

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

confectionary and bakery that was on Chestnut Street.

In 1911, E.C. Sturgeon opened the bakery at 906 Fourth Street, where he was in business until about 1954. They originated the Pan Dandy Bread and also the Big Dandy that was "Twice as Big and Three Times as Good." Sturgeon's Bakery was one of the main businesses in Dodge City for many years. They shipped Pan Dandy bread by railroad to Hutchinson and also to Colorado. In later years, E.C. was joined in business by his sons, Allison and David. E.C. Sturgeon, Jr., started his own business, the M & S Wholesale, when he returned from serving in the Navy in World War II.

E.C. Sturgeon, Jr., the last remaining Sturgeon in business in Dodge City, just recently, in 1993, closed his business, the M & S Wholesale, which he had had for some 45 years.

E.C. Sturgeon, Jr.

THE SUGHRUE FAMILY

There were two Sughrue families who were prominent pioneer families in Dodge City, the Pat Sughrue and Mike Sughrue families, and their cousin, P.H. Sughrue. The families came to Ford County in the 1870s and early 1880s. All three men spent their lives as peace officers, as well as promoting and building a safe and thriving Dodge City and Southwest Kansas.

Pat and Mike Sughrue

Pat and Mike Sughrue, (twins) were born in County Cork, Ireland on St. Patrick's day. Their father, Humphrey Sughrue brought them to the United States, in 1854. Pat Sughrue was sheriff in Ford County while Mike was sheriff in Clark County. Both made history in the frontier days as sheriffs in the 1880s and 1890s. By trade they were blacksmiths, but were known and liked as peace officers.

Pat died as a result of a fall in an elevator shaft in Topeka, in 1906. His famous gun, a pearl-handled Colt 45, was given to the Kansas Historical Society.

Pat's son, Joe, was used as a live model for the famous Cowboy Statue on Boot Hill. The inscription reads, "On

the Ashes of my Campfire This City is Built." The statue was made by our historically famous pioneer dentist, Dr. O.H. Simpson, who took up sculpturing as a hobby in his later years.

P.H. Sughrue

P.H. Sughrue was considered Dodge City's most public spirited man. By trade he was a bridge and road builder. He was a man of vision far beyond his time. Mr. Sughrue was born in Virginia and came to Dodge City in the early 1880s.

When he came to Dodge City, he found cattle, cattle and only 18 acres of wheat. His remark was "Someday this will be wheat country and there is oil and gas under the ground." Early pioneers smiled but didn't believe him. His predictions did come true. He did buy land in five counties, as well as land, surrounding Dodge City. He dealt in real estate as well as road and bridge building. He was consulted by road builders in several states on bridges and hard-surfaced roads. The Sughrue home at 810 Central was the first and only home to be considered a historic home. The iron work in the backyard depicts the iron work in famous buildings.

P.H. Sughrue was generous with his time and money. He was the organizer of what is now the Dodge City Chamber of Commerce. He gave generously to schools and churches. He gave the land for the hospital site for St. Anthony's Hospital.

P.H. died March 25, 1938. He had six children: Will, Nellie, John, Cecile, Fannie and Catherine.



P.H. Sughrue



The Cowboy Statue on Boothill for which Joe Sughrue was model.

Nellie was a historian and one of the best English teachers of her time. Cecile was a Spanish teacher and served as an interpreter of Spanish in Washington, D.C., during the 1930s. She was a benefactor of St. Mary of the Plains College. Will supervised the pasture land in Ford and Kiowa counties. Fanny, wife of W.J. Keady, had three children, all of whom are deceased. Catherine and Cecile supervised the ranch pasture and gas properties during their life and supported many causes for Dodge City. John was a peace officer, sheriff and policeman. John had three children, Herbert and Helen, who are deceased, and Dorothy Rogers, who lives in Hutchinson. Herbert had five children all living in 1994: Kathleen, Margaret, Patricia, John and Tim. Herbert's wife, Kathryn, lives in Dodge City. She spent her life as an educator. She was a professor at Kansas State University and later was the first woman State Representative from Dodge City, 1977-1991, having served the longest time of any representative from Dodge City. Kathryn was never defeated in an election but retired from politics in 1991.

*Kathryn Sughrue

M.W. SUTTON

M.W. Sutton, better known to Dodge Citizens as Mike, was an actor in the legal affairs of Dodge City for more than 40 years and is the most famous of the pioneer lawyers in Dodge. He was not

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

native to the West, having been born in Orange County, New York, on January 8, 1848. He was of Irish descent, and his family were farming people.

When Mike was barely 15 years of age he enlisted in Company B of the Sixth New York Heavy Artillery. However, his unit fought as infantry. He was engaged in many of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War as a member of the Army of the Potomac. He was in the battles of The Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, the Bloody Angle, the Siege of Petersburg and, finally, was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered.

He was present at one of the strangest military maneuvers of the war, known to historians as The Crater. Lee's Confederate army was strongly entrenched south and east of Petersburg, Virginia, and was the main line of the defense of Richmond. The two great armies had reached an impasse and trench warfare prevailed. A minor Union general conceived the idea of having sappers tunnel under the Confederate lines and plant dynamite at a strategic spot. The ensuing explosion threw earth, Confederate soldiers, horses and munitions high into the air. However the general had failed to position his troops properly so as to rush through the gap in the Confederate line, and the defenders quickly recovered and closed the gap.

At age 17 the young soldier was discharged from the Union army on August 24, 1865, without having been severely wounded. He went home and attended Trumansville Academy for two years.

In 1867, the Sutton family moved to Warrensburg, Missouri, where Mike did some teaching and farming. He also "read" law and in March 1872, passed the Missouri bar to become a lawyer. Shortly thereafter he moved to Kansas and started practicing in Wellington. In the fall of 1872, he moved to Medicine Lodge where he tried the first lawsuit in the county. The rewards from his law practice were slim. He was known to wash his only shirt in nearby Elm Creek. He had a partner named James Whitelaw. They usually decided which

one would appear in court on a given day on the basis of which one had the more presentable clothing to wear. To supplement income, he also hunted buffalo for eleven months.

In May 1876, Mr. Sutton moved to Dodge City with five dollars in his pocket and no coat. He opened an office on Front Street. The Texas cattle drives were in full swing and Dodge City was rapidly acquiring its reputation as the wickedest town in the West. Law business was good. That fall Mike was elected County Attorney of Ford County, to which most of the present-day Southwest Kansas was attached for judicial and administrative purposes. He served most of two terms in this office.

In 1882, Mike was retained by the Santa Fe Railroad as its local counsel, and he served in that capacity for 39 years. He concurrently served as local counsel in Dodge City for the Rock Island Railroad for 19 years. He served two terms in the Kansas House of Representatives, from 1889 to 1891, and 1893 to 1895. While in the Legislature, he was instrumental in having the former Fort Dodge army post designated as the Kansas Soldiers Home.

President McKinley appointed Mr. Sutton Collector of Internal Revenue for Kansas and Oklahoma and he served in that office for four and one half years.

Almost immediately upon arriving in Dodge City, Sutton joined the informal Dodge City political organization known as "the gang" which was headed by Mayor James H. (Dog) Kelley. Other prominent members of the gang were Bat Masterson and Robert M. Wright. This organization controlled the political life of Dodge at the time and Mike fit in like a glove. He proved to be a master politician.

In late 1879, Sutton fell out with Bat Masterson and the other members of the gang and they became enemies. The basic reasons for the alienation were that Mike had married and his wife did not approve of some of Mike's activities with his political associates and, perhaps more importantly, Dodge City was changing and Mike changed with it. There was a strong movement in Dodge to change its image from the vio-



M.W. Sutton

lent, wicked "Beautiful, Bibulous Babylon of the Frontier" to that of a progressive, law-abiding community. It has also been suggested that the Santa Fe may not have approved of some of the gang's doings.

