplinary action. Desertion also posed a large problem during those years.

Privates were paid \$13 per month during the first two years of service with increments for years served. The clothing allotment provided by the government was usually sufficient, articles drawn in excess of the enlistment allowance had to be paid for. A thrifty soldier who did not claim all of his clothing allotment was given a cash payment when he was mustered out of the army for articles not used. Uniforms were all wool, undergarments as well as outer garments. The same uniform was used summer and winter. Shoes were made to fit either foot. They had only to be wet and put on the foot. They would then conform to the shape of whichever foot they were on. The post laundresses washed the enlisted men's clothing for one dollar per dozen for large items and 50 cents per dozen for small items.

The following account shows what a normal day for a soldier might have been like during the years at Ft. Dodge:

The trumpeters assembled at 4:30 a.m. and blew Reveille at 5:00 a.m. Breakfast and stable calls were sounded immediately

11. *Saga of Sawlog*. Kate Warner Krumrey. Big Mountain Press. Denver, 1965. (Anecdotes by J.W. Shean and history of area)

12. *Sentinel to the Cimarron*. David K. Strate. Cultural Heritage and Arts Center. Title III, ESEA. Project 68-5772. Dodge City USD 443. Dodge City, Kansas. July 1970 High Plains Publishers, Inc., Dodge City, Kansas.

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after reveille formation and sick call followed at 6:30 a.m. Company areas were policed following fatigue call at 6:45 a.m. Drill call followed immediately after early morning fatigue duties were completed. The troops were recalled from drill at 8:15 a.m. and remained on fatigue call until dinner call at 12:00 p.m. After a one-hour break for dinner, they returned to fatigue duty until 5:00 p.m. Between recall from afternoon fatigue and supper, which was usually served at 6:00 p.m., the troops fell out for afternoon stable call and water call. Tattoo was blown at 9:00 p.m. and the days routine ended with taps at 9:30 p.m.¹³

Earliest of the problems in the area were those brought about by Indian attack upon the freighters as they traveled along the route from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Just such an attack occurred at a point six miles south of Spearville along the Coon Creek. There was no Spearville at the time and the Santa Fe Railroad had not yet laid its ribbons of steel across the western plains. In the spring of 1868 (there is some doubt about this date), scouts brought word to Fort Dodge of an expected attack by Indians on a large supply train coming from the east. Shean (Shane) and other soldiers mounted and rode out to the Coon Creek Crossing where the attack was taking place. A large band of Indians had hidden themselves in a series of buffalo wallows near the springs along the north bank of the creek. The place was so overgrown with grasses and bushes that it proved a good hideout for the stealthy Indians. The 17 wagons of the supply train, when surprised by the attack immediately brought their wagons into a circular formation, as was customary to better hold off an attack. A scout who traveled with the supply train was a 22-year-old girl who could handle a .45 six-shot revolver on an equal with the best of gun men. But an Indians' arrow struck her there at the Coon Creek Battle with the Indians and she died bravely and was buried there

beneath the prairie grasses.

Upon the arrival of the troops from the fort, the Indians were soon put to rout. Seven or eight of the Indians had been killed in the skirmish. Included among the supplies in the wagons were many bolts of bright-colored calico. In the skirmish there that spring day, the Indians had robbed the wagons of many of these bolts, and as they raced their ponies away from the scene of battle, with the length of gay colored cloth blowing in the breeze behind them, a most weird but colorful sight was visible. The attacking Indians left their dead to lie upon the plains.

As the Indians rode away, order was restored, the deeply mourned scout was buried, the 17 wagons placed in traveling formation, and the train resumed its travel on to the fort for the night. The regulars, one of whom was Edward "Shane," had done their duty on that spring day. Had they not made their run out from Fort Dodge, the entire wagon train might have been wiped out. Many arrowheads as well as a Colt revolver and other articles have been found at the site where this skirmish with the Indians took place in the spring of 1868, six miles south of where, five years later, the town of Spearville had its beginnings.¹⁴

The Northern Cheyenne were moving southward. They had participated in the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876, and after camping near Fort Dodge in late July 1877, moved on to the Indian Territory.

One year there proved to be enough for them and they then proceeded to try to return to their original homelands in 1878. All of the military posts to the north were advised of the Indians departure and were ordered to prepare to send troops into the field to halt the wayward band. Fort Dodge was ordered to stop the Cheyenne, however, their first several efforts were to no avail. As the Cheyenne advanced and people prepared feverishly for their attack, the Colonel at Fort Dodge gathered every available man, to a total of five companies of cavalry and boarded a train for the Cimarron where a large band of the Cheyenne had reportedly crossed be-

tween the 21st and the 23rd of September. He arrived on the 25th and after unloading men, horses, and supplies they followed the trail left by the Cheyenne. Being anxious to redeem the good name of the command after the poor performance of earlier troops, they pursued the Cheyenne until on September 27, at the Punished Woman's Fork of the Smoky Hill River, some 30 miles south of Ft. Wallace, the exhausted Indians dug in along the walls of a ravine and prepared to give battle. The Colonel was shot down during the initial attempt to storm the Cheyenne and later died. After seeing their leader fall, what little appetite the men had had for the fight was gone, and they quickly retired to the safety of the rear camp. The scouts had succeeded in capturing some 60 ponies from the Indian herds, but the Indians emerged relatively unharmed.

After leaving this location, the Indians then split into groups, led by Dull Knife and Little Wolf. Eventually, all were captured, and a final tally showed that only about 58 of the original band of over one thousand Indians survived.

A personal notation on the discharge paper of 1881, by a Captain Bradford states that Edward Shean participated in this action with the hostile Cheyenne at Punished Woman's Fork, Kansas, on September 27, 1878.¹⁶

The following story was told by J.W. Shean (son of Edward Shean), to his granddaughter, Connie Shean Burkhart, in February 1963, for a high school English assignment:¹⁷

In the 1800s or thereabouts, the buffalo hunters invaded the west. They came mainly to get the buffalo hides not for food. Before this occurred, the Indians had more or less reigned supreme over the buffalo and the plains. Riding up along side of a buffalo with bow and arrow and striking the animal in the right side, just

13. Ibid.

14. *Saga of Sawlog*. Kate Warner Krumery, Big Mountain Press, Denver, 1965.

15. Strate, *op cit*.

16. Discharge Papers of 1875 and 1881.

17. Personal Notes and Anecdotes of J.W. Shean, son of Edward Shean.

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back of the fore leg, the Indian would kill the animal. Thus he had food, clothing and shelter provided through this animal. The Indians killed only as many buffalo as were needed for survival, unlike the white buffalo hunter who killed everything that came into his sights. This, naturally, made the Indians angry, and was a chief reason for many Indian uprisings.¹⁸

My great-grandfather, Edward Shean, was a member of the Cavalry at Fort Dodge, and fought the Indian uprisings for 12 years after having fought for four years in the Civil War. The following is a true happening which occurred sometime between 1868 and 1870:

My great-grandfather was always friendly with the Indians who lived on the government property surrounding the fort. Food was provided for them every fall and winter. One day he was visiting the chief, who called him "Sheen." The chief complained of terrible stomach pains and said that the only thing that could save his life was some of the white man's "firewater." Of course, my great-grandfather told him it was against regulations to give whiskey to any Indian, but the chief said he had to have it, so finally Edward said he would try to find some for the chief, and did so. The next day the chief was well, and said that "Sheen" had saved his life.

That spring the Indians again had an uprising (after the winter months were over they always had an uprising.) One day Edward was out with a buddy exploring the country. They came to the Little Duck Creek and discovered a ravine and decided to explore it. After they had ridden in and come to a flat piece of land, they glanced around and saw Indians behind them, and on both sides. In addition to the Indians, there was a deep creek in front of them.

This particular group of Indians was headed by the same chief that had been earlier saved by the whiskey. They had the other soldier off his horse and were preparing to torture him when the chief recognized Edward and rode off with him to talk. When they were a distance from the rest of the Indians, the chief told "Sheen" of his plan to return the favor and save his life. He was to pretend to strike out at the chief and knock him off his horse. When he hit the ground the chief would wait a few minutes and then let out a yell. The rest of the Indians would give chase and hopefully "Sheen" would escape. The only trouble with this plan was that the buddy couldn't be saved unless all three wanted to be killed. The plan was carried out. Luckily it worked, for Edward at any rate. His horse was a little gray mare which was very fast. It was nearly ten miles to the fort and there was a prairie dog town in the path, an extra hazard for the horse. He made it back to the fort and summoned a detail to go out and see what had happened to his friend. When they got there, they found the man staked to the ground, scalped, his eyes poked out with sticks, and his body burned in places by hot sticks. So, by giving an Indian whiskey and disobeying the law in doing so, Edward had saved his own life.¹⁹

Life on the plains of Kansas must not have been too distasteful to Edward, even though he first came here on Army orders, not a choice he might have otherwise made for the course of his life. This preference is evident because of his re-enlistments for 1870-1875 and 1876-1881, which were surely made of his own decision. On the discharge paper of Edward "Shane," dated February 3, 1875, it states that he was enlisted on February 3, 1870, to serve for five years and was discharged in consequence of the expiration of the term of service. His age was given as 30, which

showed a two year discrepancy of his actual age of 28 and probably was reflective of his earlier Civil War enlistments under an assumed age. It listed his character as "fair." It also stated that he was five feet, eight inches tall, had a fair complexion, gray eyes, light hair and his occupation when enlisted was soldier.

He was paid in full the amount of \$389.98. His final discharge paper on June 28, 1881, was much the same. He had enlisted on June 29, 1876, to serve a five-year term and was discharged because of expiration of his term of service. He was again listed as "Shane" on this document and the two-year age discrepancy was also present. He had married in 1880 and this final discharge paper then listed his character as "excellent—married." He was paid in full the amount of \$337.92. Therefore, on June 28, 1881, he ended his career as a soldier, trading nearly 20 years as a soldier for the life of a farmer. He had earlier met a young woman in Dodge City whose name was Clara Reide. They were married on November 14, 1880, at Fort Dodge by O.W. Wright, pastor of the Presbyterian Church.²⁰

After completing his last term of service, he moved to the homestead farm which belonged to his mother-in-law, Theresia Reide, and her mother, Moniga Staiger. In 1890, he was to patent the northwest quarter of the land which Theresia Reide had originally taken.²¹ Seven children were born to Edward and Clara. A brief account of each follows:

Clara Shean Young was born on April 3, 1881, and died on February 15, 1965. She married Nicholas Young and they lived in Kinsley, Kansas. He was killed in 1930, when a shotgun discharged while he was said to be pursuing chicken thieves.²² They had seven children: Tracy, who was killed in a train accident; Marie, Mona Carochi,

18. *Ibid.*

19. *Ibid.*

20. *The Treeseacher*, Kansas Genealogical Society, Vol. VIII, No. 3, July, 1966. Dodge City, Kansas.

21. Land Patent, 1890.

22. *The Spearville News*.

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Joseph (adopted); Howard; LeRoy; and Dick who is also deceased. Clara later lived in Spearville with her sister, Monica, for a number of years prior to her death. She and her family are buried in a Kinsley cemetery.

J.W. "Bill" Shean was born on May 1, 1883, and died on January 1, 1969. He married Clara Klenke (March 10, 1883-June 24, 1946) on October 9, 1907. They had six children, two of whom died in infancy: Howard (March 14, 1910-February 21, 1911) and Justine (July 5, 1917-March 4, 1918). Their other children are: Arthur, born August 27, 1908, married Leona Stein (September 21, 1909) on April 27, 1932. They have four children: Glen, Sharon, Verl, and Janell. Agnes was born on January 11, 1912 and married Elbert Kane (December 2, 1906) on May 22, 1932. They have four children: Bill, Rosalie, David, and Darlene. One child, Mary Agnes, died in infancy. Marie was born on October 7, 1913 and married Alphons Bollig (December 1, 1908-August 28, 1962) on June 24, 1935. They have one daughter, Shirley. Norbert was born on July 18, 1915 and married Viola Bleumer (December 17, 1920) on January 2, 1946. They have five children: Connie, Jane, Debbie, Bob and Barbara. A daughter, Joanne, died in infancy. J.W. and his wife Clara are buried in St. John's Cemetery, Spearville.

Peter Shean was born on May 28,

1885 and died in 1958. He married Harriet (Ella) Hildebran. They have five children: Joseph, Betty Nau, Rose Helfrich, Mary Gaul and Henry. Peter and his wife later lived on the family homestead farm for much of the remainder of their lives. Their son, Henry, now owns the original northeast quarter. The family home built there in the 1900s burned in 1975. Peter and Ella are buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst.

John Shean was born on December 15, 1887 and died on December 29, 1971. He lived a colorful life and partook of many occupations, including farmer, cattleman, oil field worker and miner. He returned to Spearville and lived with his sister, Monica, during the last few years of his life. He was never married. He is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst.

Monica Shean was born December 8, 1889 and died April 23, 1975. Although she was an attractive young woman, she remained single and was the mainstay of the family, caring selflessly for her mother, grandmother, sister, and brothers whenever she was needed. After her mother's death, she worked for a time in Colorado as a housekeeper. Monica was a beautiful person from the inside as well as on the outside. She is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst.

Joseph Shean was born on December 24, 1893, and died August 5, 1924.

He married Katy Klenke and had one son, Edward. Edward and his wife, Bonnie have three children: Keith, Kathy and Sandra. Joseph met an untimely death when he was struck by lightning in a field on his farm. He is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst.

Charles Shean was born October 11, 1897, and died March 4, 1965. He served in World War II as a PFC. in the Medical Corps. He was unmarried. He worked in farming, mining and with a logging company. He is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst.

Edward Shean (first Sheehan during the Civil War, Shean from 1866-1869, Shane from 1870-1881, and finally Shean again on marriage records of 1880, and then evidently firmly and finally settled upon) spent some 35 years of his life as a farmer. In the 1900s a new two-story home was built for his family, with his sons helping to build this home. This house burned down in 1975.

In 1904, Edward again began work on his pension application.²³ Because of the early age of his enlistment, and the subsequent name changes: Sheehan, Shean, Shane, and Shean; he had quite a difficult time in proving that he was actually the same man as the records named and that he had put in all of the service time he claimed. He finally did receive a pension. Records show that on June 7, 1912, he received \$14.50 per month; May 10, 1913, it raised to \$16.50; May 10, 1917, it raised to \$21.50; and on May 10, 1922, it would have been \$27 from that time on. After his death, Clara received a widow's pension until the time of her death. Edward had begun a pension claim in 1890 stating a disability had first occurred to him about 1864 in Civil War service in Vicksburg, Mississippi. By 1894, he had not received this pension, but it is thought that he received about \$8 per month for a time. At the time of his death in 1918, he had been receiving \$30 per month.²⁴



Ed Shean and family and the homestead. Pictured and Ed and his wife Clara, children Pete, John, Will, Clare and Monica, Grandma Staiger and Grandma Reide.

²³. Pension Claim 1904

²⁴. Military and Pension records received from the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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In 1916, because of illness, Edward went to the Veteran's Hospital in Washington, D.C. Two years later, on December 8, 1918, he died there. Even though he had been gone for several years, his family was not aware of the seriousness of his condition and were quite surprised at his death. His body was returned and he is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst. He had been a member of the local GAR post having joined in 1891. He was a popular member of that organization. It is said that he could entertain an audience by relating his war experiences in his homespun and intelligent manner.²⁵

His wife, Clara, survived him for 19 years. She lived with her daughter, Monica, for several years in Spearville. This home was sold after her death which came in October or November 1937. She is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst. After her death, her daughter, Monica, spent some time working in Colorado. Later, she moved into the home that her brothers rebuilt for her in Spearville not far from the grade school and Catholic Church. She lived there until her death in 1975.

Connie Burkhart
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J.W. "BILL" SHEAN

J. W. Shean was born on May 1, 1883, the oldest son and second child of Edward and Clara (Reide) Shean. This was some four years after Clara and her family came to this area as homesteaders and about three years after Edward was discharged from army service at nearby Fort Dodge. Bill had six brothers and sisters: Clara, Peter, John, Monica, Joseph and Charles. The family, with their German grandmother and great-grandmother, until her death in 1893, lived in an L-shaped home on the farm. Sometime near 1900, the family constructed a large two-story frame home which burned to the ground in 1975, after having housed several generations of this family.

Once, as a boy, Bill and his brother,
^{25. *The Spearville News.*}

Peter, were doing their chore of chopping wood. A misplaced blow by Pete nearly severed one of Bill's fingers. Fortunately, their grandmother was nearby and was probably as near to a doctor as the area knew at the time. She quickly took her ever-present needle and black thread and deftly stitched back the finger. Had she not been able to help so quickly, he probably would have gone through life with only a stub for a finger. This independence from seeking professional medical care also carried through his life, particularly in the dental area. Bill usually always took care of any faulty teeth by simply pulling them himself.

Bill acquired some of his schooling in the parochial school at Windthorst and in other Ford County schoolhouses. For a time before his marriage, Bill and his brother Pete, lived the life of bachelors in a "shack" in a pasture of the farm he bought in 1902.

At the age of 24, on October 9, 1907, he married Clara Klenke, also aged 24. She was born on March 10, 1883. Bill had been building his farm home before he was married and so the young couple moved to that farm, six miles south of Spearville, after their marriage. A bedroom in this home was used for a granary one year during harvest. The basement was dug under the house several years after its construction. Harvest was slow in coming that year, so the harvest hands were put to work digging while waiting for the actual harvest work to begin.

In the 1920s, Bill and his family moved into the town of Spearville, where they had purchased a grocery store, called Shean's Cash Store. They would return to the farm to live during the summer months for harvest and otherwise continued running the farm. His son, Arthur, later occupied the farm when he married, and now Arthur's son, Verl, and his family presently live in the same home, with various remodeling having taken place through the years. Marie Bollig, Bill's daughter, now lives in the home in Spearville where the family had moved in the 1920s.

The operation of the grocery store was from 1922-1935. During the 1930s,



J.W. and Clara (Klenke) Shean

the name of the store was changed to Shean and Son Grocery when his son Norbert went into partnership with him there. Many area people had employment in this store through the years. The store was sold to Henry and Mary Schuette in 1935.