Mike Sutton justly acquired a reputation as a skilled politician. His hand was seen not only in Dodge but the entire state of Kansas as well. He served on the Ford County Central Committee, the United States Senatorial Committee and many other such organizations. He attended and participated in many political conventions. During this period he was influential in the election of governors, congressmen, and United States senators, in addition to many less important officials. Of course, he participated in the presidential elections. Later in his life he was credited with getting his law partner elected to congress.

But it was as a gladiator in the cockpit of the courtroom that Mike Sutton's star shone brightest. He practiced law at a time when cases were almost invariably tried rather than settled. He tried dozens of cases—some say hundreds—in all the courts of Ford County, other counties, Dodge City and the state where he was admitted to practice before the supreme court. He tried all kinds of cases—criminal, civil, probate and police court and was successful in all of them. He studied and knew the law as it affected the lives of Dodge Citians; he was well prepared for trial and knew the thinking and biases of the judges and jurors.

Mike was an accomplished orator.

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

One of the less flattering appellations given him was "St. Michael of the Oil Tongue."

One of Sutton's more famous cases resulted in a great deal of embarrassment for him. In 1878, Northern Cheyenne Chief Dull Knife and his band of followers left their reservation in Oklahoma and headed for home in the Dakotas, killing, robbing and pillaging as they went. One of those persons killed was a man named Washington O'Connor. Four other people were also killed in the area of Dodge City. In January 1879, County Attorney Sutton swore out warrants for the arrests of seven of the Indians. They were apprehended and brought to Dodge for trial. Their attorney filed a motion for a change of venue on the grounds that the Indians could not receive a fair trial in Dodge City. The motion was granted and the trial was moved to Lawrence, Kansas. Unfortunately, at the time of trial none of the witnesses were able to positively identify any of the defendant Indians and they were given their freedom.

Mike was and is famous for his wit. His Medicine Lodge law partner also came to Dodge City. He was known as "Uncle Jimmy" Whitelaw, and he was a Confederate veteran. In those pioneer days, the district judge came to town very infrequently, and in order to have uncontested cases disposed of, the local bar association would elect a judge pro tem, which meant that he served for only a short time. Mike Sutton would invariably nominate Whitelaw for judge pro tem and he would be elected. Whitelaw grew tired of it and one day asked Sutton why he always nominated him for this office. Mike, who was a Union veteran, said, "Uncle Jimmy, it does my heart good to see an old rebel like you stand up and take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States."

Judge William Easton Hutchinson, who was district judge of the judicial district which included both Dodge City and Garden City related this story: The trial of a jury case had not been finished when court adjourned on Saturday night. Cases were tried on Saturdays in

those days. The judge solicited the wishes of the lawyers and jurors on whether the case should be continued until the following Monday or everyone should return to court the next day and finish it. The consensus favored Sunday, so the participants returned to court the next day and sent the case to the jury. The jury deliberated and returned a verdict against Mike's client. Thereupon, Stuart Sutton, Mike's brain-injured son who went everywhere with his father, jumped up and berated the judge, jurors and opposing lawyers for desecrating the Sabbath, and quoted appropriate scripture.

Mike then rose to his feet and said, "Well now, son, that's mighty good scripture that you've quoted, but the Good Book also says that 'If thy ox or thy donkey fall into a pit on the Sabbath, get it out.' The judge has 12 donkeys in the jury box and he wants to get them out."

On October 1, 1879, Mike Sutton married Miss Florence Clemons, a niece of A.B. Webster, who later became the reform mayor of Dodge City. She had lived in New York and had come to Dodge City to visit her uncle and his family. They became the parents of one child, Stuart Sutton, who was permanently brain-injured while still a baby when his mother's buggy horse ran away and the buggy overturned.

Florence Sutton was a religious, upright woman who did not approve of some of Mike's associates. In addition, she was a strong Prohibitionist. She is credited with causing husband Mike to give up his drinking and he, too, became a Prohibitionist and attended their meetings and conventions. However, Bob Wright opined that Mike Sutton still drank more whiskey in a week than he, Wright, drank in a year.

Florence Sutton died June 6, 1888, survived by husband Mike and son, Stuart. Mike Sutton never remarried. Stuart Sutton lived until 1950 and was a well-known character in Dodge City.

Mike Sutton died in June 1918. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, next to his wife and son.

James A. Williams

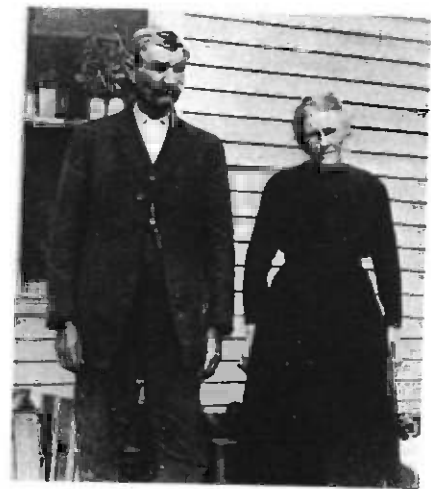
EDMUND THOMAS AND

SARA ANNA HILL TAYLOR

Edmund Thomas Taylor was born December 16, 1848, at Bishopville, Maryland, the son of Samuel Charles Taylor who was born December 8, 1822, in Bishopville, Maryland, and Merada Anne Hudson, born December 16, 1825, in Delaware. The Taylor-Hudson families came from England.

Edmund and his parents moved to a farm in Worcester Co., Maryland, in 1867. In 1870, at age 23, Edmund, his parents and sister, Anna Kate, and six brothers: Samuel, Theodore, Joseph, Henry, Robert and Lemuel, left Maryland by team and covered wagon for Missouri. They bought a farm ten miles north of Chillicothe. It was in this community that Edmund Taylor met Sara Anna Hill. They were married February 6, 1878, at Chillicothe, Missouri. In December 1895, Edmund's father died and his mother died in 1898. They were buried at Cream Ridge Township, Livingston, Co., Missouri, in the Ward Cemetery which was a part of the Taylor farm.

Sara Anna (Hill) Taylor was born November 30, 1852, at Morgantown, West Virginia. She moved with her parents to Chillicothe, Missouri, at age two in a covered wagon along with her brothers, Carey, and her sister, Amberzine. She was the daughter of Alexander Cary Hill, born at



Edmund and Anna Taylor

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

Morgantown, West Virginia. December 25, 1823. died April 3, 1895, in Cassville, Missouri; and Mary Melvia Cartwright, born January 2, 1827, Morgantown, West Virginia, and died Cassville, Missouri, August 18, 1893. Cary Hill and Mary Cartwright were married September 22, 1845, in West Virginia. Sara Anna (Hill) Taylor's great great grandfather was Sir Patrick Houston, born in England, in 1688. He emigrated in 1731, with Oglethorpe to found a colony in Georgia. He settled in Fredricka, St. Simon's Isle, Georgia, in 1731. Anna (Hill) Taylor's two great grandfathers, Purnell Houston and Robert Hill, fought in the Revolutionary War (See DAR Patriot Index, page 329, under Robert Hill, born and died in Morgantown, Virginia.)

In 1903, Edmund and Anna Taylor and family moved to Earlton, Kansas, and in 1905, they bought a farm near Garfield. In 1909, they moved to Dodge City, Kansas, and bought a farm four miles southwest of Dodge City where they lived until Edmund's death on September 20, 1939, at age 91 years, eight months. His death was caused from a fall.