Bill was an avid amateur inventor. His first patent was for a railway gate that operated automatically when a train got within a certain distance from a crossing. In 1930, a newspaper stated that "Shean Gets Patent on Another Device." This particular device was one which would enable an airplane to take wing without a landing field. It was modeled slightly after the home-made windmill of early days and had a series of fans or lifting propellers. It was first tried on a toy plane. He also invented a device which would prevent a car from skidding at high speeds. This was also first implemented on a toy. In the United States, the law provides that a patent may be granted to any person who has invented or discovered any new and useful machine, etc. A patent is granted only upon a regularly filed application, payment of fees, and only after a determination that the invention is new and useful. A patent is granted for a period of 17 years. Apparently Bill was ahead of his time as many of his ideas seem to have been usefully implemented today.

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Farm home of J.W. Shean, south of Spearville.

Bill was also quite civic minded and served his community in many ways. He was county commissioner for two terms, 1922-1926 and 1934-1938. He was elected chairman of that group in 1937. In 1937, he was endorsed for the Highway Commission as the Southwest's leading road booster and the area's candidate best fitted for the post. When the Ford County Lake project on the correction line road was under consideration, it was almost given up as hopeless, because of the inability to obtain the site, until Bill dug into the statutes and found the way. The lake was constructed and is still a recreation spot in the area today. Because of the big part he played in the project, it was suggested that the lake be named for him. He was not in favor of this gesture, thus it was named Ford County Lake.

Bill was a member of the local Knights of Columbus for over 50 years, and held many offices in that organization. He was a member of the local Spearville Elevator board and director of the Farmers Union. He was quite involved with the project of building the hospital and was one of the original directors. He also took part in various church and school committees in the community. He later maintained an independent insurance agency for a number of years, which was then continued by his son, Arthur, until his retirement, when a local agency then continued their services.

Bill was quite adept at carpenter work. He helped construct his parent's home and built the farm home in which members of his family have since lived for a number of years. His sister,

Monica, needed a home at a time when building was not allowed because of war conditions, but remodeling was permitted. He took an old house, and by always keeping at least one original wall or other feature intact, the house was "remodeled" in such a way that a virtually new structure resulted from the intensive remodeling it received. This was her home for some 30 years and still serves well as a residence today. In the 1950s, the nun's home was to be demolished. Bill removed the top section of this large, old house and moved it to a new location, not far from his home. He then remodeled this structure and produced a modern family dwelling. In 1959, he helped his son, Norbert, build a new brick home. He did many other carpenter jobs as well. He also helped with some farm work and was an avid reader, keeping well up on world and local events in this way.

Bill had 14 grandchildren and is fondly remembered by all of them who were old enough to have been blessed with his company and remember him. He was a companion, a friend, and especially "Grandpa." He often took them fishing, riding, exploring, and talked with them.

On June 24, 1946, Bill's wife, Clara, passed away. She had been in ill health for several years, and a newspaper stated that death was due to paralysis. Clara was the daughter of Frank and Mary Peppercorn Klenke, early pioneers to the Windthorst community. She is buried in St. John's Cemetery, Spearville. After her death, Bill continued to live with his daughter, Marie, and her family.

Bill continued his active life until

several years before his death at the age of 85. Bill passed away on January 1, 1969, after a long illness. He is also buried in the St. John's Cemetery, Spearville.

J.W. "Bill" Shean's descendants are: Arthur, Agnes, Marie and Norbert.

Arthur was born August 27, 1908. On April 27, 1932, he married Leona Louise Stein, born September 21, 1909. They lived on the family farm south of Spearville until 1973, when they built a new home in Spearville. They have four children: Glen Shean, Sharon Shean Droste, Verl Shean and Janell Shean Ignaszak. Arthur passed away on March 15, 1993.

Agnes Shean Kane was born January 11, 1912. On May 22, 1932, she married Elbert Kane, born December 2, 1906. They have three children: Rosalie Kane Jensen, David Kane, Darlene Kane Byrum.

Marie Shean Bollig was born October 7, 1913. On June 24, 1935, she married Alphons Bollig, born December 1, 1908. After living in Wichita, they lived in Spearville since 1945. They have one daughter, Shirley Bollig Moritz. Alphons passed away August 28, 1962.

Norbert W. Shean born July 18, 1915. On January 2, 1946, he married Viola Bleumer, born December 17, 1920. Norbert served in World War II and the Korean Conflict, retiring from the Air Force Reserve as a Lt. Colonel in 1975. He also served as Postmaster and rural mail carrier in the Spearville Post Office. Their children are Constance Shean Burkhart, Jane Shean Speakman, Debbie Shean Hertel, Robert Shean, and Barbara Shean Richardson. Norbert passed away on November 6, 1988.

Connie Burkhart

GILBERT FERDINAND SHEPARD

AND MARTHA ANN

KIFER SHEPARD

My father, Gilbert Ferdinand Shepard, was born in 1863, near Centralia, Missouri. He came to Kansas on horseback shortly before 1885. Gilbert first took an Indian Land Claim 18 miles southeast of Dodge, near Ford

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City, not far from the Arkansas River. He relinquished this claim after finding out that it flooded and took a claim in Hodgeman County about 14 miles west and south of Jetmore. He also taught school in a rural school nearby, having attended Drake University before coming to Kansas.

My mother, Martha Ann Kifer, was born in 1865, near Lynnville, Indiana. She came to Kansas by train from Indiana about 1889. She took a claim in Hodgeman County about eight miles west and two miles south of Jetmore, not far from Horse Thief Canyon. She came to Kansas because her half-brother, Isaiah Williams, already had a claim near Horse Thief Canyon and wanted her to come to Kansas, take a claim, and teach school. Her first school was in one room of a sod house in Horse Thief Canyon.

Martha and Gilbert soon met, and of course, had a common interest, both being school teachers. What happened next is taken from some of Gilbert's own writings:

A Reversed Surprise and Our (Shepard's) Honey-Moon

In the first week in June AD 1890, I said to several of our neighbors on the flats southwest of Jetmore, Kansas. 'Please



Gilbert and Martha Shepard's wedding, 1890.

gather at Mr. Isaiah Williams soddie soon after dusk on the 11th of this month; and for a surprise in honor of my sweetheart Miss Martha Kifer. Then I will escort her to that surprise from her soddie some 40 rods distant from him.' Everything and everybody arrived per schedule. Isaiah's two soddie rooms being fairly well filled with guests and a bounteous table; and the whole crowd 'on tip-toe' for the arrival of 'The To Be Surprised.' Suddenly the County Judge and his wife swept through the open door, and were immediately followed by the chief lady of that event, leaning upon my arm and attired in her wedding gown. Instantly all eyes and mouths popped wide open; but not a sound was heard (except for a volley of 'Whews—') before that marriage ceremony and the responses "I Do" and "I Do" were proclaimed. Then every guest fairly exploded with 'Y-jolly Kids such a caper.' Next came supper and general jollity for an hour or so. The Judge's 10-year-old grandson singing and repeating "Anna Laura." About 11 o'clock the Judge, a Mr. Tee-ter, and his wife and grandson set out on the 'ho's and buggy' trip over the 11 miles return to Jetmore. By midnight all the others of us had said 'Good night and Good Bye' to one another and the guests departed for their homes. Whilst 'the Misses' and I swept in our two bronco buggy across the three and a half mile prairie between Isaiah's and my (our?) shanty in the southwest. On the following day, we two started on our honeymoon and reached Dodge about 20 miles south of home. On the following day, we entered the abandoned prairies southwest of Dodge, then camped in an empty shack the first night, then passed several artesian wells the next day between Fowler and Mead Center.

Gilbert then goes on to tell of con-

tinuing on toward Beaver City, Oklahoma, and of going through the Cherokee Indian Strip that was soon to be opened up to settlers. They camped one night after dark and found out the next morning that they were near a house and farm buildings. Settlers on Indian Territory—"Sooners" he called them.

They continued on to Camp Supply (now Woodward, Oklahoma) seeing timber, spring creeks, bear, cougars, longhorns, and enjoying the rough terrain. Then they headed back towards Kansas, seeing a lot of settlers along the southern part of Kansas. They continued on towards Medicine Lodge, Coldwater, Ford and on towards home. And again in Gilbert's own words:

...then my shack about middle July. Next I remember the Misses began teaching at the School House on my claim and where I had taught two terms. At the same time, I began teaching at the Pleasant Dell School four miles southeast toward Dodge. We lived in my shack that winter.

Gilbert had promised Martha if she would give up her claim and marry him (since there could not be two claims in one family) that he would purchase some land later. So on June 20, 1891, the north quarter of what we now call the "home place" in Ford County was bought for \$500 from a Mr. Wells. It had a frame two-story house (two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs with a cellar) on it, and a barn and perhaps a chicken house. More will be said about



G.F., Martha and Stella Shepard.

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this place later. Martha and Gilbert did not live on this newly acquired place until later. They rented it out to Colonel Metcalf and headed to Austin, Texas, by horse and buggy. While in Texas, Gilbert taught one term of school near Salado, about 40 miles north of Austin. On their way back home to Kansas, at Henrietta, Texas, their first child, Lona Stella was born. Lona Stella was named after the Lone Star State of Texas. Upon their return to Kansas, they lived for about another year in Hodgeman County where they both taught school.

They then spent the next year in Wellington, Kansas, where Gilbert taught a term. Gilbert had acquired a large telescope, and for a fee he allowed viewers to view the heavens at night. Of particular interest to our family is the fact that now, 100 years later, Gilbert's great grandson, Forrest Junior Covey, is teaching school in Wellington. Forrest has been the agricultural teacher for several years there in the high school.

Gilbert, Martha and little Stella then returned to Ford County to reside permanently on what we now call the "home place." They arrived back in the spring of 1894.

On February 17, 1895, their second child, Zona Velma, was born on Martha's 30th birthday. Several facts about this birth are of interest to our family. Gilbert had to go on horseback two to three miles through deep snow to get two neighbor ladies (it is thought it was Mrs. Mullendore and Mrs. Devoe) to attend Martha at the birth. Now, 98 years later, Velma resides in the very same room and house where she was born. However about 1912, Martha's brother, William who was a carpenter, added to the original house, doubling it in size.

Gilbert was well known as a school teacher. He continued teaching in a number of rural schools in Ford and Hodgeman counties. Among the schools was the Fort Dodge School. It seems the old soldiers had married younger women. The boys in the school were unruly. The women teachers had had no luck in controlling them, so Gil-

bert was asked to teach there, which he did for two terms.

In 1899, the Shepards purchased the quarter of land joining them on the south, from Colonel Metcalf. Gilbert sold the stone in the stone house that was on that quarter of land to Fort Dodge. This made what is now the "home place" a half section of land. The "home place" is located five and half miles north and west of Wright, Kansas. U.S. Highway 283 now borders it on the west and Hain's Lake Road runs along the south of the place. Five Mile Creek runs through the place from south to north, emptying into Sawlog Creek about two miles north.

The following are among some of Velma's memories. One of her earliest recollections is the time her father Gilbert took in some horses for pasture, not knowing that they were stolen horses. A few days later, the sheriff and another man came to get the horses. Velma remembers her mother having them stay for dinner and after dinner the sheriff offering to pay Martha. When Martha refused to take the money, the sheriff then turned to little Velma (about three years old) and offered her the silver dollar. Velma, being very timid, and all the time hiding behind her mother's long dress skirt, did not take the money. However, older sister Stella did not hesitate to take the money shortly thereafter. Stella kept and treasured that silver coin for years. Velma recalls how after dinner the two girls sat out on the stone steps of the house watching the men chase and rope the stolen horses.

Velma recalls trips across the prairies into Dodge by two horses and carriage. She recalls delivering homemade butter and other produce to the Schmidt family home (now the Home of Stone). There was a fence around the yard, and a fierce bulldog in the yard at that time. Someone always had to come out and take care of the dog before they could deliver their produce at the back kitchen door.

Another memory of the Schmidt place was when her father Gilbert delivered a wagon load of logs for their son, Heinie, a young teenager, to split for firewood.



Stella, standing, and Velma Shepard, taken in about 1911.

Another memory of her childhood is that of seeing Ben Hodges. Ben was an early-day horse and cattle thief, who'd been caught at thieving and had had, according to rumor, the tendons in his heels cut. He could no longer escape, and could only shuffle along.

Some families in Dodge kept milk cows and didn't always want to keep the baby calves. They sometimes gave them to Ben Hodges. Ben in turn would sell the calves. Velma remembers going with her father Gilbert to Dodge to get baby calves from Ben Hodges. He lived in a little shack down towards the river. The Shepards ended up with some good milk cows from the baby calves that they bought from time to time from Ben Hodges.

Among Velma's memories is that of attending the World Fair in St. Louis in 1904. Velma at age nine, along with her sister, Stella, age 11, went with their mother Martha by train to St. Louis. Velma well remembers sticking her fingers in the crack of the Liberty Bell that was there for the fair. Steps had to be climbed to get to the Liberty Bell that was on display on a high platform. Another thrill was seeing the first airplane that ever flew. It had been invented by the Wright brothers and flown a short distance by one of the Wright brothers not too long before. After leaving St. Louis they went to visit relatives in In-

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diana and while there took their first automobile ride. Martha's sister, Lucy, and Lucy's husband, John Gaddis, owned the automobile.

Velma well remembers the time when she was a child and a cyclone came from the southwest striking a sheep farm one mile to the southwest of their farm. The cyclone killed a number of sheep, destroyed some farm buildings, and left the house partially off the basement foundation. The three bachelor Slaven brothers had just gotten into the house and held the door shut against the fury of the storm. They later found a hen sitting on her chickens where a pig pen had been.

The cyclone then crossed the Shepard's place taking out some pasture fences and damaging and destroying some trees along the creek as it continued northeastward. The Shepard house and buildings escaped damage. A wash boiler which was full of water and sitting under the eaves of the house was found later some distance from the house, badly beaten and mashed. Velma remembers that after the storm was over her mother went out of the house and picked up a hailstone the size of a baseball. The cyclone then traveled on destroying a stone school house and a vacant house two miles northeast of the Shepard place. This school was known to some as the Kissel School. A frame school house was built, in the summer of 1903, to replace it.

As children Stella and Velma attended Fairview School. This school was located about one mile from the Shepard house, as the crow flies, to the southeast—along what is now Hain's Lake Road. Fairview was one of three schools in District #5.

After graduation from Fairview School, Stella taught school southeast of Spearville. On February 2, 1913, she married Roy Foster. They had five children: Lona Mae, Marian, Millie, Laura, and Dollie. Dollie died as a young child when they lived in Colorado. Their first child, Lona Mae, was born in Kansas, in 1914 and in 1915, Stella, Roy and little Lona Mae traveled by covered wagon to live near Las Animas, Colorado.

After completing school at Fairview, Velma was encouraged by her teacher, Clifford Meairs, to go to high school in Dodge City. The fall of 1911, she started attending Third Ward School on Boot Hill. She remembers well climbing the hill to attend classes on Boot Hill. Velma worked her way through high school by rooming and boarding in several different homes and helping out where needed. She had the honor of graduating in the first graduation class to be graduated in the new high school building on Second Avenue which was just being completed. This class only got to attend classes in the new building about a month when school ended in May 1915. She then attended Normal School. The following fall she taught one year near Fowler, and then two years in her home school of Fairview.

An event that changed the course of Velma's life took place while she was attending high school and staying at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J.A. Cornelius. Wayne Cornelius, their teenage son, liked to spend time around the train and engine that came back and forth from Bucklin and that spent the night in Dodge. Wayne met Fred Elder, a fireman that attended the engine, and invited him home for Sunday dinner to the Cornelius home. Fred and Velma met that day and a friendship began. Velma went on to graduate from high school, and teach the three years previously mentioned, before becoming Mrs. Fred K. Elder on May 10, 1918. They were married in the very home where they had met several years earlier. Rev. J.A. Cornelius performed the ceremony.

Velma and Fred made their home in Pratt for 37 years. Fred quit railroading when a strike was called. He and Velma operated a dairy on the edge of Pratt for many years. They had three children: Jessie, Freddie and Rosalyn. Jessie married Forrest Covey, from Oklahoma, and they had five children. Freddie and Rosalyn did not marry.

Martha loved to travel and made several trips and attended several other world fairs after the St. Louis Fair, Chicago and New York among them. She was also an author and had several of

her poems published. She had at least two sets of lyrics put to music and published. *A Cornstalk Fiddle and a Horse-hair Bow* was one. She belonged to the Kansas Authors Club.

Martha was alone on the farm a good many years and as she grew older she needed help. Fred, her son-in-law, brought the dairy herd from Pratt and took care of Martha's cattle as well as the dairy herd. Velma and Rosalyn followed later.

Fred passed away November 27, 1955. Martha passed away September 8, 1963, at the age of 98½ years. Gilbert had passed away in June 1950, at the age of 88.

Stella passed away in Oregon at the home of her daughter, Marian at the age of 94 in 1986. Beside her five children, she had four grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren: a total of 18 descendants; none reside in Kansas.

Velma, at the age of 98, and her daughter Rosalyn still reside on the home place in Ford County. Velma, besides her three children, has five grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren: a total of 25 descendants, most of whom live out of state.

This brief family history would not be complete without the mentioning of a few "early old-time" neighbors that still survive and still live in Ford County.

Frances Pinney, who later married Alfred Holladay, lived near the Sawlog, a few miles to the northwest of the Shepards. Frances was about the same age as Stella was. Frances recently celebrated her 100th birthday and lives at Wilroads Gardens.

Another old-time friend was Edna Lockman Cobb Bell. Edna lived a couple of miles northwest of the Shepards at one time.

Then there is the Warner family. The Shepard family and the Bill Warner families enjoyed visiting each other in the early days. Daughter Ruth was about Stella's age and Kate was about Velma's age. Then younger sister Lucy was born, and last of all little brother John. John Warner, now 88, is the only one living

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of the Warner family mentioned.

The above mentioned are among the earliest old time friends and neighbors. Many other neighbors and friends have come along since, and all can be counted among God's many blessings to us.

Veima Shepard Elder

BROUGH AND NORA DELL

SHUMARD

According to Shumard family records, the family can be traced back to three brothers who were French Huguenots. They came from Europe to Mt. Holly, New Jersey, and later to Clermont Co., Ohio. This earliest migration would possibly have been in the late 1600s. A descendant, John Brough (Bruff) Shumard, born in Ohio on October 6, 1861, came to Ford County with Samuel Rhoades in the 1880s.

Rhoades and Shumard homesteaded southwest of Dodge City soon after coming to this area. He married Nora Del Hudson on January 28, 1892, in Dodge City. She was born October 17, 1873 and died in Dodge City, January 23, 1953. Brough and Nora Dell lived on the farm southwest of Dodge City and raised 11 children. Seven of those children spent all or most of their lives in the local area.

Hazel Blanch was born November 1, 1892. She married Warren Leroy May, born July 5, 1892. They moved from the farm to Dodge City and raised their family there. Hazel died August 2, 1959.

Ella Leslie was born December 7, 1894. She married Arnold Beaumont, February 21, 1917. Beaumont was an outstanding musician. He played the theater piano during the years of silent movies when the musician had to match the music to the mood of the picture showing on the screen. He also taught music, encouraging young students to appreciate fine music. He and Leslie were the parents of one daughter, Phyllis. She and her mother moved to California after Arnold's death. Leslie's mother returned to Dodge City where she died in 1953. Leslie died July 1, 1980 and is buried in Dodge City.

Mary Edith, born February 22, 1897, married Hayward Alexander. They had two children. Edith's sister, Hazel, raised the children. Edith moved from place to place through the years. She died in New York state.

John Brough Shumard, Jr. was born October 2, 1899. He married Mary May Schroyer in Greensburg on January 14, 1929. Mary was born in Cache, Oklahoma, October 5, 1907. They had one child, John B., III. He married Rebecca "Becky" Pippitt of Dodge City. Brough, Jr., is buried in Greencrest Cemetery. John Brough, III lives in Wichita.

Roger Kermit was born November 29, 1902. He was living in California at the time of his death March 2, 1994. He is buried in Greencrest Cemetery, Dodge City.

Harry Cline was born February 24, 1904 and died July 7, 1982. He married Mary Agnes Perona, September 14, 1937. Mary was born November 13, 1916, in Missouri. Their son Donald has two sons, Donald and David. Mary died November 4, 1984. She and Harry are buried in Greencrest Cemetery, Dodge City.

Olin Eugene, was born August 3, 1906 and died December 10, 1989. He and Marie Irene Nelson were married February 21, 1936. Marie died March 2, 1973. Both are buried in Greencrest Cemetery, Dodge City.

Norma Madeline was born April 15, 1909. She married Owen Tolson in 1928. They were the parents of six children. They were divorced. Norma Tolson lives in Minneola.

Merritt Beeson Shumard was born January 4, 1914. He married Johnie Elaine Sibell, May 16, 1944, in Dodge City. Merritt had an almost uncanny ability to learn new languages. He traveled extensively throughout the world.

Jack Shumard was born December 20, 1916, in Dodge City. He married Ruthetta Applegate September 10, 1939.

Lola A. Crum with information from Mrs.
John B. Shumard.

THE SIDLOW FAMILY

My great grandfather, George Sidlow, came to the United States from

Manchester, England. He left his fiancée, Nancy Walmsley, in England as she was caring for her invalid father who died within the year. George then returned to England. He and Nancy were married in Manchester then came to America together. They settled in Illinois near Chicago. They had three children: Nancy, who married Jim Hutchinson, for whom Hutchinson, Kansas, is named; Mary, who married Dennison Avery, for whom my father, Dennison Avery Sidlow, is named and John Wesley Sidlow, my grandfather.

My Grandmother Sidlow was Josephine Glenn McCreary. She was born in Virginia. Her parents were slave holders who freed their slaves before President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. They then moved to West Virginia, a free state, and settled near Wheeling, West Virginia. They later moved to Indiana and on to Illinois where they were neighbors of the Sidlows. There, John Wesley Sidlow and Josephine Glenn McCreary met and married. They moved westward and settled in Ford Co., Kansas, just west of the Edwards County line near Offerle, Kansas. Here they homesteaded on a tree claim. A tree claim required one to plant a certain number of trees on the section to prove-up on the homestead. John W. Sidlow planted the first wheat in Ford County. They had their furniture and other possessions shipped on the railroad. The instructions on their possessions were Ship to the End of the Railroad. At that time the Santa Fe Railway ended at Offerle, Kansas. Later they moved to Pleasant Valley, 18 miles south of Offerle, where they again homesteaded. John W. Sidlow named many of these townships and sections. Later John W. Sidlow moved his family to Fort Dodge, Kansas, where he served for over 30 years as Quartermaster under both Republican and Democratic Governors of the State of Kansas. He also served as Clerk of the District Court, and was Water Commissioner of Dodge City when the deep water wells were dug, thus giving Dodge City its delicious drinking water. He maintained a home in Dodge City at 805 Avenue B.

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John W. Sidlow and Josephine Glenn McCreary had six children. Only two of their sons had children. The two sons were Dennison Avery Sidlow and Glenn Sidlow. Dennison Avery Sidlow married Mertie May Gray. Their two daughters were Ethelmae Sidlow Van Lehn, who lives in Los Angeles, California, and Grace Marie Sidlow Brown Hamilton, deceased. Glen Sidlow married Nelle Downing. Their three children were Dorothy Sidlow Broomfield, John W. Sidlow, and Charlene Sidlow Jones Chandler. They all live in Amarillo, Texas.

My mother, Mertie May Gray, was born in Nebraska, near Blue Springs and Beatrice. Her family was of Scotch-Irish background. There was also Choctaw Indian blood in her family line from her mother, Sarah Lucas, who was also related to the Tollivers. Mother's father, James Carrol Gray, was an invalid from injuries received in the Civil War. They heard about Fort Dodge where Civil War veterans could live with their family. They applied for membership, and were accepted. They made the trip from southeast Kansas near Galena to Fort Dodge by covered wagon. It took them 18 days to make the journey. When they arrived at the fort, they were admitted by the Quartermaster John W. Sidlow. He assigned them a house and issued them rations. He also invited them to the Christmas Party that night at the hall. It was at this party that my father first saw my mother. Dennison was a young man of 18 years, and Mertie was 12 years of age. After the holidays Dennie went to visit school. As the students marched out for recess, Mertie passed by Dennie. She had a little curl in the middle of her forehead which was the style at that time. Dennie asked Mertie what the curl was. She told him it was called a Beau Catcher. Dennie asked her if she had caught anyone, and she told him that she thought she had. This was my mother and father's first conversation. D.A. Sidlow and Mertie Gray had an interesting courtship. They spent lots of time ice skating on the Arkansas River between Dodge City and the Fort. They were sweethearts while Dennie served

in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. They were married July 19, 1903, and lived at 804 Avenue B where Ethelmae and Grace Marie were born, Ethelmae on December 10, 1908, and Grace Marie October 31, 1911. Later they built a home at 907 Avenue B where they lived until retirement when they moved to Los Angeles, California. They lived there until Dennison Avery Sidlow died March 18, 1955 and Mertie Sidlow died January 8, 1960. They are buried in Inglewood Park Cemetery, Los Angeles, California.

Mertie May Gray was a teacher. She taught in several country districts near Dodge City; namely, Bloom, Midland and Sawlog Districts, among others. She had several interesting students. One was Edna Lockman Cobb who later was Ford County Superintendent of Schools, and Annie Albright about whom the book, *Annie, Child of the Prairie* was written by Ethel Etrick Watkins.

When Dennison Avery Sidlow was discharged from the United States Army, he returned to Dodge City, Kansas, and went to work for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. He began work in the ash pit of the roundhouse. He worked up to the position of Locomotive Engineer. He ran trains between Dodge City, Kansas, and La Junta, Colorado. He drove the Streamliners in the later years of his engineering. He retired when he was 65 years of age on September 2, 1944. He then moved to Los Angeles, California.

Ethelmae Sidlow graduated from Dodge City High School in 1925 and went to Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia, Kansas, for the freshman and sophomore years of college and earned a Life Certificate for teaching. At that time, they built the new school building for the second ward and called it Central School. This new building had a kindergarten facility. The Superintendent of Schools, O.F. Hite, hired her to be the kindergarten teacher. Thus, Ethelmae Sidlow was the first public school kindergarten teacher in Dodge City, Kansas. She taught there three years from 1927 through 1929. On March 17, 1929, Ethelmae Sidlow mar-

ried Randolph Van Lehn. They built a lovely new home at 1611 Avenue C, Dodge City, Kansas. In 1933, Ethelmae went to Springfield, Missouri, to attend Southwest Missouri State Teachers' College for her junior and senior years of college and earned a bachelor of science degree in Education. She then went to California to teach at San Marino Hall School for Girls, Pasadena, California, for two years. Then she moved to Los Angeles, California, where she established her own private nursery school called Miss Sidlow's School for Little Folks which later became Dr. Sidlow's School for Little Folks when Ethelmae received her Doctor of Education Degree. During these years Ethelmae took graduate work at the University of Southern California. There she earned a second Bachelors Degree, a Master of Education Degree, and a Doctor of Education Degree in 1949. After receiving her Doctorate, she helped set-up the curriculum for Los Angeles Harbor Junior College, and taught the Nursery School Education classes there the first year. When California State University at Long Beach was established, Ethelmae was on the original faculty, and taught there several years. At the same time she taught late afternoon and evening classes in education at the University of Southern California. Ethelmae thoroughly enjoyed doing all of this teaching, but had to retire because of illness.

She has enjoyed many years of interesting living doing many things and a lot of traveling. In 1964, she sailed around the world on P and O Ships, and visited all six inhabited continents of the world. In 1966, she sailed through the Panama Canal to Norway, Sweden, Holland and England. Then she flew to France. From Paris she flew home non-stop to Los Angeles, California, via Air-France. Ethelmae does lots of church work and community work. She works on the Council of Aging for the City of Los Angeles. She has been awarded several Certificates of Merit for Outstanding Volunteer Services for the City of Los Angeles. She also has been very active in her several sororities.

Ethelmae Sidlow

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DR. OSCAR H. SIMPSON, D.D.S.

Dr. Oscar H. Simpson was born in Decatur Co., Indiana, April 24, 1861, the son of Ralph B. and Perthenia Johnstone Simpson. Dr. Simpson was the youngest of three children. He had a sister, Inez V. Chisum and a brother, Dr. W.W., who was also a dentist who practiced in Meade, Kansas, and died in 1916.

At the age of three Dr. O.H. moved with his parents to Lebanon, Boone Co., Indiana, and when he was 11 years old to Warrensburg, Missouri. While he lived in Lebanon there were no public schools, and his father placed him under the tutelage of an old professor who conducted a private high school. The other scholars were much older and more advanced. When young Simpson was called upon to recite his lessons he would spell out the words "cat," "dog," and "but," in a broad, loud voice. It was inevitable that the other children would laugh and he was constantly the object of their jokes and quips until he became very timid. After a few weeks of this experience he refused to attend school any longer.

From driving a grocery delivery wagon he went to the position of clerk, and was thus employed in a country store until he was about 17 years of age. At that time a girl friend advised him to take up his studies again and at this time he entered the State Normal School at Warrensburg. There he found himself in classes with others of his same age, but on account of his timidity in refusing to make the effort to spell a word which he knew he could, he was suspended by his instructors.

Many boys after this experience would think all avenues of advancement permanently closed. That was not the case with young Simpson. He immediately entered the dental office of Griggs & Cress, paying \$100 for the privilege, and remained with them 18 months. From there he entered the Ohio College of Dental Surgery at Cincinnati, took a six months course, successfully passed the required examination and was awarded all the honors in his class.

Coming back to his home town of

Warrensburg, he opened an office and was there about a year.

Doctor Simpson may properly be called the pioneer dentist of western Kansas. He arrived at Dodge City in 1885, coming here to visit a friend and render him some professional services. He took a liking to the wild and woolly west and that was the beginning of his permanent connection with this part of Kansas.

When he first appeared on the streets of Dodge, he was attired in a black broadcloth cutaway coat, pinstripe trousers, boiled shirt, flowing bow tie, kid gloves, and a high silk hat—"insignia of the tenderfoot."

Naturally in a town where men wore big, white hats and boots, he was taunted and jeered at by the loafers on the street. Their disapproval didn't bother the 23-year-old, broad-shouldered dentist.

He checked in at the Great Western Hotel and slept well. The next morning as he was leaving the hotel, the proprietor warned him not to "run the gauntlet" of Front Street again by wearing his high hat.

Simpson replied, "I am an American, and I can wear any kind of a hat I like anywhere."

The spirited Simpson walked out of the hotel and went directly to the Long Branch Saloon. There are conflicting stories as to what happened to his hat, and his response to it, but in the end he won the respect of those involved by going into a dry-goods store where he purchased a pair of cowboy boots and a big, white hat. This act was equivalent to waving a white flag—and it gained him respect and acceptance. And as time passed, he was affectionately called the "Dude Dentist of Dodge."

Dr. Simpson's first office equipment consisted of an old cycloid dental chair and a three dollar table on which to spread his instruments. But there was something else in the character of this young dentist that had more to do with his success than his equipment. From the first his instruments were spread out systematically, everything in its place in order to save time. Efficiency had always been his motto.



Dr. Oscar H. Simpson

Later, a suite of rooms were built and they were considered the best equipped and most modern dental office in the world. Everything was arranged with the one thought of efficiency. The tools in his laboratory were all homemade from models prepared by himself. The S.S.W. and other dental manufacturing concerns sent men to see his room, equipment, tools, etc., and he was offered \$5,000 a year to take charge of the experimental department of the S.S.W. Manufacturing Company. His methods were nearly all original ideas.

Doctor Simpson was married April 28, 1892, to Catherine Mohler, who was born September 7, 1871, daughter of Captain J.E. and Martha B. Sullivan Mohler. Her father, Captain J.E. Mohler, was the eminent criminal lawyer of Salina, Kansas, and was a captain in the Union army during the Civil War. Dr. O.H. and Mrs. Simpson had five children: Carrie, Charles, Catherine, Nellie and Nita.

It was in 1898, that he discovered the possibilities of casting gold inlays and introduced that into the profession of dentistry, after he had used it successfully on a cowboy named Judd at Meade, Kansas.

In 1903, he appeared on the program of a national dentists' association in Wheeling, West Virginia, with a demonstration of casting gold inlays, the first time that had come to the national

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association. Dr. Simpson made other improvements from time to time in his profession and he conducted clinics which won him more than national fame, as some of them were in Canada. However, he never profited personally by his discoveries as he gave them all to his profession, as he did the castings of gold inlays, never seeking copyrights for himself.

During more than 52 years of practice in his Dodge City office and laboratory, largely equipped with devices of his own design, doctor constructed thousands of dental restorations. In reminiscent moods, he told of pioneer days when, lacking necessary rolling equipment, he used to have the local Santa Fe yard switch engineer run his locomotive over \$10 gold pieces, rolling the metal out for dental use.

In the course of his lifetime here, he erected several office buildings and homes in Dodge City. He planted several hackberry trees to show that they would grow in this country. He was one of the first to start irrigation and truck gardening in this vicinity, acquiring a tract of land on Fort Dodge road near the round house, where he put in one of the first irrigation plants.

Purebred stock was one of the projects for which he worked actively in the southwest, during the cattle shipping days. As agriculture developed, he turned to fly-proof, sanitary dairy barns and the development of drought resistant grasses and feeds for this territory.

He was one of the first prohibitionists in Dodge City, coming here just about the time the five-year-old state prohibition had been heard about in Dodge City, and he was active at that time in closing the saloons. He was a member of the old Phoenix Club, a predecessor of the Chamber of Commerce. He served several terms on the city council.

Dr. Simpson retired from active practice about 1923, and at that time he began his concrete sculpture of the history of the southwest. His first work of that nature had been several years before, an elk head which adorned the Elks home in Dodge City. He practiced with molding concrete, and developed a per-

fection in making stone frogs, using colored marbles for the jeweled eyes of the frogs, and they may be found in every part of the U.S. where he sent or gave them as souvenirs.

Conceiving the idea of a cowboy statue he persuaded Joe Sughrue, the chief of police in Dodge City, to pose for him and he worked months on the statue, doing parts of it over many times. On November 4, 1929, it was unveiled at the dedication of the new city hall on Boot Hill. The statue in cement has been visited by hundred of thousands of visitors to Boot Hill since then. All have been impressed by the inscriptions, "Upon the ashes of my camp fire this city is built."

He also made the yoked steer heads in concrete, representing a yoke of oxen which were placed on Boot Hill opposite the cowboy. They were in commemoration of the freighters of the early days and the long caravans over the prairies.

When the Rotary Club was bringing its state convention to Dodge City, and something unusual was sought in the way of entertainment, Dr. Simpson had an idea which since has taken the story of Dodge City into every corner of the United States. He thought of reconstructing the old Boot Hill Cemetery, by making a few cement skulls and burying them where some 90 persons had been buried during the 1870s and from where all had been removed in 1879. At the end of the grave opposite the heads he permitted a boot toe or two to protrude from the ground and he also thought of putting up a tree with a rope, to demonstrate the penalty of horse stealing in another day.

Dr. O.H. Simpson died at four o'clock Monday morning, April 1, 1935, at his home at 802 First Avenue, where he had lain ill five weeks following an operation. Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian Church, Dr. W.D. Templeton officiated. Burial was in the Maple Grove Cemetery.

He was survived by his wife, Kate Mohler; a daughter, Mrs. Clyde McKinney of Dodge City; a sister, Mrs. James Chisum of Oregon; two nephews, Mr. Chisum of Oregon and Oscar

Chisum of Pasadena, California; and a niece, Mrs. Wayne Phillips of Oregon.

Julia J. Hull

Dodge City Daily Globe, April 1, 1935

Dodge City Journal, April 4, 1935

The Kansas Magazine, 1942

Kansas and Kansans

Kanhistique, September 1978

HENRY L. SITLER

The first structure on the Dodge City town site was built by Henry L. Sitler, who came to this locality in 1866 or 1867. His sod house served as a supply depot for travelers while he supplied wood and hay to Fort Dodge.

H.L. Sitler was born in August 1837, the son of George and Sarah Sitler, in Crawford Co., Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the 2nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry and participated in the battle of Gettysburg and was present at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered. Henry and Emma A. Harper were married in 1856 and lived the rest of their lives in Dodge City. They had one son, Harper.

Mr. Sitler, the first brick maker in town, produced bricks distinctively stamped with his initials, H.L.S. In the early days he also was a freighter. A newspaper noted in 1877, "Twelve of Sitler's wagons are in from Fort Elliott loaded with buffalo hides." He was director of the Bank of Dodge City and later of the Merchant's Bank. In 1883, he was one of the organizers of the local Baptist church. Henry L. Sitler died October 30, 1917, at the age of 80.

CHARLES AND MARY

SKILLINGTON

Mary "Mother" Skillington and her husband, Charles, were born in Covington, Kentucky, and grew up there. Mary's birth date was July 27, 1857. They were married at Covington on November 30, 1876. Skillington came to Kinsley in Edwards County in 1884 or 1885, where he ran a tailor shop and the following year sent for his wife and family. They lived in Kinsley until August 1899, when they moved to Dodge City. Charles Skillington died five years later on May 12, 1904.