Even in these late years, Edmund walked to town four miles at least once a week. He loved to walk and felt it was good for him. Many times the caring neighbors stopped to offer him a ride. Even in their later years of the '80s and '90s both Anna and Edmund were in good health and they were quite active on their farm.

Edmund was a six-foot man with



Edmund and Anna Taylor farm.

dark hair and brown eyes. Anna was a small, fair-skinned, blue-eyed lady who moved like lightning. They were hard-working, devout Christian parents and their great faith took them through the trying years when drought, grasshoppers and dirt storms took their crops. There were good years and it was a great community to live in with good, caring neighbors to help and to share in good times and bad times. Household chores were hard tasks. Anna had to carry the water from the windmill and heat it on the iron stove. She ironed with a heavy iron that had been heated on the stove, and did the washing in tubs with washboards. She had to keep the coal oil lanterns clean to make good light for the home.

They raised and canned their vegetables and some fruit, had their cows for milk and cream, raised their meat, butchered and cured it and made their bread and pastries. They were quite self-sufficient, though the lack of rain affected not only their crops but all of their food supply. The Taylors' great faith in the Lord that He will provide next year is the same faith that makes the farmers of today survive and helps them **keep on farming!**

When Edmund died, Anna moved into Dodge City to live with her children, Zack and Una Taylor. She was a great joy to have in the home, with her kindness, love and wit which she shared with her children and grandchildren, Virgil, Bernice and Cleo. She suffered a stroke and was hospitalized in Murray Memorial Hospital on Sixth Avenue.

Zack visited his mother daily along with the other members of his family. She died February 9, 1947, after being bedfast for two and a half years. She was a great Christian lady, loving, cheerful and of great faith in the Lord daily.

Born to Edmund and Sara Anna Taylor were two daughters, Beulah and Ethel, and three sons, Sidney, Tull and Zack.

Beulah married Albert Dickman, of Chula, Missouri. Their children are Roy, Cleo Flentje, Clarence, Edward, Herman and Lena (Mrs. Harold Nielsen, of Chula).

Ethel married Herman Thompson, Phoenix, Arizona. Their son, Ralph, married Mildred Matthews.

Sidney, born in July 1881, farmed south of Dodge City. He married Amelia Coffman. Their four children were Verna, Bob, Bill, John.

Verna married Dewey Ellison and moved to Oklahoma City. She died in December 1994.

Bill and *Bob* live in Oklahoma City and are retired.

John Edward Taylor married Ruth Schrock, daughter of Eli and Ina (Dunithan) Schrock, early southwest Ford County farmers. Their children are Donna, Rowena and Wayne. Donna Jean married Howard Demoret, Dodge City; Their daughter is Sherrie. Rowena married Charlie Pike, Dodge City. He owned Pike Machine Co. Their children are Eugene, Corley and Charylenn. They moved to Branson, Missouri. Wayne Taylor, married Glenda Jones, daughter of Glenn and Aletha Hamilton Jones whose father was Dr. Oscar Hamilton, early day Dodge City chiropractor. Children: Joni, Julia, Caralee and Kyleen who married Steve Dasenbrock, son of Joe and Nedra Dasenbrock, Ford County farmers. Steve and Kyleen farm 21 miles northwest of Dodge City. They have two sons, Joseph, age seven; and Jonathan, age four. John died in 1974.

Tull Taylor married Nora Mosley. They had three children; Ralph, Betty and Louise of Wichita.

Zack H. Taylor was born June 26, 1888. He married Una Connaway, the

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

daughter of D.H., Jr. and Anna Connaway, on December 18, 1918. The Connaways had homesteaded 18 miles northwest of Dodge City in 1884. Zack farmed in Ford and Gray counties and worked at the Army Air Base during World War II. He also sold real estate. He died June 2, 1950. Zack and Una had four children: Bernice, Virgil, Jean and Cleo.

Bernice Yvonne was born April 2, 1920 and died April 20, 1980, in Dodge City. She graduated from Dodge City High School and Dodge City Community College. She was a cashier at Peoples Natural Gas company for 26 years. She was very active in the First Christian Church as a choir member, a Junior High Youth Sponsor and as a Sunday School teacher for many years. She was a beautiful Christian, filled with love, fun and laughter. She took her time to love and care for others.

Virgil E. Taylor was born July 16, 1923. He graduated from Dodge City High School and College and the Minnesota Bible College. He served in World War II. He was a minister of Christian Churches for 37 years. He married Charlotte Stacy, daughter of Paul and Marie Stacy of Clarion, Iowa, in June 1949. She is a teacher. Their first ministry was in the Christian Church of Bucklin, Kansas. Virgil died on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1986, of a heart attack as he was at the church preparing for the services at Sterling Heights, Michigan, their home. Virgil and Charlotte's children are Anne, Judith, Robert Edmund, and James Mark. Anne married Dr. Warren Miller in Indiana. He is a family doctor in Puyallup, Washington. Anne is a teacher. They have two children, Laura and Steven. Judith married Dennis Thomas of Seattle, Washington. He is the minister of a Christian Church in Thornton, Colorado. Judy is a teacher. Their children are Darren and Brian. Robert Edmund is a Christian Church minister in Aurora, Colorado. He married Susan Schlitzenbaum, of Knoxville, Iowa. She is a teacher. Their children are Erica, Matthew and Nathan. Dr. James Mark is a family practice physician, in Thornton, Colorado. He married Peggy Nelson of St.

Louis, Missouri, a medical technician. Their children are Adam, Andrea and Julie.

Jean Connaway Taylor was born April 3, 1929, and died of pneumonia December 21, 1929.

Cleo Lorraine, the youngest child of Zack and Una Taylor, was born June 15, 1933. She attended Lincoln Grade School and graduated from the Dodge City Senior High and has attended the Community College. During high school she was a junior life guard at the Dodge City Municipal Swimming pool in the park. She remembers the cute twins, Don and Dean Luallen as the hardest to get out of the pool when the lightning storms would appear. They were nice boys but loved to tease and have fun. Cleo also worked at the "old" McKinley-Winter Sales Barn in the office on sale days which lasted until 1:00 and 2:00 in the morning. The homemade bean soup was a favorite of the office girls on Saturdays from the Sales Barn Cafe. In August 1951, Cleo became employed for the First National Bank. This was during the George Dugan and Maurice Young days. The bank was all on the main floor with only one drive-in window. We had a great bunch of employees and we enjoyed our work and the customers. In January 1960, Cleo retired to be a full-time farm wife. She remembers the kind and helpful ways of Mr. L.H.W. Hall, owner of Hall's Firestone and father of Judith Hall Young, when he assisted this new, green, young farm wife in selecting the needed garden tools and promised that he would keep them sharp, which he always did. He also furnished us with zinnia seed each summer and displayed his huge gorgeous peonies in the bank lobby each spring for the customers and employees to enjoy. Kind old-timers like Mr. Hall are truly missed.

She married Russell E. Fischer, the son of Otto and Minnie Flair Fischer. The Otto Fischers had come to Ford County in 1928, from Hudson, Kansas, in Stafford County, settling three and a half miles northwest of Wright. Russell and Cleo live eight miles northeast of Dodge City where Russell is a farmer and cattleman. They have two sons,

Mark Douglas and Scott Daniel.

Mark Fischer was born January 17, 1964. He attended Dodge City schools, Dodge City College and graduated from Kansas State University. Mark is a Ford County farmer and cattleman. He married Sherrie Conard Winter, the daughter of Gary Conard and Olphelia (Cookie) Crick of Dodge City. Sherrie received her degree in education from St. Mary of the Plains College and is a travel consultant in Dodge City. Their children are Jeff, Jamie, Janell and twin sons, Christian Douglas and Caleb Daniel, born November 10, 1995.