After his death, Mrs. Skillington



Mary "Mother" Skillington
1857-1925

undertook the task of supporting and educating her nine children (two had died in infancy) along with opening a rooming house. She became known as "Mother" Skillington to all. Many well-known Dodge City business and professional men began their careers as her "boys," living and boarding at her house and following her rules before marrying and establishing their own homes.

In addition to overlooking and caring for her flock, Mary was active in the Methodist Church and the Eastern Star. In later years she visited her children in Michigan and died in Bakersfield, California, in 1925 at the age of 68.

Her survivors included Thomas L., Chester, Clarence, and Arthur C., and Clara (Mrs. H. Cogswell), all of California; Mary, (Mrs. H. Bates), Detroit; and Frank, Louis E., and Alice Skillington, all of Dodge City. The two oldest children, Lucy and Fred, died as toddlers.

PATRICK JOHN AND MARY SPEIGHT SLATTERY

James and Mary Burke Slattery of Clonmel County, Tipperary, Ireland, had six children. They were Margaret, Patrick, Catherine, William, Johanna and James. Margaret Slattery went to Australia in 1864 and married William Foster. Patrick John Slattery came to America and married Mary Ann Speight in Brooklyn, New York. Catherine Slattery died in Ireland at the age of 18. William Slattery died in Ireland at the age of 12. Johanna Slattery went to Australia in 1864 and married James Jack-

son. James Slattery came to America and lived in New York.

The second child, Patrick John Slattery, was born June 26, 1839, at Lisrona Cottage, Clonmel Co., Tipperary, Ireland. He died January 11, 1930, in Spearville, Kansas, and is buried in St. John's Cemetery. He married Mary Ann Speight September 20, 1868, in Brooklyn, New York, in the Roman Catholic Church.

Mary Ann Speight was born May 10, 1841, in County Clare, Ireland. She died May 8, 1928, at Spearville, Kansas, and is buried in St. John's Cemetery. She was the daughter of Conard Speight and Bridget O'Meara and the granddaughter of Johanna Heeke. She had three brothers and three sisters: Margaret, Bridget, Catherine, Daniel, Patrick, and John. Margaret Speight Umphery stayed in Ireland. Bridget Speight joined a convent in Scotland. Catherine Speight Sheehey came to Millersburg, Ohio. Daniel Speight stayed in Ireland. Patrick Speight came to Brooklyn, New York. John Speight died in Ireland at the age of 21.

Before Patrick John Slattery settled in Brooklyn New York, he was a fireman on a ship making several trips from Ireland to America in 1862. Patrick John Slattery had quite a serious sickness during his first year in New York. At one point during his sickness he was pronounced dead. His friends went as far as having him in a coffin when it was noticed that he was breathing. It took him a long time to recuperate from this sickness. He was a gardener in Brooklyn, New York, and Flatbush. His health failed him again and that's when he decided to go west. Patrick John Slattery was also in the Civil War for a short time before it ended. From Brooklyn New York, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick John Slattery moved to Akron, Ohio. Mrs. Slattery had a cousin there. She stayed there with their three children and Mr. Slattery came to Ford County in March 1878. I've never heard how they came to Kansas, but presume it was by train.

He built a two-room house, one room of sod the other of wood, on the SW 1/4 of S25 T26 R23. Mrs. Slattery

and the children came to Ford County in June 1878. Their son John was born in Ohio. The land had been purchased from the U.S. Government for \$106.23. Patrick John Slattery also purchased the NW 1/4 of S36 T26 R23 from the State of Kansas by W.E. Stanley, Governor, for \$480. It was on this quarter of land that Mr. Slattery built a six-room house and moved into it in 1886. By this time they had three more children. The Patrick John Slattery farm is located on the Butter and Egg Road, two miles south and five miles east of Wright, Kansas. Their home was known as the halfway house for the people from the Windthorst area. They would stop there to water their horses.

Patrick John and Mary Ann Slattery went through many hardships. In the early days they had to walk 12 miles to Windthorst for Mass, later they went to Dodge City. They were one of the 17 families to organize the Catholic Church in Spearville and that was their parish until the church at Wright was built. They went there for a few years, but when they retired in Spearville, in April 1915, St. John's Catholic Church was again their parish.

When they first came to Ford County, they used oxen to work their field but little crops were raised. Antelope and buffalo roamed the prairies and snakes were numerous. At one time they had to leave their little home because of an Indian scare. The Indians, who were on the warpath, crossed the river near the city of Ford. Mr. Slattery took his family with the rest of the neighbors to Spearville and stayed for three days until the scare was over.

Times were very hard, and the table wasn't set with luxury as we have it now. Mush and milk, or corn bread was used a lot, also served were turnips, cabbage and potatoes, when they could grow them. Later on, as times got better, they milked more cows, churned butter and took it to Dodge City to peddle. They also peddled eggs. Butter sold for 10 to 15 cents a pound and eggs were from five to 10 cents a dozen. Calico was five cents a yard and percale was ten cents a yard. Mother had no sewing machine. When we were

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little, she sewed all our clothing by hand and knitted our stockings and the boys' socks. In later years, she got a sewing machine.

This country was sort of wild in those days. It was hard to make a living with no machinery much to work with, and no horses at first. Father had a team of oxen and later got horses. They worked the ground with a hand plow and broadcast the seed by hand. Corn was planted with an ax. Wheat, corn, millet and sorghum were the crops raised. As time went on they got a binder for cutting wheat. This took a lot of men at threshing time, to get the bundles of wheat to the threshing machine. There was also a lot of work for the women cooking for around 20 men.

At first the folks had a lumber wagon to go places in, then they got a spring-wagon; then a surrey, called a pleasure carriage. They also had a buggy and a two-wheeled cart. This was used to break horses to drive. The folks never owned a car, as cars came out about the time they retired to Spearville in April 1915.

Father and Mother took care of many of the sick and helped when death occurred, as there were no undertakers. Neighbors helped one another a lot. There were no telephones, hospitals or nurses. There was a doctor at Ft. Dodge and one in Dodge City.

As times got better, farmers had better machinery to work the soil and raise better crops. Prairie hay was mowed and put into stacks for feed for the cattle and horses. They had plenty of grass land for the cattle to graze on, but now and then the prairie fires would start and burn for miles, destroying all the grass and feed. At this time cows sold for five and ten dollars each. At one time Father had 300 head of cattle. He could pasture as far south as the Arkansas River. Wheat sold for 50 to 75 cents a bushel. Father also raised corn. We children would cut it with a large corn knife and put it in shocks. Then in the fall when work was done, the men would husk the corn, getting it ready for the corn shellers, or shell it with their own small hand shellers.

Mother had a lovely voice for singing. She was often called upon to sing at large gatherings among her friends in Ireland and New York. She was a good dancer, too, dancing the Irish Jig and reel on St. Patrick's Day for her family. It was her delight and ours as well. We children would love to sit in the evenings when work was done, to listen to her singing.

School was quite a way from us. We walked four miles to school to Districts 8 and 10. The blizzard of 1886 caught the three oldest children, Neil, William and Mary, coming home from school.

That was the time that Will got badly frozen and was never the same as far as his health was concerned. Later we went to Red Grass School No. 68. It was a half-mile from home.

Father was a very courageous and independent man and yet very holy. He was very strong in his faith. His father often built altars in hiding places, such as gullies and quarries, so a priest could read mass for his people. At that time Catholics were persecuted in Ireland and churches weren't allowed to be open.

On March 28, 1923, Patrick John Slattery sold this quarter of land to his son, Patrick James Slattery and his wife, Christina, for \$5,000. Patrick John could read and write but his wife couldn't. She signed the deed with an 'X.' It was witnessed by E.G. Hain.

In 1915, Patrick John Slattery built a house in Spearville, and they moved there. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1918. Witnesses for their golden wedding were their grand-children, John V. Slattery, Marie Baker, Margaret Straight, Clem Slattery, James C. Slattery, and Agnes Buehne.

Patrick James Slattery died March 16, 1950. The quarter section of S36 T26 R23 was sold to his daughter, Mary Slattery Nau and her husband, William H. Nau. They moved there in March 1952. The Naus built a new home there in 1961. Mary Nau sold 80 acres with the building to their son, Donald William Nau and his wife, Sherry, in March 1991. Mary Nau moved to Parkview Retirement Apartments in Spearville, March 28, 1993.

There have been six generations to live on the Patrick John Slattery Farm: Patrick John and Mary Ann Slattery; Patrick James and Christina Slattery; Mary M. (Slattery) Nau and William H. Nau; Donald W. and Sherril (Hornung) Nau; Amy (Nau) Loder and Dale Loder and Allana Loder.

Genealogy of the Slattery Family

Patrick John and Mary Ann Slattery had nine children: James, Bridget, Cornelius, William, Mary Catherine, John Joseph, Johanna Agnes, Margaret Clotilda, Patrick James.

James Slattery, born July 29, 1869,



Back row: William, Johanna, John J., Margaret, James. Front row: Mary Cornelius, Mary Ann and Patrick John Slattery.

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Brooklyn, New York, died April 21, 1872, buried Brooklyn.

Bridget Mary Slattery, born February 25, 1871, died April 29, 1871, Brooklyn, New York, buried Brooklyn.

Cornelius Slattery, born April 14, 1872, Brooklyn, New York, died Spearville, April 24, 1938, buried St. John's Cemetery. He married Hettie Knoeffler in Dodge City, May 22, 1898. They had seven children: James, John, Raymond, William, Clem, Daniel, and Idus. 1. *James Herbert*, born 1899, died at six months, buried Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City. 2. *John V. Slattery*, born April 5, 1901. He married Clara Hines. Both are buried St. John's Cemetery, Spearville. 3. *Raymond Slattery*, born December 27, 1903, unmarried. He died November 30, 1964, in a car accident south of Spearville, buried St. John's Cemetery. 4. *William F. Slattery*, born December 2, 1906, unmarried. He died October 20, 1978, buried St. John's Cemetery. 5. *Clem Slattery*, born December 16, 1908. He married LaMoile Perkins, lived in Dodge City. 6. *Daniel Slattery*, born August 23, 1911. He married Isabel Penka, live on a farm south of Spearville. 7. *Idus Slattery*, born December 16, 1913. She married Lucas Hipp, April 9, 1945. He died August 3, 1991, buried St. John's Cemetery, Spearville. Idus lives Wright.

William Stephen Slattery, born Brooklyn, New York, July 22, 1874, unmarried, died January 21, 1938, Spearville, buried St. John's Cemetery. He was a teacher and farmer.

Mary Catherine Slattery, born Brooklyn, New York, June 8, 1876, died Dodge City, October 19, 1950, buried Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City. She married Everitt Baker, June 21, 1898, in Dodge City. They had three children: Margaret, Marie and John. All are deceased and buried Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City. 1. *Margaret Baker*, born May 2, 1906, married Merrill Straight, June 19, 1929. Merrill died May 15, 1993. Margaret died June 26, 1993. 2. *Marie Baker*, unmarried, born April 15, 1903, and is deceased. 3. *John Baker*, born November 21, 1914, died November 20, 1983.

John Joseph Slattery, born Akron,

Ohio, April 29, 1878, died Spearville, February 16, 1930, buried St. John's Cemetery, Spearville. He married Theresa McDermott, August 31, 1910, at St. Mary's, Hodgeman Co. They had three boys, two dying as babies. John J. Slattery served in the Spanish-American War from 1899-1901. He was a Corporal Co. L 40 M.S. Volunteers, served his enlistment in Philippines Islands. Theresa died 1938. All are buried St. John's Cemetery, Spearville. Son, *James C. Slattery*, born November 19, 1914. He married Esther Dvorak May 3, 1939, St. Mary's Church. Esther was born June 7, 1918, died February 16, 1993, buried Maple Grove Cemetery. James lives Dodge City. Daughter is Donna Lee Williams.

Johanna Agnes Slattery (Sister Mary Idus), born Ford Co., February 18, 1880, died July 3, 1965, Dubuque, Iowa, buried Dubuque. In 1900, she joined Sisters of Charity, B.V.M., Dubuque, Iowa. Sister was a teacher and nun for 65 years. Before going to the convent she taught school at Windthorst.

Margaret Clotilda Slattery, born Ford County, July 14, 1882, died March 20, 1973, Spearville. She married Dennis Schaffer, October 26, 1925, at Spearville. He died in 1937. Both buried St. John Cemetery, Spearville. They had no children.

Patrick James Slattery, born Ford Co., February 17, 1884, died March 16, 1950, Dodge City, buried St. John's Cemetery, Spearville. He married Christina Strecker, October 20, 1914, St. John's Church Spearville. Christina died September 26, 1927, buried St. John's Cemetery. They had seven children: Agnes, Patrick, Ignatius, Mary, Paul, Anthony and Christina. 1. *Agnes Slattery*, born August 17, 1915, married Arnold Buehne, June 7, 1941. They farm west of Wright. They had four children: Linda Cox, Las Vegas, Nevada; Dale, David, Richard, Wright. 2. *Patrick James Slattery, Jr.*, born July 13, 1917, died September 16, 1993, buried St. John's Cemetery, Spearville. He married Bernice Tully, January 16, 1940, at Spearville. They lived at Manor of the Plains in Dodge City. They had eight

children: James O. Slattery & Mary Margaret Smith, Wright, Kansas; Rose Ann Swinger, Edmond, Oklahoma; Patricia Hornung & Charles Slattery, Dodge City; Ellen Gall & Sandra Montgomery, Yukon, Oklahoma. Betty Burgess, Dallas, Texas. 3. *Ignatius Strecker Slattery*, born March 21, 1919, married Beatrice Stegman, February 10, 1943, live at Wright. They had six children: Kathy Slattery, Topeka; Tim Slattery, Wright; Susan Campbell, Garden City; Patrick Slattery, Lenexa; Nancy Hinderliter, Dodge City; Lori Litton, Cimarron. 4. *Mary Slattery*, married William H. Nau, February 20, 1945, at St. John's Church, Spearville. William H. Nau served in the U.S. Army from 1941-1945, as Mess Sgt. for officers of Hawaiian HQ South Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii. He was a farmer and stockman. William died Oct 29 1971, buried St. John's Cemetery. They had six children: Donald William, Kenneth James, Dean Francis, Brenda Catherine, Greta Ann, Daniel Raymond. A. *Donald William Nau*, born June 27, 1946, Dodge City, married Sherril Hornung at I.H.M. Church, Windthorst. December 21, 1967. He served in U.S. Army from 1967-1969 as Sgt 1st Cav Div. Vietnam. He is a mechanic Maupin's Truck, Dodge City and farms. They have three children: David, Amy & Terri. 1. David Allen Nau, born March 31, 1970, Dodge City. He graduated from Univ. Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma, 1993, is employed by Johnson Funeral Home Chanute, Kansas. 2. Amy Nau, born Spearville, May 26, 1971, attended St. Mary of the Plains College, employed by Spearville schools. She married Dale Loder, August 1, 1992, Spearville. 1 daughter, Allana, born May 2, 1992. They live on the original quarter section that Patrick John Slattery settled in 1878. She is the sixth generation to live on the Slattery farm. 3. Terri Dawn Nau, born Kinsley, Kansas, September 23, 1979, attends Spearville High School. B. *Kenneth James Nau*, born June 5, 1948, Dodge City. He married Diana Imel at St. John's Church, Spearville, October 9, 1976. He is a farmer and stockman. Diane is a nurse at D.C. Medical Center, live in

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Spearville. They have two children: Brandan & Jenna Leigh. 1. Brandan William Nau, born November 29, 1978, Dodge City. 2. Jenna Leigh Nau, born September 7, 1984, Dodge City. attend school at Spearville. C. Dean Francis Nau, born November 29, 1952, Dodge City. He married LaVonne Rush from Marquette, Kansas, at St. John's Church, Spearville, July 17, 1976. Dean works at CrustBuster, Dodge City. LaVonne works Spearville School District. live Bellefont, Kansas. They have three children: Matthew, Kimberly, Justin. 1. Matthew Allen Nau, born Kinsley, Kansas, June 23, 1975, a student at DCCC. 2. Kimberly Nicole Nau, born Kinsley, Kansas, August 17, 1979. 3. Justin Adam Nau, born Kinsley, September 12, 1985. Kimberly and Justin attend school at Spearville. D. Brenda Catherine Nau, born Spearville, September 11, 1955. She married Jack Burke at St. John's Church, Spearville, September 18, 1976. She works First National Bank, Spearville. Jack works Excel. Dodge City. They had five children: Kristy, Tracey, Ashley, Douglas, Tricia. Children attend Spearville schools. 1. Kristy Michelle Burke, born October 4, 1980, Spearville. 2. Tracey Ann Burke, born April 20, 1983, Kinsley. 3. Ashley Dawn Burke, born May 26, 1985, Kinsley. 4. Douglas James Burke, born July 18, 1988, Dodge City. 5. Tricia Danielle Burke, born August 28, 1990, Dodge City. E. Greta Ann Nau, born March 11, 1957, Spearville. She married Rock Peintner at St. John's Church, Spearville, May 17, 1975. He died February 21, 1989, buried St. John's Cemetery. They had two daughters, Robin Renee & Rachel

Ann. Greta married Donald Myrick in Dodge City, December 28, 1991, live in Spearville. Greta is manager at Parkview Retirement Center. Donald works at CrustBuster Dodge City. 1. Robin Renee Peintner, born March 14, 1975, at Spearville. She was a senior at Spearville High School when she suffered a stroke, August 2, 1992. She is taking classes and therapy at Spearville. 2. Rachel Ann Peintner, born September 12, 1984, Kinsley, attends Spearville Grade School. F. Daniel Raymond Nau, born September 6, 1962, Spearville, married Teresa Byrum, May 17, 1986, Dodge City at St. John's Church, Spearville. Daniel killed in a car accident near Wright, April 26, 1988, buried St. John's Cemetery, Spearville. Two children: 1. Amber Nichole, born November 25, 1985, Dodge City 2. Allan Daniel, born January 8, 1987, Spearville, attend school in Kinsley and live with their mother, Theresa, and Jeff Peterson.

5. Paul V. Slattery, born November 9, 1923, Ford Co. married Winifred Norris, Wright, Kansas, August 26, 1947. Paul served in Wildcat Div., South Pacific World War II, lives Colorado Springs, Colorado. They have seven children: Connie, Robert, Dennis, Cheryl, Gerald, Christopher, Mary Leigh. A. Connie Slattery, married John Gardner, live in Kentucky. B. Robert P. Slattery first married Deborah Steines, divorced, second married Celeste; live Castle Rock, Colorado; C. Dennis A. Slattery, married Catherine Oswald at Kit Carson, Colorado. D. Cheryl Ann Slattery is unmarried. E. Gerald A. Slattery married Belinda Sandaval. F. Christopher K. Slattery is unmarried. G.