Dr. Scott Fischer was born February 18, 1966. He attended Dodge City schools, Dodge City College and graduated from Kansas State University. He received his doctorate in 1992, from Cleveland Chiropractic College, Kansas City, Missouri, and is a Fellow of the International Academy of Clinical Acupuncture. He has a family practice in Dodge City on North 14th. He married Jeanie R. Williams, the daughter of Larry and Wilma Kimmel Williams. Larry Williams is the minister of the First Christian Church of Dodge City. The Williams were formerly from Illinois. Jeanie attended Kansas State University and graduated from the Kansas School of Floral Design. They have two daughters, Ashley Lauren, born June 20, 1993, and Taylor Chloe, born November 15, 1995. All three of the Fischer families are very active in the First Christian Church in Dodge City.

The heritage of the Ed Taylors continues in Ford County after 85 years. The Taylors came to Ford County because of the advertisements of the fertile land and the promise of a better place to build a future for their families.

Cleo Taylor Fischer

GEORGE WASHINGTON TAYLOR

George Washington Taylor was born in Virginia on June 28, 1828. He married Margaret Ann Williams, birthplace unknown, in Iowa, February 19, 1849. Margaret was born April 26, 1825, and died May 8, 1887. George died April 29, 1921, at the age of 92 years. He is buried in the Spearville Cemetery. Great

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



Four Generations. Back row, left to right: Ella Jones and Al Padget. Front row: Hazel Jones and George Washington Taylor.

Great Grandfather and Twila share the same birthdays, June 28, 99 years apart.

He registered in the 3rd Congressional District, Des Moines, Iowa, on October 6, 1864, at age 36 and served in the Civil War Infantry. He came from Iowa to Ford County to homestead in Pleasant Valley, south of Spearville in the late 1800s. Children of George W. and Margaret Taylor were John W. Taylor, born October 10, 1853; Melinda Joy



Cora Mowry, granddaughter of George W. Taylor, and Grace Leighty.

Taylor, born October 10, 1855; Almyra M. Taylor, "Al," born September 9, 1857; Margaret "Ann" Taylor, born June 12, 1861; Thomas Jefferson Taylor, born February 23, 1864; Nancy Emma Taylor, born June 13, 1866; Martha Caroline Taylor, born March 10, 1870.

Ann and John lived with and cared for George in his aging years. There are many relatives living in Ford County. One is Grace Leighty of Ford, Kansas, born April 19, 1908. She is a retired telephone operator for the Ford, Kansas, exchange. Her parents were Fred and Cora Mowry. Her grandparents were "Al" and Joe Padget. He was the horse and buggy mail carrier in Ford.

My grandmother, Nancy Emma Taylor, was born in Seymour, Iowa, and married Beverly Johnson. They lived in Putman County, Unionville, Missouri. Several children were born but only two survived. My mother, Almyra Janettie "Nettie" Johnson was born October 27, 1889 and married John L. Frye, September 1, 1920, in Hutchinson. Her sister, Esther Johnson, born October 16, 1894, married Will Percy Jonas. They lived and died in California and were buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Altadena, California.

Nancy Emma's second marriage was to Robert Harrison Lightfoot. Twin sons

were born, named Ivan Robert and Earl Lightfoot. They had children and grandchildren. Ivan is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City and Earl is buried in Amarillo, Texas.

My favorite memory as told to me was that Grandma Nancy Emma Taylor Johnson Lightfoot came to Kansas as a widow and was converted in the First United Methodist Church in the building built in 1884, at 707 First, Dodge City. She came by train to Kansas to see her father, George Taylor, and to visit relatives in Dodge City. One Sunday morning she asked her brothers and sister to go with her to church. They declined so she walked alone to church that morning and returned with joy. She remained committed until her death, May 25, 1949, and is buried in Eastside Cemetery, Hutchinson. She was a member of the First Nazarene Church, 211 East 4th St., Hutchinson, Kansas.

My mother, Almyra Janettie Johnson Frye, was converted at the age of 19 years in a tent revival meeting near the Arkansas River north of Ford, Kansas. Nettie became a charter member of the Kingsdown Nazarene Church which later merged with the Ford Nazarene Church. John L. and Nettie Frye remained committed until their deaths, six weeks apart; Daddy, on March 25 and Mother, May 10, 1976. They were members of the Hutchinson First Nazarene Church and are buried in Fairlawn Cemetery, Hutchinson, Kansas.

Their children are: Roy Milton J. Frye, born October 12, 1921, died June 28, 1953; Nola Lavina Schott, born March 3, 1923; Howard Calvin Frye, born January 5, 1925; Esther "Twila" Beck, born June 28, 1927; Geraldine June Burwell, born July 31, 1929.

I came to Ford County as a bride married to Joseph F. Beck, September 21, 1952. We were married in the Hutchinson First Nazarene Church and are members of Dodge City Nazarene Church.

Joe farmed for many years near Ensign and west of Dodge City. He was employed with the Santa Fe Railroad, retiring, May 1985. He owned the Park

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



George Washington Taylor homestead in Pleasant Valley. Mr. Taylor, the man with the white beard, is seated with his family.

Putt Miniature Golf in Wright Park for 21 years.

I have worked for Ford County ASCS; Western Electric, Inc.; Bureau of the Census; Social Security; Mitchell, Smith and Patton Law Firm; and Dodge City Community College for 23 years, retiring July 1, 1991. I served most of those years as secretary to the Director of Admissions. During the time I worked for the law firm, application was made for the Bank of the Southwest. Dial telephones were installed in Dodge City on April 25, 1954, while I worked as the secretary for Western Electric.

Our children are: Sandra Jean, born July 1, 1953, married Steven Lloyd Rogers on May 28, 1977; Barbara Jean, born October 11, 1957, married Rev. David Eugene Childers on May 24, 1980; and Shirley Ann, born December 29, 1960, married Dr. Philip Lewis Newlin on December 18, 1982. All our children were born in Trinity Hospital, and attended Dodge City schools and DCCC. There are six grandchildren.

Sandra received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education, and Steve Rogers a Bachelor of Science degree in Phys-

ics. They are graduates of Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. Sandra teaches in Rose Hill, Kansas, Grade School. Steve is a business professional for Beech Aircraft.

Barbara received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and the Rev. David Childers, a Religion degree. They are graduates of Mid-America Nazarene College, Olathe, Kansas. They pastor the Cedar Rapids, [Iowa] Oakland Nazarene Church.

Shirley received a Bachelor of Science and Registered Nurse degree and Dr. Philip Newlin a Bachelors in Science. They are graduates of Mid-America Nazarene College. Shirley was the Soroptimist Miss Dodge City Days Queen in 1979. She is a ventriloquist. Dr. Newlin graduated from Kansas University School of Medicine, Lawrence, Kansas. He specialized in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. He is a pediatrician in the Wichita Clinic, Wichita, Kansas. He has been featured in the Wesley Medical Center "Little Life on the Line," Channel 6 Eye Witness News "Believe It."

Esther Twila Beck

L.L. TAYLOR

L. L. Taylor was born June 12, 1875, in Indiana. He grew up in that state and attended school and college there and taught school in Indiana for four years. He then went to Florida and worked in the lumber business before coming to Dodge City in 1904.

Mr. Taylor was in the real estate business here for more than 60 years and was still active in it until shortly before his death. He not only was very prominent locally in this field but also statewide. Mr. Taylor was the only man who ever served two terms as the head of the Kansas State Realtors Board. He also made the first federal land bank loan in the state of Kansas at the beginning of the land bank system. Mr. Taylor was a representative in the Kansas House from Ford County for one term.

He and Miss Stella Carson were married May 5, 1905, in Dodge City. Her death was January 29, 1943. He and Mrs. Beulah Barnes were married June 7, 1953, in Dodge City.

Mr. Taylor was a member of the state realtors group and was a very loyal member of the First Baptist Church, helping to build the present church building. He also was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Royal and Select Masters and the Knights Templar, all of



L.L. Taylor, Representative 96th District.

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

Dodge City and the Midian Shrine of Wichita and of the Dodge City Kiwanis Club.

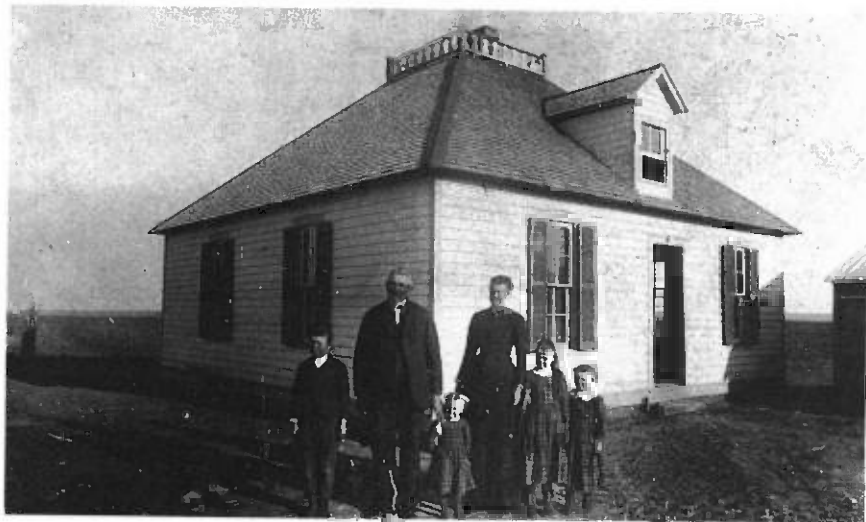
Survivors include the widow a daughter. Mrs. Bert Baugh of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a sister, Mrs. Hazel Shinn, of Narbert, Pennsylvania, two grandchildren, Mrs. David (Janet) Birch of Wheeling, West Virginia, the Rev. Robert Baugh, of Mora, Minnesota, and four great grandchildren.

Obituary from *Dodge City Daily Globe*,
January 19, 1968

JOHN AND ELIZABETH TEMAAT

John Temaat was born October 8, 1844, in Dornick, Prussia, a town that is now in the western part of Germany. He probably came to America in 1865. He married Elizabeth Wilmer on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1878, in Millhousen, Indiana. John declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States on March 25, 1872, and March 25, 1874, he was granted citizenship to this country by the Hamilton County Court in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Two children, Frank and Clara, were born in Cincinnati and came with their parents to Kansas. The family established residence on their Ford County farm on April 28, 1884. John was granted a patent to the SE 1/4 of S26 T22 R26. This land was a part of the Osage



John Temaat family in 1893, taken in front of their farm home. Left to right: Frank, John, Lucy, Elizabeth, Clara and Anna. The house, which was built in 1888 was destroyed by fire in July 1982.

Indian Reservation.

There were improvements on the Temaat homestead when the family took up their claim. These consisted of a sod house, 12' x 12' with one door and two windows, a lumber stable, 26' x 28' and a granary, 12' x 12'. There were two wells and 50 acres of land under cultivation. John gave Rudolph Schmidt \$500 for these improvements. Daughter Anna was born September 17, 1885, in this sod house. A four-room house was built in time for Daughter Lucy's

birth on November 20, 1889. This cottage burned to the ground on July 25, 1982.

The John Temaat children were: Frank (1881-1960) who married Barbara Zirkle (1882-1961); Clara who married Ed Hain (1870-1934); Anna (1885-1980) who married Henry Hain (1882-1928); and Lucy (1889-1982) who never married. The average age of these four children is more than 90 years.

Anna is the only child to have had a family. Her children are: Martha (Mrs. Frank Konda, Spearville, Kansas); Lucy, (Mrs. Lawrence Schmidt, Hobbs, New Mexico); Henry, Spearville; Gertrude (Mrs. Lawrence Herman, Dodge City, Kansas); and Rita (Mrs. Andrew Naab, Spearville.)

John Temaat died March 27, 1903, and Elizabeth died May 24, 1925. They, all of their children and children's spouses are buried in the Windthorst Cemetery.

Henry Hain



John Temaat



Elizabeth Wilmer Temaat

DR. W.O. THOMPSON

Dr. W.O. Thompson was born in Shelby, Ohio, September 29, 1878, the son of Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Thompson. He graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1903. After coming to Dodge City in 1904, he married Lola Hoch of

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

Marion, Kansas, with whom he had become acquainted while his father was pastor of the Presbyterian church in Marion. The Thompsons had two sons, Maurice and Otis.

He came to Dodge City and started as a practitioner in December 1904, a year after his father had become pastor of the Presbyterian church in Dodge City. It was in Dodge City that Dr. Thompson gained recognition throughout the state as a surgeon.

He associated himself with Dr. C.A. Milton, pioneer physician of Dodge City. Later Dr. W.F. Pine, Dodge City physician, entered the firm for a time and several years after that, his brother, Dr. George Thompson, joined. When Dr. Milton retired from active practice, Dr. Thompson became the head of the firm. Dr. George Thompson died following an appendicitis operation about 1919.

Realizing the early need of a hospital in the city, he first opened one on North Central Avenue, converting a large home into a hospital and gradually equipping it with modern facilities. The Thompson hospital later burned. Through his contacts he was able to give more than ordinary support in the building and equipping of St. Anthony's hospital and he lent all the support possible to it.

Dr. Thompson was first elected mayor in the spring of 1919, to fill two years of the unexpired term of Frank Martin, who resigned to become finance commissioner. He was elected mayor again in 1927 and served for a total of five years.

All kinds of sports were of interest to Dr. Thompson. He was a member of several hunting and fishing clubs, engaging in those sports in western Kansas and Colorado and he always kept a good group of coursing dogs at his home. During his college days, he helped defray the expenses of his education by judging coursing meets.

About 1924, he began the development of Thompsonwood farms east of South Dodge where he specialized in proving that poultry can be an industry of the southwest. His pens of White Leghorn show poultry became known

in egg-laying contests over the state.

Dr. Thompson's jovial nature was one of his best known characteristics. Although he was frequently pressed by professional calls over the telephone during sessions of the city commission at which he presided as mayor, and sometimes was forced to leave the sessions early or to arrive late, the sessions at which he presided were always enjoyable as well as busy. He greeted in a kindly and usually humorous manner every visitor to the commission, and his wide range of acquaintance usually enabled him to greet each visitor by name. His story-telling ability was frequently demonstrated in commissioner sessions.

When he was mayor of the city he addressed a public celebration of the arrival of natural gas by saying "Everything good that has come to Dodge City has come from the Southwest."

Enlarging on that, he recounted the cattle drives from the Southwest that gave Dodge City its early impetus and kept it growing for more than half a century. The development of the Southwest when railroads went through helped to make Dodge City the marketing center for grain and other products and the distribution center for farm equipment and other commodities.

His interests in the city were exemplified when late in 1923, a year before the spectacular building development of the city started, he erected the Crown Theater building and the building adjoining it on the east. It was typical of him that he built the finest theater building the city had up to that time. On its completion his offices immediately occupied a suite over the theater and he opened other suites in the building adjoining the theater for rental.

The beautiful new city hall on Boot Hill would be a memorial to Mayor Thompson, Dodge City men said, because it was his leadership that brought about this civic improvement. An adequate city hall long had been a dream of Mayor Thompson and in his term as mayor he brought about the sale of the city property which made possible the new city hall.