Mary Leigh Slattery born December 18, 1961, died August 10, 1965, buried Colorado Springs. Dennis Gerald, Christopher, Cheryl Ann and families live in Colo Spngs.

6. Anthony J. Slattery, born January 29, 1926, Spearville. He married Lenore Morlan at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Dodge City, November 8, 1951. They lived on the Slattery home place for a while then moved to Hill City, Kansas, and farmed for a few years. Anthony was manager for K-Mart and Lenore (Sally) worked for Ampex. On retiring they moved to Spearville after having lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, since 1959. They have four children: all live in Colorado Springs except Randy of Falcon, Colorado. Joseph, Randy, Karen, Kristina. A. Joseph A. Slattery, born Hill City, Kansas, November 19, 1952, married Debby James, April 4, 1979. B. Randal W. Slattery, born October 17, 1954, Hill City, first married Debbie Rath, August 17, 1974, divorced, second married Lori Dolon, December 19, 1981. C. Karen Janine Slattery born February 9, 1956, Norton, Kansas, married Jack Addison, April 21, 1979. D. Kristina L. Slattery, born July 27, 1960, Colorado Springs, Colorado. She married William Sandaval, April 15, 1989.

7. Christina Helen Slattery, born February 6, 1927, Spearville, first married George Kamphaus, February 26, 1946. They have three children. They divorced in 1949. Christina second married Loren Traylor at Spearville, October 27, 1991. She works at the First National Bank, Spearville. A. Carolyn C. Kamphaus, born May 10, 1947, Dodge City, married David Tortline, May 2, 1970, at Spearville, live Cimarron, Kansas. B. Sharon L. Kamphaus, born July 7, 1948, Spearville, first married Michael Edwards, divorced, second married Arlin Nightengale, live in Dodge City. C. Gerald L. (Gary) Kamphaus, born Spearville, October 12, 1949, married Debbie Gotsch, August 12, 1972, Dodge City, live in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Gary served in U.S. Army infantry Vietnam.

Mary Nau and Margaret Slattery Schaffer



The six-room house built by Patrick John Slattery in 1886. Four more rooms were built on the back side by Patrick James Slattery when he was married in 1914.

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HENRY (SCHMID) SMITH

Henry Schmid (later changed to Smith) was born in Germany, April 13, 1844. He came to America at the age of ten when his parents settled in the state of New York. In 1870, he married Susan Caroline Benzel who was also from New York. She was born July 20, 1854, probably in the Buffalo or Orchard Park area of New York, which is the area where her parents and other family members lived. Her father, Peter Benzel, was born January 12, 1830, and her mother, Augusta, was born September 10, 1834. She died February 27, 1920 and he died August 20, 1908, both in New York state.

Henry and Susan came to Kansas in 1879. Their son, William Henry, was born March 11, 1875, in New York. Writings on pictures indicate they came west shortly after that date. The first written record owned by the family indicates Henry and Susan homesteaded on land which was "proved up" in 1889, which would mean they moved onto it in 1885. The land they lived on was in northern Ford County on S2 T25 R25W with their land adjoining the Hodgeman County line. Their farmstead was on the south bank of the Sawlog Creek. Their first house was a dug-out built back into a creek bank where a relatively high bank rests near a spring on the Sawlog. It was at the south side of the Sawlog Valley, on the east side of the road which is now a paved extension of Dodge City's 14th Avenue. They shored up the walls with rock and lived there until a wood frame house could be built west of there. A large barn was built later. The barn still stands on a farmstead which is now occupied by the Roy Schoen family.

It is believed that Susan and Henry came on the train and brought with them Henry's younger brother, Jake, (approximately 17 years of age) and his sister Christine (age 13) who lived with them until 1886. Christine Smith Potts' date of birth is listed as September 12, 1866.

Henry and Susan had six children: William Henry, born March 11, 1875, in New York and five more all born in

Kansas. George John was born September 6, 1876; Clara Bell was born November 29, 1882; Walter was born in 1886; Ralph was born October 28, 1889; and Myrtle May was born June 17, 1892.

Susan's sister and brother-in-law, Clara and Constant Brion also came to Ford County in 1887 and homesteaded land in the northern part of the county. The legal description of that land is the SW 1/4 S10, T25, R25, which makes it very close to that of Henry and Susan. Later the Brions returned to New York and in 1901 this land was deeded to Susan. Henry filed a timber claim on land which became his on March 4, 1895. This was the SE 1/4 of S10. Most of the Smith and Benzel families were members of the Christian Church. When the Community Hall was built and when services were held at local schools, they attended services there. Later they attended in Dodge City.

Susan Benzel Smith died May 26, 1920, in New York while on a visit there only three months after her mother's death. Susan's death was quite unexpected. Henry Smith died in Dodge City in 1925. Both are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City. The family name on the stone is Schmid.

All of the Smith children married.

Will married Hattie Dobrinski. They were farmers and lived in Ordway, Colorado, where their farm was located. They were the parents of four children: Edna, Walter, Kenneth, and Susie. Hattie died June 5, 1927. Will died November 28, 1936. They are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City.

Clara married William Clyde Atkinson in 1910. They moved to Lyon County where they also farmed. Later they moved to Meade County where they farmed, until retiring and moving to Plains, Kansas, in Meade Co. Clara died on January 4, 1971. Both are buried in the cemetery at Plains, Kansas.

Ralph married Hattie's sister, Maggie Dobrinski. Ralph and Maggie lived on the farmstead established earlier by his parents. They farmed there until retiring and moving to Dodge City. They had one adopted daughter, Margaret, who preceded them in death. Three of Will's children lived with them after Will's and Hattie's deaths.

Myrtle married Henry Peterson on June 10, 1920. They lived on a farm across the Sawlog on the north side of the valley from the Smith home for many years. Henry was a farmer and he also worked for the federal government as a credit union organizer. Later he worked for the Kansas Credit Union



Henry Smith Family. Back row, left to right: Myrtle Smith, Will H. Smith, Henry (Schmid) Smith. Front row: Mrs. Henry Smith, Clara Smith and Ralph Smith.

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League. Myrtle died October 14, 1958, in Dodge City, where they had moved in 1948. Henry died there May 22, 1984. Both are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City.

The other two Smith children did not grow to adulthood, both suffering tragic deaths. The younger was only a baby when his uncle, Philip John Benzel moved to Ford County and homesteaded on the north bank of the Sawlog approximately half a mile from Henry and Susan. Philip became ill with typhoid fever and died. Susan came to care for him, and as a result, the baby also caught typhoid and died. John Philip Benzel was born July 25, 1863, and died July 16, 1887. The baby, Walter, was born in 1886 and died in 1887.

George John Smith died at the age of ten years as a result of an accidental gunshot wound. At the time, Henry's brother, Jake, was caring for George while other family members were in Dodge City. He was cleaning the gun when it went off, hitting George who died instantly. Jake was grief-stricken and left soon after Henry's and Susan's return. He left on horseback assuming the family could never forgive him. Christine, who was then 20 years old, set out to bring him back. She "followed his trail" for years, often arriving only days after he had gone. Both traveled across Kansas and Colorado, with Jake never knowing he was being sought. Christine met and married Joshua Potts, a widower with children. Joshua was known as a "wanderer" and liked to travel. So he, Christine, and his children traveled in a covered wagon still searching for Jake. They later had three children of their own. When the children reached school age, the family settled down in eastern Colorado so they could enroll the children in school. Several times the Potts family came back by covered wagon to visit the Smith relatives in Ford County.

After the children were grown and Josh Potts had died, Christine moved to Englewood, Colorado, a suburb of Denver to be near one of her children. As her furniture was being unloaded a favorite chair was dropped and broken.

Not being a wealthy woman, she feared it was useless, because she could not afford to have it fixed. Then, in a coincidence too strange for fiction, the neighbor told her that "Uncle Jake Smith" would probably fix it for her. She said "Uncle Jake" was an old man who lived down the street and worked part time at the U.S. Mint. She said he was no relation, simply an unmarried man that the whole community knew and depended on for small repairs. Sure enough, Christine went down the street and found her long-lost brother. This was sometime in the 1930s. Jake then moved into the house with Christina and she cared for him until his death at the age of 90 plus. She died in 1953, at the age of 87.

Grandchildren of Henry and Susan Smith who still live in Ford County include Will's son, Walter Smith and his wife, Esther. Others are Myrtle's children: Harry, Robert, Norman, and Ethel Peterson, Arlene Dumler and Viola Steinkuehler.

LAFAYETTE AND CORA HOARD SMITH

Lafayette Smith, the son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Lighter) Smith, was born November 20, 1860, in Sevestopool, Indiana. He came to Ford County in 1885 and bought the farm which lies just north of Kingsdown. Because he had traded his horse for a watch, he had to walk the 20 miles to Dodge City for groceries. This was in the "wild and woolly" days of Dodge City and it was dangerous to stay in town overnight. He would spend the night in a grove of trees on the east side of Fort Dodge and return home the next day.

Also arriving in 1885, in a covered wagon from Michigan, was the family of Peter Noah Hoard and Ellen (St. Germaine) Hoard with their daughter, Cora Ellen, born June 17, 1874, in Allegan Co., Michigan. This great great granddaughter-in-law has a small, armless, walnut "ladies" rocking chair that they brought with them. They had a soddie just one mile west of Lafe's land. Peter lost the land some years later, because he could not pay the taxes on

it, a matter of \$529. Lafe and Cora were married November 30, 1890, in Ford County. She was 16 and he was 30. On July 30, 1905, the Kingsdown Presbyterian Church bought the land from Lafe on which the new brick church was built. Cora was a charter member and trustee.

Many stories are told in the family about Lafe's violent temper and how harsh he was to his children. In 1905, when he began to prosper, Lafe built a splendid new barn. At the time, his family was living in a small two-room house. The family then consisted of six small children and Grandmother Smith who had come in 1892, after her husband died. Cora decided the time had come for action. She took the family and set up housekeeping in the tack room of the barn declaring that she would stay there until he built her a new house. The new house was built in short order. Grandmother died in February 1906, in the new house and their youngest child was born in July. Lafe was a good carpenter; he built several of the houses in the area. They all had the same design, just like the one he lived in.

Lafe was a "wheeler and dealer." For a while, he owned the general store in town. When times got bad and other people had to sell out and leave the country, he was buying their land. At one time, he owned many square miles of land. As things got worse, he would sell one quarter of land at a time to pay the taxes on the others. He still had enough left that he gave each one of the children a quarter when they got married. They each inherited more when he and Cora died.

When Bert was married and set up housekeeping on the farm, Lafe and Cora moved to Bucklin. The two younger children graduated from high school there. Lafe died July 17, 1922, in Bucklin. On November 4, 1931, Cora was married to George Casebier. He was a paperhanger and painter, a wiry little man who always ate his desert before the rest of his dinner. Cora was a devout Christian, loyal to family, long-suffering and a loving matriarch. After Lorena (Aunt Lole) Van Vleet's husband died in 1925, she made her home

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with her sister Cora. During World War II, Cora's sister-in-law, Emma Hoard and Emma's daughter, Ruby, her husband and two babies, lived in her basement. Aunt Lola died in 1945 and Cora died July 17, 1947, in Bucklin. Although Cora lived to be 73, she had a heart ailment which often gave her a very blue complexion. George, who had the use of Cora's house as long as he lived, died March 15, 1964, spending his last few years in a home for the aged in Dodge City. All of the children were born on the farm at Kingsdown.

Children and Grandchildren of Lafayette and Cora Hoard Smith

Lafayette and Cora Hoard Smith had seven children: Nellie, Esther, Ellen, Pearl, Bert, Leroy and Treva.

1. **Nellie Smith**, born October 11, 1891, died April 17, 1971, Bucklin, married February 5 1913, Clyde Laurence Strong, carpenter; no children.

2. **Esther Smith**, born September 11, 1893, married October 30, 1912, Dodge City to Homer Hendrix Clevenger, born December 18, 1887, Rayville, Missouri, son of Samuel N. Clevenger and Margaret Frances Hendrix; children born in Kingsdown, she died December 30, 1958. He died July 30, 1969. They had four children: Clarence, Keith, Eula and Marilyn. a. *Clarence Bruce Clevenger*, born January 28, 1916; died January 25, 1970, married June 8, 1941, Ellinwood, Kansas. Virginia Schmidt, home economics teacher. They had two children: 1. Cheryl Clevenger, born March 4, 1944, Great Bend, Kansas, teacher married July 13, 1968, to Leon Boor. They had two children a. Shelly Boor, born September 19, 1973, adpt. b. Charles Bruce Boor, born May 30, 1976, adpt. 2. Roger Clevenger, born May 20, 1950, Dodge City, farmer, married January 24, 1970, Kingsdown, to Charlotte Baldwin, born July 9, 1951, Dodge City, daughter of Jo Baldwin and Doris Marie Imel. Their three children were born in Bucklin: a. Roger Justin Clevenger, born September 20, 1972. b. Rachelle Natasha Clevenger, born July 18, 1974. c. Adam Jo Clevenger, born August 5, 1978. b. *Keith Smith Clevenger*, born February 12, 1920, died May 14, 1964,

Dallas. He married December 1, 1942, in Wichita, to Thelma Irene Potter. They had two children: David, Steven. c. *Eula Maxine Clevenger*, born January 8, 1924, married September 10, 1944, in Kingsdown, to Lemuel Colson, resides in 1994 in Orlando, Florida with two sons. d. *Marilyn Fern Clevenger*, born August 22, 1932, married May 28 1956, in Kingsdown, to Miles Aaron Sheffler, resides in Coffeetown, Kansas, with two children, Julie and Melinda.

3. **Ellen Smith**, born March 27, 1896, married July 27, 1916, Bucklin, to Harold Stewart Grant, born April 30, 1895, Stafford, Kansas, son of Hazeline McClellan Grant and Ida Mae Reigal. They moved to Springfield, Colorado, in 1930. She died May 12, 1949; Harold died August 26, 1966. They had one son, *Laurence*, who has six children.

4. **Pearl Smith**, born September 8, 1898, married September 16 1915, Ford Co., to Olin Rutledge "Dutch" Haley, born July 8, 1892, Adams Co., Illinois, the son of Robert Grove Haley and Laura Rutledge. They retired from the farm to live in Bucklin. Both died in 1973. They had three children: a. *Elva June Haley*, born April 21, 1916, died July 14 1973, married Willard Hall, resided in Lyman, Colorado, with two sons Allison and Dennis. b. *Marlin Haley*, born May 27, 1920, married in Wichita, to Dorothy Lincoln. They had two daughters, Nancy and Cheryl. c. *Robert Leo Haley*, born February 14, 1928, married twice with no children.

5. **Bert Smith**, born August 28, 1900. Bert fell in love with the new schoolmarm at Kingsdown. He married September 5, 1920, near Minneola, Kansas, Hazel Margaret Schul, born June 16, 1900, Minneola, the daughter of William Schul and Samaria Badgely. Hazel attended Emporia Normal School for a teaching certificate. They were married in her parent's home. Hazel borrowed a victrola and records to play wedding music and fixed an arch in the south sitting room of the house. The newly-weds moved on to the home place, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of Kingsdown. In the 1930s during the depression and drought there were many lean years. Hazel loved music and would go miles

to hear a band concert. She never had a lesson but could play the piano and organ by ear. She loved to take part in the dramatics that were such a big part of the social scene in the community and gave many readings. She saw that her sons had an opportunity to play a musical instrument and that they were in church.

Bert was bitten by the racing bug. From a family in Oklahoma, whose racing stock was about to starve, he acquired half interest because he was able to provide a place to keep the horses. He did considerable breeding and racing. His oldest son, Gordon, was a jockey in the summers. Charlie Buxton from Oklahoma was the trainer. They followed the race tracks to New Mexico, California and New Jersey. Bert seemed to be accident prone. He was always in too much a hurry to be careful. At least once a year he was involved in something. Once he overturned a truck load of valuable horses by turning too sharply around a corner. During the harvest of 1939, he was caught in a combine and nearly lost his life. In 1946, he went to the basement to see why the water heater went out and lit a match. The resulting explosion raised the house off the foundation. He suffered very serious burns but his eyes were not burned because of his glasses.

In the 1940s, things began to get better. They modernized their house and were the first in the area to put in an irrigation well on a quarter of ground that they bought from the Cobb family. It was a fine producing well, luckily tapping into a large underground river. The water went into a big ditch on the high side of the quarter and ran into rows. This required close attention to keep it running and to move pipe to cover the whole space. The grandchildren remember taking their turn to move pipe. He put in a peach orchard. It flourished and though it sometimes froze out in the spring, it produced a good crop. Much of the crop was lost because of the difficulty of finding a market and transportation at the right time. It required much pruning and spraying. Gradually the orchard was phased out, as it didn't pay enough. He

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tried raising row crops and for a few years, had a harvest crew of Mexican farm laborers. But again marketing made the critical difference. Bert died December 30, 1957; Hazel died April 24, 1961.

Bert and Hazel had four children: Gordon, Norman, Ronald and Theodore.

a. *Gordon Leland Smith*, born November 20, 1921, Kingsdown, Kansas, graduated from DCCC. attended KSU, S/Sgt Signal Corps World War II. He married on May 30, 1942, in Bucklin, Kansas, to Billie Lee Lamb, daughter of C.P. and Fae Lamb, born May 17, 1925, Ford, Kansas, raised in Bucklin. In 1947, Gordon became Postmaster in Bucklin and later rural mail carrier, retiring 1984. Gordon was a member of the Bucklin School Board, referee for high school basketball and coached Little League baseball and operated a portrait studio until 1968. Gordon was farmer-rancher and sold Vigortone products, retiring January 1, 1987. He was a member of Grandview Lodge, twice Past Master; VFW, American Legion. Post Commander for five yrs, Gideon Soc. Both active in Methodist Church. Gordon died December 15, 1888. Gordon and Billie had six children: Gordon, Randolph, Fredrick, Marji, Coleen, and Jerri.