Dr. W.O. Thompson died after a short illness and surgery on March 13,



Dr. W.O. Thompson

1930. Funeral services were conducted at the Dodge City Presbyterian church. He was survived by his wife, two sons, Maurice and Otis, and his parents, Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Thompson of Dodge City.

Julia J. Hull
Dodge City Daily Globe, March 13, 1930
Kansas Heritage Center

JOHN BERNARD TIEBEN AND MONIKA RIEDLINGER TIEBEN

Ben Tieben was the third child of Anna Marie Tieben and only child of Goehart Tieben, her second husband. Ben was born July 8, 1863, in Prussia, Germany.

Goehart Tieben married Anna Marie Stroer Schulte, date unknown, after her first husband, Bernard Schulte died. Anna Marie was born April 4, 1817, at Sustrum, Germany.

At Ben's young age, the Tieben family along with Rudolph Schulte, a half brother, moved from Germany to Covington, Kentucky. They left behind another half brother, Herman Schulte, who never came to the United States. It was about this time that land was being homesteaded in Kansas, which meant that any one making his home on a quarter section of land and living on it for five years would receive full possession of that land. A party of settlers was then going out to investigate the land near

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

what later became Windthorst. Kansas, located in Ford County about 20 miles east of Dodge City. Rudolph Schulte went out to look over the situation. In the meantime, Goehart Tieben passed to his eternal reward, so Anna Tieben, along with her 16 year-old son, Ben, decided to make the venture and homestead a quarter adjoining that which was homesteaded by her older son, Rudolph Schulte. This was in 1878.

A little sod cabin was built on the land in which they lived for several years. The land was grassland and when broken out with a single walking plow, it was very rich and fertile. Not much money was spent on machines. Hard labor was the effort it took in those days and since towns were very inaccessible, it was not so easy to spend money. The family raised the food they needed to eat and sold the surplus to buy what was actually needed.

Ben's mother, Anna, died November 29, 1890, and is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery at Windthorst. She was one of the first to be buried there. The Windthorst community, almost entirely made up of Catholic settlers, built a church and a pastor was sent to the parish. Later this was known as the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

On January 15, 1895, Ben married a neighbor girl, Monika Riedlinger, and they lived in the Tieben home where they spent 49 and a half years of wedded life together.

Monika was the fourth child of Joseph and Afra (Staiger) Riedlinger. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 18, 1877. Her father, Joseph Riedlinger, was born September 5, 1844, in Wielen, Baden, Germany. He married Afra Staiger on July 10, 1869, in Hamilton Co., Ohio. Afra was born August 8, 1840, in Ratshousen Wurtemberg, Germany. Afra's mother was Monica Staiger. Monica Staiger was born in 1810 and died in 1893. She is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst.

Monika moved with her parents and two older brothers, Joseph and John, and one older sister, Clara, to Windthorst in 1878, when she was a little over a year old. Later another sister, Margaret (Maggie) was born to the

family. They built a sod house with only a dirt floor. As the floor was swept over and over the dirt was taken out and the floor lowered, the stove became higher and higher. At one time the family was notified that the Indians were coming and they all drove to Spearville in the wagon for shelter, leaving behind a pet deer or antelope that they penned up in the sod house for safety. However, the Indians never came and they came back to find out that the antelope had died.

They rented a place about a half mile southeast of them and the father and older brothers worked for a wage. Since there were no fences, cattle had to be herded and that became one of Monika's jobs. Another one of her jobs was to gather dried buffalo or cow chips, which they burned for fuel.

The children walked the three miles to the parochial school at Windthorst about three months of the year. Since money was very scarce and only the bare necessities were purchased, their tablets were made of wrapping paper that their mother sewed together at the top.

Later the family built a small frame

house on their homestead and moved back to it. Cream was made into butter and her mother started out early with the big lumber wagon to Fort Dodge where she traded her eggs and butter for other supplies. It was a pleasure for Monika to be allowed to go with her mother on certain occasions. Of course, one did not travel far in those days for recreation and did not meet young people of other communities.

At the age of 17, Monika met Ben Tieben, a close neighbor, and they were married by Father Disselkamp in the little white frame church in Windthorst, January 15, 1895.

Ben and Monika lived in a two-room house that they enlarged as the family increased. In 1920, it was completely modernized.

Nine children were born to this union, two boys and seven girls. Two of the girls preceded their parents in death. The children were all born at Windthorst, Kansas. **George Ferdinand**, August 25, 1895-January 26, 1976; **Margaret (Maggie) Afra**, September 30, 1897-February 12, 1971; **Maria Theresia**, October 10, 1899-April 11,



Bernard (Ben) and Monika Tieben family, taken in 1914. Back row, left to right: Bennie, Maggie and George. Front row: Marie, Ben, Ivra, Monika, Elizabeth and Theresia Marie. Insets (clockwise from upper left): Monika, Theresia Marie, Anthony Heiland and Emogene Heiland.

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

1903; **Bernard (Bennie) Herman**, January 6, 1902-February 27, 1980; **Theresia Marie**, August 10, 1904-April 30, 1935; **Maria Anna**, June 28, 1908-November 25, 1973; **Afra Clara (Ivra)**, born December 21, 1910; **Elizabeth Monica**, born November 16, 1913; and **Monica Barbara**, born February 19, 1918. Monika and Ben raised two of their grandchildren, Emogene Heiland, age eight, and Anthony Heiland, two and a half weeks old, after their mother, Theresia Tieben Heiland died.

Joseph Riedlinger, Monika's father, died November 6, 1934, and her mother, Afra, died April 24, 1913.

In the early days the Tiebens did their own butchering of hogs, beef and poultry, making sausage in casings and head cheese. To make head cheese, the head of the pig was cut up and cooked in a large kettle with the ears, liver and heart. When cooked, it was ground and mixed with onions, salt and pepper and some of the juice. This was called liver head cheese and was very good for breakfast. The intestines of the pig were scraped and washed by Monika and some of the family and were to be used for casings. These were stuffed with the sausage and hung on a rod in the cellar to preserve them. The fat from the pig was rendered for lard. Some of the meat was cured in a fifty gallon wooden barrel, but some was hung on the north side of the house where it was cold. Mother and some of the girls canned some of the meat in jars and sealed them with fat in the top of the jar.

The Tieben home was filled with hospitality. The grandchildren of Monika and Ben (Granny and Papa, as they were called) remember especially four holidays during the year for which all the big family would come home to celebrate together.

On December 5, the Eve of St. Nicholas, the trees and fences would be decorated with their stockings, which most likely were cloth sugar sacks, for St. Nick to fill with oranges, apples, popcorn balls and candy. He came to the door and threw handfuls of peanuts. What a scramble and fun all had!

The next holiday was Christmas Eve. While waiting for Santa to come, all

sang *Come Gather Dear Children*, *Silent Night*, and *What Lovely Infant Can This Be*, while the children marched around the crib of Infant Jesus. Then all knelt and renewed the yearly family Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Then Granny would call in Santa Claus. The children sang a song and said a prayer for Santa as the gifts were distributed. The highlight of the evening was the traditional coffee cakes baked by Granny and Marie, affectionately called Bickie. After all this, all went to Midnight Mass. It was beautiful. Some attended Mass again on Christmas morning. Many of the family returned for dinner on Christmas Day or went to the spouse's family.

Then came Easter. After a big dinner was the Easter Egg hunt. After the hunt at Granny and Papa's home, all would go for other hunts to the homes of the married children.