1. Gordon Alan Smith, born July 27, 1945, Dodge City; enlisted U.S. Army 1964 entered OCS; one year Vietnam combat duty with Big Red One, recieved Captain's rating. After duty Ft. Riley, Kansas, left service 1969. BA degree from Emporia in 1971. He married December 23, 1973, in Leavenworth, Kansas, to Kathy Lee Arnold, born August 19, 1951, of Leavenworth, daughter of William Lee Arnold and Doris Lee Dietrich. In 1975, after work at penitentiary in Leavenworth they moved to ranch south of Bucklin. He grad Liberal Tech. In 1979, he established business "Jack of Hearts." In 1981, they moved to Dodge City, Kathy is a lab technician and bookkeeper for their business. They have two children: a. Brian Jesse Smith, born May 4, 1978, Dodge City. b. Jessa Lee Smith, born July 23, 1981, Dodge City.

2. Randolph Elliott Smith, born December 15, 1947, Dodge City, graduated from Oklahoma Univeristy, Norman, Oklahoma. One year Lt. Air Force; married Mary Knysh. Has worked in construction of nuclear power plants in various capacities. In 1994, he travels as a consultant in Quality Control. They have four children: a. Galadriel Jubilee Smith, born January 25 1974, Emporia, Kansas. b. Jared Aaron Smith, born September 22, 1976, Emporia, Kansas. c. Nathaniel Derek Smith, born August 8, 1980, Emporia, Kansas. d. Amanda Nicole Smith, born January 28 1983, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

3. Fredrick Lee Smith, born September 27, 1949, Dodge City, died September 28, 1949.

4. Marji Lynette Smith, born October 20, 1950, Dodge City; Emporia KSTC; married May 9, 1987, Las Vegas, Nevada, Bruce Paul Burgard, born March 14, 1950, Kansas City, Kansas, both in electronic supply business; reside in 1994 in Shawnee, Kansas, with one child Sarah Elizabeth, born April 16, 1989, Kansas City.

5. Coleen Fae Smith, born January 24, 1955, Bucklin; graduated Wichita Business College. Worked as a legal secretary-did lease, title work for oil companies. She is married and divorced. In 1991, she and the children moved to Bucklin. She married May 31 1992, to Edward Edwin "Spike" Cossell, born July 2, 1947, Wichita, Kansas with two children, son of G. LaMont Cossell and Louise Harmon of Bucklin. Coleen worked as para-legal for Frigon Law Inc., Dodge City. 1994 is office manager for Spike's firm Cossell-Rader Ins./Cossell Realty. They have four children: a. Chase O'Neal Cossell, born October 31, 1976, Dodge City, Kansas. b. Jared Slade Cossell, born July 16 1982, Dodge City, Kansas. c. Aaron Delter Wiseman, born February 9, 1985, Fort Smith, Arkansas. d. Terra Lee Wiseman, born July 14, 1988, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

6. Jerri Kay Smith, born February 25, 1961, Bucklin; honor graduate DCCC, worked as legal secretary. She married May 28, 1983, in Bucklin, to John Jay

Deardoff, born April 14, 1957, Grand Island, Nebraska, son of Harold LeRoy "Duff" Deardoff and Sharon Mae McCormick. John graduated Hutchinson high school, St. Mary of Plains College, recieved masters from Wichita Univ. John was assistant city manager Dodge City and Hutchinson, manager Sterling, Kansas, and in 1994, city manager in Dodge City. They have three children: 1. Lindsay Mac Deardoff, born May 16, 1986, Lyons, Kansas. 2. Lacey Renee Deardoff, born August 20, 1989, Lyons, Kansas. 3. Taylor Ann Deardoff, born February 16, 1994, Hutchinson, Kansas.

b. *Norman Elwood Smith*, born April 29, 1925, Kingsdown, pilot World War II, lawyer, banker. He married September 5, 1952, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to Hallie Nadine Lawson, English teacher, resides Scottsdale, Arizona, in 1994. They have one child, Steven Kent Smith, Phoenix. He has two children, Mary and August.

c. *Ronald Leroy Smith*, born April 29, 1930, Kingsdown, Kansas, married May 24, 1953, Hiawatha, Kansas, to Marjorie Grace Foster, born May 23, 1928, retired grade school teacher, resides at the "home-place" in Kingsdown. They have two children: 1. Bradley Dale Smith, born March 8, 1954, Dodge City, Kansas, graduate of KSU; Co-op manager. He married August 9, 1975, in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, to Cynthia Jane Smith, born January 22, 1955, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, the daughter of Jack and Joyce Smith. Cindy is R.N. at D.C. Medical Center, resides in 1994 in Cimarron, Kansas. They have two children: a. Jayne Marie Smith, born January 26, 1978, Concordia, Kansas. b. Mari Jo Smith, born November 21, 1979, Dodge City, Kansas. 2. Eric Bert Smith, born January 11, 1960, Dodge City. Bachelor degree in agriculture, lawyer, married June 7, 1980, in Ashland, Kansas, to Krista Louise Swanson, R.N., daughter of Kenneth and Melba Swanson; reside in 1994 in Hugoton, Kansas. They have two children: a. Eric Brandon Smith, born April 10, 1982, Manhattan, Kansas. b. Elizabeth Nicole Smith, born December 19, 1984, Dodge City.

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d. *Theodore Allan Smith*, born November 4, 1935, Dodge City, Kansas, lawyer. He married February 21 1959, in Nogales, Mexico, to Georgene Minetta Ivey. They reside in Scottsdale, Arizona, with two daughters, Tanya and Tracy.

6. **Leroy Smith**, born September 25, 1902, married December 5, 1931, in Greensburg, Kansas, to Mercedes Lafaun Yarberry, born November 20, 1911, daughter of John Huston Yarberry and Arminta Isabelle Gipson. Farmed at Kingsdown, 1957 had clothing store Minneola, Kansas, later worked Eckles Dept Store, Dodge City. After retiring, spent winters Tucson, Arizona, where Leroy died March 24, 1984. They had two children: a. *Larry LeRoy Smith*, born January 3, 1935, Dodge City, married August 14 1964, Arlington, Virginia, Mary Joanne Dunnington; NASA rep, Ball Research Co/Goddard Space Center. Reside in 1994 in Boulder, Colorado, with three children: Eric, Cynthia, Brian. b. *Judith Ann Smith*, born September 2, 1943, Dodge City; music teacher 1965. Married Dr. Delbert Lyle Kilgore, zoologist, professor University of Montana, reside in Missula, Montana, with two children, Trevor and Alison

7. **Treva Smith**, born July 30, 1906; married three times, died July 10, 1961 Fresno, California, with one child: Dean Robertson, born 1925 Ford Co., Kansas and marriage number two had two daughters.

Billie Smith, Bucklin, Kansas
See Lamb Family entry

ERNEST CHARLES SNOOK

Ernest Charles Snook was born January 9, 1862, in Maxsain, Germany, to John and Marie Katherine (Hummerich) Snook (Schnug in German). John and Marie came to America in 1867, with their four children, Mina, Ernest, August and Lucinda. They located at Bellville, Ohio, where two more children, August and Edward were born. Three years later they moved to Deepwater, Missouri. Ernest Snook first came to Kansas in 1883 and staked out land 16 miles east of Ford. He went back to Missouri and returned to Kan-

sas the following year to find that the land had become the town of Mullinville. In 1884, the whole family moved by team and wagon to Ford, Kansas. They located one and a half miles north of Ford near the Arkansas River. The first structure they lived in was a frame building of two rooms, one below and one upstairs. The "clapboard shack" was built near a bluff of white gypsum, and around a hole dug into the ground. The mother planted saplings that floated down the flooded Arkansas River and are still there. The land is now owned by Arnold Snook.

Mary Elizabeth (Molly) Jones was born December 7, 1871, in Freedom County, Kentucky, to Robert Spillman and Rachel (Wells) Jones. Robert and Rachel had eleven children, Mary Elizabeth, Jessie, Stanley, John, Jake, Delia, Cadwallader, Robert, Lula, Ida and Vernie. They moved to Ford County in a covered wagon in 1887 and settled south of Ford on the Mulberry Creek. They lived in a dugout.

Ernest and Molly were married in Ford, February 21, 1892. They lived in a dugout on land southwest of Ford that Ernest had homesteaded, until Ernest finished a one-room house with a lean-to moved from Ryansville. Later he added a two-room house that was moved from Bloom. Molly went about her pioneer ways, dipping water from the Mulberry Creek for the time-consuming chore of laundering. Using a washboard, stiff brush, homemade lye soap and plenty of hot water, she would rid the clothes of ground-in dirt, then hang the clothes on the line to be dried by the hot Kansas sun and wind. Water for cooking and drinking was drawn from a shallow well. She grew a large garden and raised chickens. They always kept barrels of water, shovels, gunny sacks, and brooms ready in case of a prairie fire.

Ernest and Molly had 11 children: Ira, Charles, Marguerite, Bill, Roy, Harry, Arnold, Mina, Maudee, Hubert and Maynard. Ira died in infancy and Charles died at age three.

In 1910, Ernest built Molly a new 12-room, three-story white house, trimmed in black. Home life at the

Snook household emanated from the spacious kitchen and particularly from the massive, gray-enameled cook stove. A big, black iron teakettle squatted on the back of the stove, along with a slowly bubbling pot of wonderful soup. Far back on the big stove stood a rather battered old brass pot containing the Snook speciality "chocolate sauce" in which the Snooks dunked toast or other foods or spread it on fried potatoes. Molly spent many hours preparing the food for the large Sunday dinners for the many sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, and friends that always showed up on Sunday. Molly sewed most of the clothes for the family. The many household chores were shared by the mother and the girls.

Ernest and the sons took care of the livestock and farm. When it was time to sell the cattle, Ernest would drive them into the train station and ship them to Kansas City on the train. He'd ride along and stay until they were sold.

Ernest did have time for civic duties as he was one of the organizers to get a telephone system in Ford and was a board member of the Ford Cooperative Equity Exchange.

Ernest and Molly always enjoyed the "Old Settlers' Reunion" held yearly at Wright Park in Dodge City. They would load the wagon, hitch up the best horses, gather the children, and head to Dodge City. It took two days of traveling to get there. The first night, the family would camp at the grove, the halfway point. Upon arriving at the reunion, the family would camp in a tent. There were many activities to entertain young and old. Everyone at the reunion watered their horses at the same tank. One year Ernest's horses got distemper from the common watering tank and barely made the trip home. The horses died a week later.

The Mulberry Creek, which ran west and north of the house, was the center of lots of recreation, picnics, gathering walnuts, and sack swings.

At the country school, the family enjoyed "Literaries," pie suppers and box suppers. Another event the Snooks enjoyed was the Old Settlers' Picnic in Ford. Molly would cook for days get-

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ting the food ready. They would share their food with the ones that didn't have any food prepared. It was usually right before an election and they would have speakers in the old bandstand. Games, music and visiting took up the day.

Many Saturdays in the summer, the family would go into Ford. The mother went to visit Grandma Jones and the kids went downtown to spend their pennies on candy. All of Ernest and Molly's children graduated from Ford High School with Marguerite being in the first graduating class of Ford. Twenty-seven Snook descendants graduated from Ford High School. All of Ernest and Molly's children had at least a year of college level education and Bill and Hubert graduated from college.

Ernest and Molly owned a large 1,280 acre ranch. They had a big cow-calf herd and grew feed for the cattle. In later years, they grew wheat. After Ernest passed away in 1932, Molly managed the ranch and farm operation. She always divided the first nine trucks of wheat among her children and did the same with her cattle.

When Molly died in 1950, she left no will. She needed no further instructions to her children, for she had endowed them so deeply with a sense of true justice that no thought of a will had entered her mind. Her faith in her children was justified.

The nine sons and daughters of Molly Snook, some of them grandparents in their own rights, gathered around the big farm kitchen table and began the remarkable division of an estate. The bank balance, bonds and other negotiable assets were simply divided by nine, each accepting his share. The big farm was divided into nine equal parts, each part numbered and the numbers drawn from a hat. The cattle, the farm implements, and all other chattel were divided in just the same manner.

When the estate was settled, in a matter of minutes, cups were set out and the old coffee pot went the rounds. The social formalities took far more time than the business transactions and when they finally departed, each to his or her own home, it was as though they had once again been children, warned by

the loving care of a dainty, happy mother.

Mina (Snook) Hager is the only child of Ernest and Molly Snook still living. Mina, 89, lives west of Ford on her farm.

Most of this information was taken from interview of Mina (Snook) Hager, daughter of Ernest and Molly Snook and written by Becki Snook, granddaughter of Ernest and Molly Snook, Clara Hough Hiskin, a schoolmate of Mina (Snook) Hager and Karen Beebe. Assembled, condensed and submitted by Marilee (Snook) Williams, granddaughter of Ernest and Molly Snook.

THE WEBB SNYDER STORY

Dr. Alexander Schneider left Germany sometime in the mid-1700s, to avoid serving in the Chancellor's Army and emigrated to Virginia in the United States. He left everything German behind that he could including the spelling of his name which he changed to Snyder. One of the great ironies of life is that he has a fifth generation grandson, Pvt. Ervin C. Snyder, who was buried on German soil in 1945, under the name of "Schneider." He was missing in action in the Battle of the Bulge, World War II.

Dr. Alexander Snyder was appointed by the U.S. Government to the post of Mohawk Indian doctor. No record can be found of Alexander's wife, but there are abundant records of his children. There are those of us who suppose he married a Mohawk Indian. One of his great-grandsons, Daniel Webster Snyder, born November 3, 1853, in Morgan Co., Missouri, was married on January 29, 1882, to Sarah Josephine "Josie" Russell, born January 4, 1861, at Eldon, Missouri. They had one son, Herbert, who died while very young in Missouri.

In the spring of 1886, Webb and Josie came to Ford Co., Kansas, by covered wagon. At the time of their arrival in Ford County Webb's mother, Sarah Jane Snyder (now buried in Ridenour Cemetery) and two brothers, Bob and John M. "Doc" were living here.

John M. or "Doc" Snyder ran the post office at Snyder, Kansas, located on S22 T25 R26 in Ford County from January 7, 1886, until April 29, 1899.

Webb and Josie moved into an abandoned homestead cabin on S3 T25 R26 of Ford County to spend the year and then they planned to move on to Colorado. This move never took place and the family has remained in Ford County for 107 years.

In the spring of 1887, they built a sod house on the SE 1/4 of S18 T25 R25, Ford County and filed for a homestead. In 1909, they built a one and a half story frame house on the SW 1/4 of the same section. Josie lived in this house until 1946.

Webb and Josie raised five children: **Otis Cornelius**, born April 28, 1887, died July 16, 1963, married Bertha Chalkley, born March 4, 1880, died Aug 17, 1966. They had no children. **Grace Louise**, born February 27, 1889, died February 19, 1969, married William Cain, born February 18, 1879, died May 7, 1944. Their children were: Eleanor Canning, Ivan, Alvin, Charlotte Baird. **Elbert Ralph**, born November 30, 1892, died August 31, 1967, married April 13, 1923, Kristina Peterson, born December 21, 1895, died October 27, 1956. Their children were: Ervin, Esther Baldrige, Myrtle McComas, Raymond. **Russell Sylvester**, born August 8, 1899, died September 19, 1987, married Mary Lee Wortman, born September 26, 1903, died May 15, 1991. Their children were: Floris Jean Hampton, Carolyn Nevins, Rowena Cromwell. **Ruth Eleanor**, born August 8, 1899, died April 13, 1976, married Taylor Jones about 1930 or '31, no children. She married J.A. McQueen about 1944 or '45, no children.

These five children were pressed into service at a very young age and were



Daniel Webster and Sarah Josephine (Russell) Snyder, taken about 1936.

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expected to carry a heavy work load, which they did. One of the old time neighbors was fond of saying of the Snyder boys "They put many a good horse out of a job."

It is interesting to note that Josie had a twin brother and sister, Olive and Albert Russell, had twins herself, had a granddaughter who had twin boy and girl (Myrtle McComas) (they did not live) and a boy-girl twin set of great great grandchildren, Matthew and Maranda Snyder. The proud parents are Ray and Donella Snyder.

Also interesting to note is that Webb died on his 55th wedding anniversary.

All of these children spent their lives on or near their farms except Ruth, who taught deaf children for many years both in Fulton, Missouri, and in Salem, Oregon.

Raymond Snyder

DR. GEORGE OMAR SPEIRS

Dr. George Omar Speirs was born at Hedrick, Iowa, June 20, 1875. He was the son of George Rankin and Nancy Lee Speirs. George Rankin was born in Richmond Co., Indiana, April 5, 1843, and died at Kinsley, Kansas, December 11, 1908. His parents came from Glasgow, Scotland, to Philadelphia where they were married. Nancy Lee was born in Elwood, Indiana, and died in Mission Acres, California, November 17, 1928.

Dr. Speirs attended public grade and high school at Hedrick, Iowa, where he was born. He attended Highland Park College (now Drake University) Des Moines, Iowa, graduating in 1895, with a Bachelor Degree in Literature. He was Valedictorian of his class while in high school and Highland Park College.

In 1896, he entered Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois (now Chicago University). In his junior year, he was awarded the J.W. Freer prize for outstanding work in the medical field. He graduated in 1900, with a degree in Doctor of Medicine. After serving his internship at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, he located in Marion, Kansas, in 1901. In 1902, he moved to Ellinwood, Kansas, where he practiced for 14 years.

He married Clyde Everett Waite of Iowa City, Iowa, in Colorado Spring, Colorado, on July 3, 1903. She was the daughter of Dr. James Harrison and Ida King Waite of Iowa City, Iowa.

Two sons and a daughter were born to Dr. George and Clyde E. Speirs, George Gerald, Richard Everett and Gertrude. George Gerald was born July 3, 1908. He was a pilot and was killed in an auto accident May 31, 1936; Richard Everett was born December 13, 1910. He graduated from the University School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, in 1933. He was a surgeon in Dodge City, Kansas, at the time of his death. Their daughter, Gertrude, married H.C. Edwards.

Dr. George Speirs was the Mayor of Ellinwood, Kansas, for three terms. During this time the water tower was built and other sanitary regulations were introduced to control the recurring cases of typhoid fever.

In July 1916, he moved to Spearville, Kansas, after purchasing the new Perkins Hospital which he managed and where he practiced medicine. Dr. Perkins died at the time the hospital was completed. Dr. Speirs also served as Mayor of Spearville for two terms.

During World War I, Dr. Speirs was a Four Minute Speaker for the War Bond Drive. He was rejected by the Army because he was the only physician in the area.

He wrote many original medical articles which were published. He was a keen observer. Dr. Arthur Hertzler once made the statement that he had never met anyone who knew more medical facts than Dr. Speirs.

His hobbies were fishing and hunting for which he was allowed very little time because of his heavy work load.