The 4th of July came next, with its firecrackers and big sugar-coated bread donuts and watermelon. There was a big dish pan of doughnuts baked by Granny and Marie. Sometimes the Sunday dinners were chicken soup with Granny's homemade noodles and mashed potatoes. The dessert was tapioca pudding topped with strawberries. When Granny baked bread, she would bake about a dozen loaves at a time along with a couple pans of biscuits. At Easter time Granny baked individual "Oster Haus," German for Easter Rabbit, out of bread dough, placing a whole raw egg in the bunny. When it was all baked the egg was hard and ready to eat with the bunny.

When the children were small, Ben would do most of the grocery shopping while Monika stayed home to take care of the little ones. Once Ben got an infection in his finger and got blood poisoning in it. He had to have the doctor amputate it. When he'd get a new pair of gloves, Monika would cut one finger out of the glove and sew it shut so he could wear it.

Maria Theresia, the third child of Ben and Monika, died at the early age of three and a half years after being run over by a cow. She was buried on Easter Sunday in Holy Cross Cemetery. The

death of their little one was very hard on the young parents.

George, Marie, Elizabeth and Monica never married. George helped his parents on the farm raising wheat and cattle. He enjoyed watching all kinds of sports and playing pinochle and pitch and listening to music. On Sunday evenings the neighbors would get together to play cards, one week at one house and the next at another.

Marie graduated from the old St. Mary of the Plains High School and attended Fort Hays Kansas Teachers College. She taught many years in rural and Catholic schools. She also enjoyed teaching and preparing children for their First Holy Communion. She was organist for some time at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. She liked to cook and bake. Marie loved her family and teaching and was very devoted to both.

Elizabeth graduated from St. John's Academy and Sacred Heart College, both in Wichita. She taught 40 years in the rural and Catholic Schools in Kansas. After her retirement she taught homebound children for three years. Elizabeth was devoted to her family and students.

Monica graduated from the I.H.M. Windthorst Catholic High School. She helped in the home and cared for her parents and brother in their illness. Besides being a homemaker she engaged in farming and cattle raising. Cattle were raised in her family for over 100 years. She loved her family.

The Tiebens, in Monica's name, won a 1937 Studebaker car and \$300 in a contest sponsored by *Our Sunday Visitor*. The contest was called "The Light of the World."

Four of the children, Maggie, Bennie, Theresia and Ivra married. Maggie married Joe A. Markus, May 6, 1925, at I.H.M. Church, Windthorst. To this union were born Marie, Joseph, Alfred, Valeria (Larri) and Ignatius (Sonny). Alfred is deceased. Joe was a farmer and mechanic. He died January 7, 1969. Bennie married May Larson on November 5, 1930, at St. John's Church, Spearville. To this union were born eight children: Dorothy May, Jimmy, Jane, Marlene, twins Esther and

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

Lester, Benny and Thomas. Dorothy May and Thomas are deceased. Bennie was a farmer. May, a homemaker, died November 29, 1993. Theresia married Fred Heiland on May 6, 1925, at I.H.M. Church, Windthorst. To this union were born five children: Emogene, Willfred, Norbert, Gerard and Anthony. Theresia was a homemaker. She died at the early age of 30, on April 30, 1935. Fred was a farmer and mechanic. Ivra married Fred Heiland on October 22, 1936, at the I.H.M. Church. Their six children are Fred, Jr., Bernard, Monica, Ves, Mary and Judy. Ivra is homemaker. Fred was a farmer and mechanic. He died November 29, 1984.

The two grandchildren who grew up in the home of Ben and Monika are Emogene Heiland and Anthony Heiland. Emogene married John Stevens on April 8, 1947, at I.H.M. Church, Windthorst. Their children are Theresia, Alan and Scott. Emogene is a homemaker and retired school bus driver for District 443 and John worked for John Deere for 40 years and is now retired.

Anthony married Mary Jo Edwards on February 5, 1966, at the Church of the Magdalene, Wichita, Kansas. They have four living children: Mike, Jodi, Peter and Paul. Two children are deceased. Anthony was manager of the Data Processing Center of Henry's Clothing Store in Wichita until its closing in the summer of 1993. He now teaches computer classes at Wichita Area Technical College. Mary Jo, a homemaker, does research for Educational Research Institute in Wichita. She is currently writing a book and is employed part time in home health care. she is a parent-teacher aide for Greissenstein School.

Ben (Papa) died July 5, 1944. Monika (Granny) died November 17, 1961, age 84. They are both buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Windthorst.

The descendants of Ben and Monika (Riedlinger) Tieben in 1991 approximately were: nine children, 24 grandchildren, 111 great grandchildren, 114 great great grandchildren, four great great great grandchildren for a total of 262. The descendants don't include

spouses.

Elizabeth and Monica still live on the homestead family farm. The farm was recognized as an over 100-year-old farm by the Kansas Board of Agriculture on April 25, 1988. They are happy to be living there and hope they can for many years more.

Elizabeth and Monica Tieben

BERNARD H. TORLINE

Bernard H. Torline, known as "Old Ham Terlina" and his wife, Mary Adelaide (Grimme) left their home in Hanover, Germany to come to the United States in 1836. They settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, and moved to Enochsburg, Indiana, in 1841. It was here that John Albert was born on November 25, 1844. He had four sisters and two brothers. Not much is known about him during his younger years. He married Mary Anne Pund on October 21, 1869, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and they made their home in Cincinnati. Five children were born in Cincinnati; John Harry on August 29, 1870; Ada, born January 7, 1873, who died on December 18, 1873; George H., born September 12, 1874; William C., born January 28, 1876; Fred A., born October 10, 1877.

John Torline was in the grocery business. Times and wages were not the best and efforts were made by a number of German men who lived in Cincinnati to better their condition in Kansas—the land of opportunity. John Torline was among a group of 12 men who came to Larned, Kansas, to close a land transaction deal in the fall of 1877. He did not move to Kansas with his wife and family of four boys until the spring of 1878, a few months after the first of the Windthorst pioneers came. Fred was six months old at the time. They came to Offerle, Kansas, on a train and from there drove in a wagon drawn by oxen to the home farm—now the Urban Klenke (a grandson) farm. They camped the first night on the bank of the creek that ran through the southwest corner of the property across the road and south of the present home—S4 T26 R21. A house was not immediately built. They thought that if any kind of a

structure was built in a hurry, it would be just that much longer getting a real home, so they made do with a dugout on the creek bank for quite some time. The dugout arrangement meant that it would hurry things up a bit. A one-story house was built later across the road and a short distance north on S5 T26 R21. Still later a second story was added and is still in use today.

Their family continued to grow after coming to Kansas. M.B. Clara (Hornung) was born on December 12, 1879; Joseph Albert, April 21, 1881, he was accidentally killed by a horse on August 26, 1898, only 17 years old; J. Carrie (Griffith) was born March 14, 1883; Mary B. on August 1, 1885; Rosa Paulina (Klenke) on September 29, 1887; and Mary Katherine (Duesing) on February 11, 1889.

The life of these pioneers was rough and rugged and the hardships were many. Prairie fires were many and a constant danger. In November 1880, John Torline and his team of mules suffered severe burns as he was trying to check a raging fire that threatened his home and much needed pasture. The winds suddenly changed and the fire enveloped him and his team. Because of his severe burns he had to stay in bed for five weeks.



Wedding photo of John Torline and Mary Anne Pund taken in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 21, 1869.

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

John was very civic minded. Within ten years after coming to Kansas he served on the board of County Commissioners and even served as chairman for a while. He was in Dodge City at a commissioners' meeting when that famous blizzard of 1886 struck. That left his wife with eight children at home. Harry, the oldest, was fifteen. During the storm all of their coal supply, the corn cobs stored for the winter and most of the unshelled corn was used to try to keep warm, causing a shortage of cattle feed for the rest of the winter. It's been said that some of the families burned some of their furniture and a family did freeze to death in their home in Jetmore. He was also active in many community projects. He helped build the first church in Windthorst, played the organ for church services, had a hand in the organization of the Ford County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, in fact,

the first policy was written on their home in 1891. Two of his sons, William and Fred, served on the board of directors for this insurance company for a number of years and two of his grandsons served on this board until it merged with The Consolidated Mutual of Colwich, Kansas, in 1974. In 1992, the Company merged with Alliance Mutual of McPherson, Kansas.