He was a member of the Ford County Medical Society, Kansas State Medical Society and served as a member of the Council for many years. He was a member of the American Medical Association, and the American College of Surgeons. He was a member of the staff of both Dodge City hospitals and worked in close association with Dodge City physicians and surgeons.

Dr. Speirs was active in the Masons,

was a past Master, both at Ellinwood and Spearville, a Shriner and a 32nd Degree Mason and an Elk. His religious affiliation was with the Federated Church at Spearville.

Dr. Speirs died from a massive coronary occlusion January 29, 1943. The *Spearville News* headlines stated that "Spearville's Number One Citizen has left us!"

Julia J. Hull

Dodge City Daily Globe, January 29, 1943

Spearville News, Spearville, Kansas

A sketch on the

Life of George Omar Speirs, M. D.

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

OUR GERMAN RELATIONS COME TO THE UNITED STATES

MONIGA STAIGER

Some time during the year 1868, Moniga Staiger, her daughter Theresia Reide and her husband Mr. Reide, with their daughter, Clara Reide, undertook to move from their home in Roshausen, Germany to America. During the voyage, Mr. Reide somehow became entangled in the ship's paddle wheel type mechanism and was killed. He was buried while at sea. This left the three women to continue the voyage to Cincinnati, Ohio. While there, they tailored men's clothing. Unable to make a living at this, they then bravely joined other early settlers move westward and started to what is now the Windthorst, Kansas, area in approximately 1879. Here they homesteaded on Osage Indian Land. This land was apparently partially opened to legal settlement on December 15, 1880.

The Declaratory Statement filed by Moniga Staiger at Garden City, Kansas, was filed on February 18, 1885, and stated that the land was settled upon on November 21, 1884. These claims were located on the NE and NW quarters of S31 T26 R21 west of the 6th Principal Meridian in Kansas. A claim was filed both by Moniga Staiger and by Theresia Reide. The northwest quarter contained 160 acres and was patented by Moniga Staiger. This quarter is owned today by Henry Shean, her great-great-grandson. The northwest quarter con-

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Moniga Staiger

tained 152 and ¹²/₁₀₀ acres and was patented in 1891, by Edward Shean, who had by that time become part of the family. This quarter is owned today by Arthur Shean who is also a great-great-grandson of Moniga Staiger.

It is thought that the original habitation on the two homestead claims might have been built where the two quarters adjoined so that the requirement of residing on the land could be maintained in only one residence for the two quarters of land. A bedroom was built on each quarter. According to the Homestead Act of 1862, any citizen, either the head of a family or 21 years of age, could acquire a tract of Federal public land, not exceeding 160 acres. The first act necessary was the settlement, or commencement of some work or improvement upon the land. Within seven years thereafter the settler must go to the land office and prove by two witnesses that he had resided upon and cultivated the land for five years immediately succeeding the time of filing, and thereupon, the settler is entitled to a patent.

The youngest of the three women, Clara Reide traveled from the homestead to Dodge City where she worked and sold farm produce in order to help the family survive while the two older women worked the homestead. Considering that Dodge City was some 20 miles away and aside from the mere hazards that might arise for a young woman alone in a buggy on the plains, there was often the threat of Indians and Indian raids which had to be dealt with



Theresia Reide

during those years as well. Clara was born on October 15, 1858, in Germany. She came to the United States with her parents and grandmother when she was about ten years old. She was probably around the age of 21 when the trips to Dodge City were made. Apparently some time during these trips to Dodge City, she met Edward Shean, a soldier at Fort Dodge, whom she was to marry in a few short years.

Moniga Staiger (also listed as Monica and Monika) was born in 1810 and died in 1893, at the age of 83. She received her naturalization papers on February 6, 1885, at the approximate age of 75. She is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery at Windthorst. Her daughter, Theresia Reide, was born in 1838 and died in 1930, at the age of 92. She was a noted midwife of the area and was known to have delivered many of the babies born in that area. She was also often called for illness and accidents and was able to sew back a severed finger or a badly lacerated leg if the need arose. When called for accidents or babies, she would set out in a buggy or on foot if need be in order to answer the call for help. She is also buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery at Windthorst.

The earlier mentioned northeast quarter was deeded from Moniga Staiger to Theresia Reide on February 8, 1889, for a sum of \$200. It was then deeded from Theresia Reide to Clara (Reide) Shean on September 20, 1918, for one dollar and other valuable considerations. This passing of homestead



Clara (Reide) Shean

land from mother to daughter to granddaughter was most unusual as was the homesteading and maintaining of land by three women at that time.

Connie Burkhart
See the Edward Shean entry

THE STAPLETON FAMILY

Robert P. Stapleton, born in 1690, in England, was the grandson of Sir Henry Stapleton of Carleton Towers. Sir Henry, the head of the House of Beaumont, was also known as Lord Beaumont, The Quaker.

Because they refused to concede their religious freedoms, Robert P. Stapleton and two of his brothers emi-



Elizabeth (Merk) and Elmer Stapleton

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Elizabeth and Elmer Stapleton, 50th wedding anniversary.

grated to America around 1720. One brother settled in Maryland, the other brother settled in eastern New York state and Robert Stapleton settled in the Oley Valley, Berks Co., Pennsylvania. Robert acquired considerable property in the Oley Valley and this property remained the possession of the Stapleton family for many generations. Robert also acquired property in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia where he died in 1754, leaving four sons and six daughters.

Elmer Stapleton, who was born April 9, 1861, left Pennsylvania and settled near Dodge City, Ford Co., Kansas, where he married Elizabeth Merk on August 30, 1885. Elizabeth Merk was

born August 16, 1865, in Einseidel, Austria. Elmer was employed by the railroads, which were just then stretching across the continent. Dodge City was the western terminus at that time. Elmer and Elizabeth had six children: Fannie, born December 3, 1886, married Arthur Pottorff; Mathilda, born March 9, 1889, married M.H. Schoen; Edward W., born November 14, 1892, married Mary Schlereth; Walter B., born June 8, 1897, married Mae Hutton; Elsie, born August 5, 1902, married Howard Neyens, and Lavona, born August 9, 1905, married James Handley. Elmer E. Stapleton died November 24, 1941, at Dodge City. Elizabeth (Merk) Stapleton died October 19, 1949, at Dodge City.

My grandparents, Edward W. and Mary L. (Schlereth) Stapleton were married on September 23, 1914, at Kinsley, Kansas. They moved to Colorado shortly after they were married but returned to Kansas sometime in the late 1920s. Edward built a two-room house in 1929, on a farm north of Dodge City where Edward and Mary farmed and raised eight children.

My parents, Walter E. and Maxine (Faulkner) Stapleton, were married October 28, 1942, at the Ford County Courthouse in Dodge City. In 1951, they moved to the farm north of Dodge City, where my grandparents had lived.



Eddie and Mary Stapleton and their family, plus a neighbor.

Over the years, the two-room farm house that my Grandpa Edward built, has been remodeled with additional rooms being added and my parents still live there.

Shirley Stapleton Hoskinson

H.M. STARKS

Harrison Melvin Starks was born September 3, 1888, in Irvington, Iowa, the second son of William E. and Frankie Samples Starks. He died September 5, 1963, in Trinity Hospital, Dodge City, Kansas, and was laid to rest in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City. His siblings were Charles Bert Starks, born December 12, 1886, Irvington, Iowa, died August 21, 1938, Larned, Kansas; Grace Mildred Starks, born February 20, 1901, Algona, Iowa; and Leona Edwina Starks, born November 27, 1903, died August 10, 1904.

Harry, as he was known, grew up in Iowa and moved to Iola, Kansas, in 1903, with his parents when 15 years of age. At one time he was assistant city engineer for Iola, Kansas.

In 1911, Harry went to Newkirk, Oklahoma, where he spent four years operating a variety store. In 1915, he spent a short time in Rocky Ford, Colorado, where he was associated with the Golden Rule Mercantile Co. In 1916, Harry came to Dodge City, Kansas, to manage the Golden Rule Store that occupied a building on Chestnut between First and Second Avenues. This was at the time of the death of the former manager, Mr. Charles E. Imel. On Saturday, October 6, 1917, the Golden Rule Mercantile Co. had the grand opening of the new store located on the corner south of the Post Office in the new Imel Building, which is now occupied by Warshaw's Men's Wear at 600 Second Avenue. This firm was under Harry's supervision. The dry goods section of the store was under the supervision of E. Marsh, who later became Harry's father-in-law. He had come to Dodge City from Kansas City where he had been employed by Emery, Bird, Thayer and Co.

The Golden Rule was the store where men's work shirts "A Splendid Line of Heavier Fabric!" sold for 59-

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69 cents each. Extra heavy work shoes, guaranteed all leather sold for \$2.98; 32" chambray and gingham, plain and fancy, sold for 17 cents per yard and ladies and misses shoes sold for \$3.48 per pair. This store, one of Ten Busy Stores, later became a part of the J.B. Byars chain where the slogan was, "We advertise what we have and sell what we advertise."

During 1918-1919, Harry served in the U.S. Army as a Sergeant in the Quartermaster Corps at Camp Joseph E. Johnson at Jacksonville, Florida. After an honorable discharge, he returned to Dodge City and the J.B. Byars & Co. Store.

On June 30, 1921, Gladys Marsh and Harry Starks, "popular young Dodge City couple," were united in marriage at a 10:30 a.m. service in the Marsh living room at 1101 First Avenue, "... before an embankment of fern and roses in the presence of the members of the immediate families and a number of intimate friends." Mrs. Starks was one of the most popular young ladies of Dodge City, and was prominent in social and musical circles. Mr. Starks was associated with the firm of J.B. Byars and Co., holding the office of director and vice-president of the firm.

Harry became vice president of a new four-million dollar corporation that was formed in St. Louis in the late '20s when the interests of the Byars Co. were merged with those of the Lindsey stores. Merging of the two corporations, both of which were organized in 1909, was brought about because of the obvious benefits that come with increased purchasing power. The new corporation retained the name of J.B. Byars Co. In 1928, this company merged with the J.C. Penney Co. and Harry was made manager of the local store, as well as District Manager. He was associated with J.C. Penney until 1938, when he resigned to look after other interests. A few years after the Penney store was opened here, a new store was built at 618 North Second. This Penney store under Harry's management had become one of the top-ranking stores in the Kansas system.

"I decided that 22 years of working

most of the day constitute a pretty long hitch," Harry said. "There are some places I want to go and some things I want to do before I'm too old."

The Penny organization was loath to accept Mr. Starks resignation. A.W. Hughes, director of personnel, in accepting the resignation wrote to Mr. Starks, "You have the respect and liking of every man, I believe, in the Penney company who knows you."

After his retirement, Harry farmed, managed property and was involved in a great many business and civic affairs. Harry was a member of the Methodist Church of this city, and was chairman of its board of trustees at the time of his death. He also was a 50-year Mason and belonged to several of the local Masonic bodies; a past president, having served two terms, of the Chamber of Commerce; a past president of the Rotary Club; vice-president of Trinity Hospital for several years; a World War I veteran and a life member of the American Legion. Harry was very much interested in the Boot Hill development and was a member of the Cowboy Capital of the World, Inc. board of directors since its formation in 1955. He was also Ford County bond chairman, a volunteer serving the United States government bond sales effort for many years until his resignation on January 16, 1963.

He was survived by his widow of the home, three sons, William M. of Dodge City, Harry of Lawrence, and Robert M. of Colorado Springs, Colorado, a daughter, Betty Mitchell; a sister, Mrs. Grace Heath of Billings, Montana, and nine grandchildren. A brother, Charles B., preceded him in death in 1948, as well as his little sister, Leona Edwina Starks.

Betty Starks Mitchell

THE WILLIAM STATES FAMILY

William States was born January 10, 1849, in Everett, Pennsylvania. He married Jennie R. Reighard. Everett, Pennsylvania, was also the former home of George Reighard and Henry Gyles. George Reighard, Jennie's brother, had preceded the other families to the west by several years. He had come west as

a government employee in 1867, driving a reserve wagon train with army supplies. This was at the height of the buffalo hunting. He became renowned as one of the champion hunters of the time. He credited himself with at least 5,000 animals that he had shot and killed.

By the mid-1870s, buffalo hunters had succeeded in killing off the millions of buffalo that had roamed through the western plains. In the early days, hides, meat and bones were shipped to the east by wagon freight lines. With the coming of the railroads, faster shipment was possible. With the buffalo gone, George Reighard returned to Dodge City in the late seventies. He bought land south of the Arkansas River where he built a ranch and travel headquarters for those who did not want to pay toll to cross the river to get into Dodge City. He sent for his brother-in-law, William States, to help with this operation.

On April 24, 1878, William and Jennie States and their five-year-old son, Charley (C.M.) arrived in Dodge City. Reighard and States operated the headquarters for several years. They ran a meat market where buffalo, antelope and other wild game was butchered and sold as often as beef.

Four years later, after George Reighard and Anna Gyles were married and had moved to the States and Reighard ranch, William States decided to open a meat market of his own on Front Street in Dodge City. It was two doors west of Second Avenue. He still used the slaughter house on the ranch south of the river. States later had a grocery store at the northwest corner of Second Avenue and Front Street. (later Wyatt Earp Blvd.) before urban renewal made the area into a parking lot. His last move was to the northwest corner of First and Walnut (later renamed Gunsmoke). William States was 86 years old when he died September 19, 1935. His wife, Jennie, died in 1915.

Charley States, who was five years old when he came to Kansas with his parents, was born July 12, 1873, in Everett, Pennsylvania. He attended school and grew to adulthood in Dodge City. As a young man he was able to

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get a job in the Palace Drug Store owned by O.A. "Brick" Bond and A.B. Webster. Bond and Webster had established the store in 1883. After several years A.B. Webster left the business and Charley (C.M.) States became a partner. At that time the store's main door opened on Front Street and the store extended north through the building to what was then Chestnut Street. (During the 1950s Urban Renewal project, the entire block between Chestnut and Front was removed and the one street was renamed Wyatt Earp Blvd.) As Chestnut became more of a business street the north door became the main entrance.

C.M. States, always interested in civic affairs was treasurer of the Dodge City school board for many years. Because of his interest in the schools he offered to sell school books and supplies as well as his regular drug store and pharmacy supplies.

Charles Morgart States married Violette Margaret Imel on June 22, 1903. She was born June 22, 1877, the daughter of Peter Imel who had come from Indiana. He homesteaded on land about 12 miles east of Dodge City and south of Spearville. He moved to Dodge



Violette (Imel) States as a teacher in the Dodge City schools.

City in 1895, where Violette graduated from high school. C.M. and Violette had two children, Margaret who was born July 13, 1905, and Orlando Bond "Bus" who was born February 2, 1911.

There are people still living in 1995, who traded at the Palace Drug Store when C.M. and Violette were the operators. They are remembered as being very pleasant, courteous business people. Mrs. States could always be depended upon to know which books, tablets, pencils and ink, that students needed when they came in for the new school year's supplies. She was always kind and friendly, putting the nervous young customers at ease with her pleasant smile.

The States' daughter, Margaret, when asked who she remembered in the days when she was a child, quickly mentioned Ben Hodges. He was not remembered so much as a customer but as a friendly visitor who always shuffled in with a cherry "hello." She remembered that the old fellow came through the store quite regularly, always using his cane. Then there was Stuart Sutton, who always wore white gloves. She remembered those two men, who were different. She also remembered that Otto Theis would visit the store every Christmas Eve. Each year on that night, Otto would come with his secretary, Hattie Key, who would keep track of what he bought and for whom the gift was purchased. He never asked the price of anything but he bought something for each of his employees.

Margaret also recalled her father's long-time partner, Orlando "Brick" Bond. She told of the living quarters over the store. Brick Bond lived in the apartment on the north end and her grandfather, William States, lived at the south end. Between was an open space with big skylights and the stairway to the floor below.

When asked if she had worked in the store, she said, "Since I could see over the counter." She added that she had sold school books until she thought she would drop. Her brother, Bus, also grew up helping in the store. When his father died in 1952, Bus took over the Palace Drug Store and managed it until it was

sold.

Margaret States married Maurice Young on March 22, 1932. Their son, Charles, was born August 23, 1933. He lives in New York, New York.

Orlando Bond "Bus" States married Veneta Slepake from Garfield, Kansas. Their children were Sydney and Dana. Bus died July 3, 1990, and is buried in the States lot in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Margaret States Young with Lola H. Crum
See the Peter Imel and P. H. Young entries

THE STAUTH FAMILY

The Stauth family originated in Hesse-Darmstadt, Prussia. John George Stauth was born July 5, 1790, in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. He married Elizabeth Karns in 1812. She was born in Germany in 1789. He died at Louisville, Bedford, Kentucky, in 1843. She died at Louisville, Bedford, Kentucky, in 1855. The family, consisting of the parents and four children, George, Valentine, Eve and Sallie, emigrated to the United States in 1838, landing at Baltimore, Maryland. They were 90 days on board ship and the fare was \$80 in American gold. The family first located in Bedford, Pennsylvania, and after remaining there for two years, they located permanently at Louisville, Kentucky.

Valentine Stauth was born at Hesse Darmstadt, Alstatt, Germany in August, 1826. He married Elizabeth Wagner. She was born May 25, 1839. He died February 9, 1907. She died February 7, 1924. In 1854, Valentine Stauth located on a farm near Corydon, Indiana. He lived on this farm over 50 years and raised a family of six children, four sons and two daughters: George J., Valentine, Adda, Dan F., Delia, and John W. Stauth.

George Joseph Stauth was born February 15, 1859, at Corydon, Indiana. He married Mary Amanda Wise on March 18, 1882. He died at Dodge City, Kansas, August 28, 1937. She was born November 28, 1861 in Indiana and died April 9, 1929 at Dodge City. At the age of 26, he his wife and son Tom came to Dodge City. They settled on a homestead 18 miles southwest of Dodge City. Their first residence was a sod house,

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10' by 12', unplastered and unfloored. They experienced hardship, privation and poverty, the lot of all pioneer settlers in a new country. Nine children were born: Tom, Griff, Frank, Minnie, and Claude. Two children, a boy, Warren C., and a girl, Daisy Deen, died in infancy. They are buried in the Ensign cemetery.

George J. Stauth had been a teacher in the public schools in Indiana. He started teaching in the common schools of Ford and Gray counties. He taught school for ten years. The first few years he taught school in a sod house, abandoned claim shanties and one term in the Dodge City-Montezuma depot at Ensign. During the time he was a teacher, he rode, drove and walked 13,000 miles over the prairies of southwest Kansas. His longest drive was 22 miles. This was long before the invention of the automobile.

He figured he was the only teacher on the frontier who taught school with a double-barreled shotgun with nine buck shot in each barrel, laid across his desk. He did not have this gun to control his pupils. He was the treasurer of his school district. A lightning rod agent had gotten permission from other members of the school board to rod the school house. As it was illegal for any school board to appropriate any money belonging to the school district for school purposes, to pay for this kind of expenditure, he stated that he would not endorse such warrants when presented for payment. Several school district treasurers, who refused to endorse these warrants, were forced to sign by the use of a revolver. As he did not intend to be forced to sign these illegal warrants, he carried his gun to and from school. He explained the situation to his pupils, and requested them to warn him if anyone approached the schoolhouse. He intended to get the "drop" and protect himself. No one molested him and he never endorsed or paid the warrants. The agent sold his bogus warrants and "skipped" the country.

Tom Stauth, son of George and Mary Stauth, was born at Corydon, Indiana, on February 7, 1884. He moved to Ford County in a covered wagon in 1885. He



Left to right: Frank, Griff, Tom and George.

lived with his parents on the homestead in Ford County, two miles southeast of Ensign. Later they lived in a sod house six miles southwest of Dodge City. He married Elizabeth "Bessie" Powers February 8, 1908. She was born at What Cheer, Keokuk Co., Iowa, on March 17, 1884. He died May 24, 1960; she died December 22, 1937. Tom worked for the Santa Fe railroad for a couple of years. They moved to the farm home five miles southwest of Dodge City in 1920 and lived there the rest of their lives.

Tom studied steam engines and threshing machines under Mr. Spicer and ran his own outfit for many years, once loading it on a train and hauling it to New Mexico to thresh grain. Although he was a lifelong farmer, he also worked on water wells. In 1938, he started drilling wells and test holes, a trade he stayed involved with the rest of his life. He served on many township and school boards, was active in the Masonic Lodge and was an old time fiddler. He suggested the name of the Richland Boosters 4-H Club to his son, Lawrence, who made the motion at the organizational meeting. The club is still active. After Bessie died in 1937, he married Ethel Cragg in 1939.

Elizabeth "Bessie" Powers Stauth was the daughter of James and Catherine Powers. James Powers was born September 16, 1847, in Ireland. He died August 26, 1904, at Washington, D.C. Catherine McClusky Powers was born on August 7, 1858, in High Blantyre, Scotland. She died at Dodge

City, Kansas, on April 5, 1934. The Powers family lived at What Cheer, Iowa, for a period of time, then moved to Syracuse, Kansas. James Powers served in the Civil War. While he was in the military, his wife and daughter lived at Fort Dodge, Kansas. James Francis Powers is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. James Powers and Catherine McClusky met in this country and were married at What Cheer, Iowa, on April 2, 1883. One child was born to this union. Elizabeth "Bessie" Powers Stauth was born on March 17, 1884, St. Patrick's Day, to her Irish father's delight. She graduated from high school and immediately started teaching grade school northwest of Jetmore. She also taught a school south of Minneola and finally the Mayrath school southwest of Dodge City, where she met and married Tom Stauth. She was active in the Catholic Church, Royal Neighbors of America, Daughters of the American Revolution and many other groups. She was very patriotic and observed any event involving the flag and patriotism. Eleven children were born to this union, all at Dodge City in Ford County, Kansas.

James, "Jim" Stauth was born November 21, 1908. He died October 19, 1985, at Nampa, Idaho, and is buried near Boise, Idaho. He married Evelyn Christy and had two children, Janet and Carol. He worked for the Kansas State Highway Department and then the Santa Fe Railroad as a brakeman and conductor. The family moved to Nampa, Idaho, in 1949, where he

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Taken on the occasion of Tom's 75th birthday. Back row, left to right: James, John, Daniel, Lawrence, Andrew "Mike," and Tommy. Front row: Tom, Marie Rogers, Margaret Hensley, Catherine Riley, Leona Smyres, Frances McKibbin.

worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad until retirement.

Marie Stauth was born May 9, 1910. She died in 1976, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the first of the 11 children to die. She married Ernie Rogers September 14, 1928. They had two children, Margie and Ruth. Marie was a Ford County wheat queen at one time. Her husband worked for the Santa Fe Railroad in office work.

Margaret Stauth was born June 1, 1912. She married Dallas Hensley and had two children, LaVeta and Kay. She worked for Kansas Power Company in Dodge City before the family moved to Culver City, California. Her husband worked for Helms Bakery until he retired. Dallas is deceased and Margaret lived in a retirement home in Fresno, California, until her death in August 1994. She was national 4-H Health Champion at Chicago in 1926.

John Stauth was born September 20, 1913. He died in 1978, at Newton, Kansas, and is buried in a cemetery west of Newton. He married Lois Hasler November 25, 1917, at Newton, Kansas. They had two children, Robert and Barbara. He was employed by Santa Fe Railroad as a brakeman and conductor. They lived in Dodge City for many years before moving to Newton where he worked for Santa Fe until retirement. Lois worked in clothing stores and later owned and operated one in Newton. John retired in 1976 and was the second of 11 children to die in 1978.

Catherine Stauth was born March 31, 1915. She married Roger Riley October 19, 1933 and had two children, Roger Edward and Sharon. Roger was involved in mechanical work and was a partner in the Kennedy-Riley Airport at Wilroads Gardens. They moved to California in the early '60s. Roger died at Visalia, California, in November, 1992. Catherine lives in Pittsburg, California.

Dan Stauth was born January 17, 1917. He died May 26, 1991, at Newton, Kansas, and is buried in a cemetery west of Newton. Dan married Cleo Purdue. Their four children were Patricia, Wanda, Daniel and David. Dan worked in Texas and New Mexico for Amarada Oil company before joining the Santa Fe Railroad as a draftsman. He moved to Newton, Kansas, in 1958, from Dodge City and retired at Newton, in 1977. He was a Ford County spelling champion at one time.

Leona Stauth was born November 21, 1918. She married Glen Smyres September 10, 1935, and had four children: Larry, Gary, Betty Lou and Cathy. Cathy died at age 21, the first grandchild to die. Glen was employed as a railroad engineer. The family moved from Dodge City to La Junta, Colorado, and later to Pueblo, Colorado. He died in California, in 1977, where he had gone for cancer treatment at Woodland, California, and is buried there. Leona is living in a retirement home in Reno, Nevada.

Frances Stauth was born March 29, 1920. She married Willard McKibben December 31, 1939, and had two boys, Dennis and Dallas. Willard was employed at the Santa Fe Railroad as an engineer. The family moved from Dodge City to Newton, Kansas. After he retired, they moved to Canon City, Colorado, where he died and is buried. Frances lives in Canon City.

Lawrence "Larry" Stauth was born March 19, 1922. He died October 29, 1991, at Sepulveda, California, and is buried there. He married Alyce Marie Hahn in February 1943. They had four children: Jolene, Larry, Rodney, and Judy. Larry served in the Air Force in World War II as an aerial engineer and gunner on a B-24 and served in the 727th squadron, 451st bomb group, 15th Air Force in Italy with his brother, Mike. He lived in Hanston, Kansas, after the war and before moving to Burbank, California, where he was head maintenance man for a large sports complex. He retired in 1987. Larry made the motion to name Richland Boosters 4-H Club the night it was organized.

Andrew Mike Stauth was born August 2, 1923. He married Helen Swafford, June 30, 1943 in Dodge City. They had three children, Randy, Linda and Brent. Mike served in the Air Force in World War II as an aerial engineer and gunner on a B-24 and served in the 725th squadron, 451st bomb group, 15th Air Force in Italy with his brother, Larry. He remained in the farming business until 1993. He lives in Dodge City and is in the real estate and motel business.

Tommy Stauth was born on June 15, 1925. He married Verla Creech on May 10, 1943, at Dodge City and had two children, Denny and Steve. He served in the Merchant Marines during World War II. He and Mike were in the building, farming and real estate business for many years. He and Verla moved to Danville, California, in about 1989, where they reside now. He was Ford County health champion at one time.

Mike Stauth

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ERWIN JACOB STREIFF

Erwin Jacob Streiff, son of Michael and Amelia Streiff, was born October 25, 1874, in Highland, Illinois, where he spent the first twelve years of his life. His father, Michael Streiff, came to Kansas in 1886 and filed a homestead claim in Fairview township of Ford County, about seven miles west of Dodge City on what is known as the Beeson Road. Erwin came with his father. He worked when they were making the Soule ditch.

Later he drove a team of horses hitched to a surrey to haul Mrs. Soule around town. He worked at the stock yards for several years. He would get baby calves at the stock yards and feed them out. That is how he got started in the cattle business. He farmed 160 acres. Later he bought more land along the river from George Theis where he raised alfalfa.

In 1900, he met Ursula Wheatley McDowell. She was born March 17, 1880, in Champagne, Illinois. They were married April 17, 1901. In 1914, their crops were especially good. They sold enough garden produce to buy their first car, a Model T Ford that cost \$700. Erwin was a well-liked man and a good neighbor.

Seven children were born to Erwin and Ursula, four boys and three girls. Their children were: Theis Erwin, born February 10, 1902. He is deceased. He married Marjorie Futhey on April 17, 1926. They had three boys: Dean, born March 12, 1927, he is deceased; Wayne, born May 18, 1930; and Lynn, born April 2, 1932. Robin Ruth, born November 25, 1904. She married George Wesley Black on December 21, 1927. They had one boy, Wesley L. Black, born December 27, 1929. Otis James, born December 22, 1906. He married Lois Paulsen. They had one girl, Jan, born September 25, 1949. Ruby Ida, born October 14, 1909. She married Castle C. Jones on April 10, 1930. They had one girl, Margaret Louise Harshberger Douglas, born February 9, 1931. Ruth Ursula, born November 14, 1913. She married George Cummings, July 5, 1939. Roy Edward, born July

22, 1915, now deceased. He married Inell Paulsen. They had three boys and one girl: Carolyn, David, Richard and Paul. Rolland Darrell, born November 30, 1917. He married Hazel Stagner on April 21, 1946.

On September 28, 1925, Ursula Streiff passed away from pneumonia. Robin and Ruby kept house for their father and the rest of the family. In November 1929, Erwin married Bertha Sturgeon. Erwin continued to farm. Some years he had good crops, except in 1935, when we had such dust storms. We had what was called the Black Blizzard. It got so dusty it was as dark as night. The dust was terrible, drifting enough to cover fences. Erwin had a difficult time raising enough crops to get by on. He sold his cattle as there wasn't anything to feed them. He borrowed money to feed and clothe the family. After the dust storms ceased, it took several years to get out of debt. He didn't get electricity here in Kansas until 1947, so he didn't have any electric appliances or lights. He used kerosene lamps and the wind ran the windmill for water.

On February 1, 1950, Erwin was killed from a gun accident. It was a shock to his family. He was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. Bertha Sturgeon Streiff passed away April 27, 1972. The Streiff children all made homes for themselves and their families.

Ruby Jones

SAM STUBBS, SR.

My grandfather, Sam Stubbs Sr., was born in London, England, on June 18, 1858. By 1877, he had emigrated to the United States, enlisted in the service in Jersey City, New Jersey, on April 11, and ended up being stationed at Fort Dodge. His brother, Edward, also enlisted (under the name of Edward Smith) and was also stationed at Fort Dodge at the same time Sam was there. Such notable figures as George A. Custer, Philip H. Sheridan and Nelson A. Miles were also soldiers stationed at Fort Dodge during the early years. The fort served as a base of operations against the hostile Arapaho and Chey-

enne Indians.

These two brothers had a close and lasting relationship. They married two sisters, Dora and Rosa Israel, daughters of German immigrants, who lived near Windthorst, Kansas. The girls delivered eggs, milk and other farm products to Fort Dodge where they met the Stubbs boys. Grandpa married Dora in 1881. Edward married Rosa about that time as well. Their enlistments expired April 10, 1882, and they were discharged from the Army at Fort Bayard, New Mexico.

After a period of about two years in business in Kansas City, Missouri, Grandpa returned to Dodge City. He worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for a short time and then began his long career as a business man in Dodge. He purchased a grocery business from P.R. Hobbles and opened a general merchandise business with a Mr. Ripple. He moved to the corner of 2nd and Chestnut to a large space, 25' by 125' with a room in the back, 25' by 50' used as a stock room for vegetables and farm products. Lee Volmar was manager of the meat market. Grandpa later joined the Locke and Fitzgerald firm as a partner in their store located where Eckles' store formerly operated.

The focus of Grandpa's life for 46 years, from 1884 to 1930, was always Dodge City. He operated the Central Grocery in 1889 and was elected to City Council in 1890, along with C. Beeman and J. Fitzgerald. He served for 12 years with such people as Pat Sughrue, Dr. O.J. Simpson and Jim Kirkpatrick. Grandpa and Ed also looked after Dodge's social interests by promoting dances in Dodge on Thursday evenings.

Both men were lovers of horses. They purchased their first race horse from H.B. "Ham" Bell and named the horses after many local folks in Dodge, such as Dr. McCarty, Dr. Simpson, Dr. Crumblin, Dr. Sam, Bob Cumpitt, etc. Thus began a successful career of racing horses throughout the United States which kept Dodge in the headlines. They were quite successful in Los Angeles, California, as well as New Orleans and Louisville, Kentucky.

Ed Stubbs died suddenly on Janu-

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ary 4, 1909, at 46 years of age. The five children of Ed and Rosa now moved with Grandpa and Dora to the big house at 5th and Spruce (formerly the Munsell property) bringing the number of children in that household to 15. Among the five nephews and nieces reared by Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs was Alice Stubbs who married Ernest C. Sturgeon in 1903, who also descended from an established business family in Dodge. Mr. own father, Samuel E. Stubbs, was born in 1895 and reared in that household along with his sisters, Lottie, Nettie, Minnie, Shirley, Jenny, Dorothy, Margaret, and his two brothers, Sidney and Oliver. Besides Alice, the children of Rosa and Ed were Lillian Stubbs, Nora, Ted and Charley.

When Grandpa bought 309 Chestnut Street in 1912, the population of Dodge City was 4,500. This was the same year he went into the wholesale grocery business. In 1913, the Driving Park Association was formed with the following officers: President Sam Stubbs, Vice President H.B. Bell, Secretary C. States, Treasurer George Stumph. My grandparents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1931, at the Lora Locke Hotel with 250 guests. I gather it was a grand affair.

In 1914, Grandpa bought the old Grandview Hotel across from City Hall. My father was pitching baseball in the Nebraska State League and I was born in Dodge City and also lived in the big house at 5th and Spruce. I attended first grade at the Third Ward School across the street. When my father secured a job in Oklahoma City, we moved there and stayed for six years. In 1928, I returned to Dodge with my mother, Lucille Berry Stubbs and brother, William. I graduated from Dodge City High School in 1932, to face the depression and finally joined the Navy in 1937. The grocery business in Dodge had been sold by my uncle Sid, giving over to the larger chain stores we know so well. Grandpa died in 1942, at 84 years of age, having retired in Kansas City. My own father died in 1943, at 48 years of age. I am proud of the Dodge City and Ford County connection the Stubbs name has.

Chris Magnus

THE STURGEON AND STUBBS FAMILIES

The Sturgeon family first came to Dodge City in 1899. Sy Sturgeon came to Dodge City and liked what he saw and the following year in 1900, the rest of his family came. This included his brothers, sisters, his mother, Sarah, and his father, Francis A. Sturgeon.

F.A. was born in Jackson Co., Indiana, in 1846. He enlisted in Co. B 23rd Iowa Volunteers for three years. He and Sarah were married in 1865. They had nine children: Ernest C. who stayed in Dodge City; Will A., who later ran a confectionary in Hutchinson; S.W., who moved to Kingman and ran the Anawalt Lumber Yard; Clara, who married Dick Evans, a lawyer from Dodge City; Minnie, who married Harry Grose; C.J., who moved to Kansas City and had several businesses including real estate; Alma who married and moved to Kansas City; Cora who married T.P. Kingery and Dora who married A.W. Smith. Cora and Dora moved to Florida until the hurricane of 1928, then they moved to Santa Ana, California.

F.A. Sturgeon had been in the lumber business for 17 years in Allerton, Iowa, and Newton, Missouri, before moving to Dodge City, in 1900. He first had a stock business and later established F.A. Sturgeon and Sons Lumber Yard, which was one of the solid businesses in Dodge City. The sons were W.A. (Will) and Ernest C. The lumber yard they built was later partly sold to Anawalt Campbell and to T.M. Deal, which is still in business in Dodge City today. F.A. Sturgeon also bought land around Dodge City and Ensign.

In 1903, Alice Stubbs and Ernest C. were married in the home of her uncle Sam Stubbs, with whom she and her four brothers and sisters went to live after her mother's death. That made a total of 14 children that Sam and his wife raised. Since there were so many children, they all had certain jobs that they did every day. Alice's job was to make pancakes every morning for the whole family. After she was married she refused to ever make another pancake for her family.

The following is quoted from the *Globe Republican* dated July 16, 1903, with the details of the wedding of Alice Stubbs and Ernest Sturgeon:

Her father, Edward Stubbs, came from St. Louis to be present, and Mrs. W.P. Allen of Missouri and Mrs. A.W. Smith of Hutchinson, sisters of the bridegroom, were here.

The ceremony was a very pretty one. The bridesmaids were the Misses Clara and Minnie Sturgeon and Nettie and Lillian Stubbs. Edward Stubbs, Jr., acted as best man. The flower girls were Pansy Allen, Shirley and Dorothy Stubbs and the ring bearer was Fern Smith. The wedding march was played by Alla McLaughlin of Newton. The decorations added to the beauty of the scene.

The contracting parties are among the most worthy young people of this county. Mr. Sturgeon is a son of F.A. Sturgeon and is in the lumber business here with his father. Mrs. Sturgeon is a niece of Sam Stubbs and has been bookkeeper at the Stubbs Grocery. Both are representative of families that are prominent here and their union is a particularly happy one in every way, and they start life together with the best wishes of all their acquaintances. A large number of elegant wedding presents found their way to the Stubbs home for the happy couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturgeon will go to housekeeping on Chestnut Street.

F.A. Sturgeon died in 1904. In 1906, the sons, having sold the lumber yard after their father's death, all went their separate ways. In 1906, W.A. and Ernest bought the Gwinner Bakery. In 1907, they also had the Sturgeon Confectionary, which included an ice cream parlor. That was unusual for the day, as ice cream was hard to come by. W.A. extended the confectionary to Hutchinson and Ernest ran the one in Dodge City. Harry Grose, who was E.C.'s brother-in-law, joined him in the