John and Mary Torline's descendants are many. The families of Harry, George, William, Fred, Clara and Pauline have reached the sixth generation. There were 52 grandchildren—as of 1993, 34 are deceased.

John was a cabinet maker, skilled in woodwork, even making a number of coffins for the early pioneers. Two of his sons followed this trade when not busy with their farming.

In 1896, the first of their children started the weddings in the family. On

October 7, 1896. Harry married Bernadine Duesing. She died on July 19, 1906, leaving Harry with four small children. Harry's mother and sisters helped take care of the family until he married Mary Alering on July 5, 1912. Harry died June 9, 1962. Mary died December 31, 1950. Bernadine, Harry, and Mary are buried in Windthorst.

George Torline married Rose Klenke on October 6, 1897. They lived for a while in Kinsley, Kansas, and then settled in Spearville where he was the village blacksmith. He had much to do with the organization of St. John's parish in Spearville in 1904. They had ten children. George died February 24, 1950. Rose died March 9, 1959. Both are buried in Spearville.

William C. Torline and Mary Hornung were married on April 12, 1899. They had a family of nine children. William died December 27, 1950. Mary died February 6, 1958. Both are buried in Windthorst.

Fred married Frances Heeke on October 23, 1901, and had a family of nine children. Fred died November 6, 1956. Frances died October 22, 1973. Both are buried in Windthorst.

Clara and Edward Hornung were married on June 6, 1907. They had six children. Clara died December 15, 1961. Edward died December 9, 1940. Both are buried in Spearville.

Carrie and Leander Griffith were married on September 12, 1917. They had only one child who died as a baby and Carrie died a week later on March 17, 1919, at the time of the flu epidemic. She is buried in Spearville. Lee died July 15, 1967, and is buried in Holly, Colorado.

Mary lived a useful life helping families at times of sickness and death and working in the Spearville hospital. She died January 13, 1971, and is buried in Spearville.

Pauline married Joseph Klenke on September 23, 1908. At the time of their marriage John and Mary Torline built a home for retirement in Spearville. Pauline and Joe lived on the home place. They had ten children. Pauline died on October 5, 1970, and Joe on December 29, 1947. Both are buried in Windthorst.



John A. Torline and grandchildren, taken on September 12, 1917. First row (front), left to right: Frank Torline, Urban Klenke, Bertrand Duesing, Jerome Torline, Edmund Hornung and Irvin Torline. Second row: Alberta Torline (Sister Esther), Margaret Hornung, William Torline. Third row: Meinrad Torline, Ethel Klenke Hattrup, Helen Torline, Grandpa Torline holding Rosella Torline Habiger and Rita Klenke Mooney, Margaret Klenke Tasset, Marion Hornung, Philomena Torline (Sister Modesta), Bernard Torline, Helen Hornung Riedlinger. Fourth row: John Torline, Leonard Torline (Rev.), Rosalia (Sister Aurelia), Lawrence Torline, Raymond Torline, Francis Torline, Otto Hornung, Karl Torline. Fifth row: Elsie Droste, Mildred Torline Carmichael, Albert Torline, J. Leo Torline, Josephine Torline Stein, Nita Torline (Sister Ferdinand), Clarence Torline. Grandchildren born after 1917 include: Paul Hornung; Loraine Torline Hammeke; Robert Torline; Eva, Joe and Richard Torline; Pauline Klenke; Carl Klenke; Ruth Klenke Hertel; and Leona Klenke Thompson.

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

Katherine (Katie) and George Duesing were married October 18, 1910. They had two children. Their home has been in a number of different places and they were active in community activities wherever they lived. Katie died March 17, 1980 and George died March 14, 1974. They are buried in Windthorst.

Will, Harry, Fred and Pauline remained on farms in the Windthorst community and they and their families showed much interest in their community.

Clara raised her family on a farm southeast of Spearville. She and her family showed an active interest in the Spearville Community.

John Torline's wife, Mary, died July 29, 1910 and John Torline died September 17, 1918. Both are buried in Windthorst.

Golden Weddings were quite common in the Torline family. George and Rose celebrated in October 1947; William and Mary in April 1949; Fred and Frances in October 1951; and Katie and George Duesing even made it to their 60th anniversary in October 1970.

THE TREBILCOCK FAMILY

JAMES HENRY TREBILCOCK

The story of the Ford County Trebilcocks has its beginning with the birth of James Henry Trebilcock on July 6, 1835. He was the seventh of 12 children born to Frank and Ann (Dowrick) Trebilcock. His parents were natives of Cornwall, England, and had migrated to America, in November 1832. They settled in Morgan Co., Ohio, where they remained for about six years. It was here that James was born. Frank and Ann moved on to MacArthur, in Athens Co., Ohio, (now Vinton Co.) In September 1841, Frank purchased 640 acres and engaged in farming in that community.

In 1853 and continuing for several years, the Trebilcocks moved. First, they moved to Iowa where they settled in Washington, then Van Buren and later Davis counties. James H. lived with his parents in Van Buren County near Keosauqua. It was here in Van Buren county that his parents died and are



James H. and Sarah E. Jackson Trebilcock, taken in the early 1900s.

buried.

On October 16, 1856, James H. married Sarah Elizabeth Jackson in Milton, Iowa, and moved to a farm/ranch near Milton where they lived for the next 28 years. They were blessed with five children while living in Milton: William Davies, Artilda Armenta, Jesse Lee, Jackson and Pearl Iota.

Their first child, William Davies was born October 14, 1857. Twenty years later, on January 30, William Davies Trebilcock married Alice M. Wallis; that marriage produced seven children who are highlighted later in this article on William Davies. W.D. moved his family to Ford County, Kansas, in 1886 and along with his parents became pioneers in that county. W.D. died December 1, 1900, at the early age of 43 and is buried in the Ford Cemetery, Ford, Kansas.

James and Sarah's second child, Artilda Armenta, was born on October 15, 1859. She came to Ford Co., Kansas, with her parents in 1884. Four years later she married John C. Wilson. They had two children, Grace and Clyde. Later they moved to Ellensburg, Washington, where she died at the age of 29.

Jesse Lee Trebilcock was born to James and Sarah on September 15, 1867. He also migrated to Ford Co., Kansas, and in particular to the town of Ford, where in 1886, he engaged in the coal and feed business with his brother W.D., and later ran a drug store alone. His marriage to Jeanie Caraway was

short because he died November 25, 1894, in Woodward, Oklahoma, at the age of 27. Jesse was returned to the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Bloomfield, Iowa, for burial.

James and Sarah's third son, Jackson, was born July 15, 1872, and lived only eight months. He is buried in Milton, Iowa.

Pearl Iota, the youngest child of James and Sarah, was born October 23, 1875. Pearl moved to Kansas with his parents when he was nine years old. He taught school in Ford County, passed the state bar exams and served as city clerk, police judge, justice of the peace and city attorney. Pearl married Cora Hawkins on August 5, 1903, in Dodge City. They had one son, Jesse. Pearl's life ended on May 18, 1954, at the age of 69. He is buried at Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City.

It is thought that James H. and Sarah were drawn to Kansas because three of his sisters and their families had already made the trip. His sister, Margaret St. John, settled in Hutchinson, sister Catherine was west of Jetmore, Kansas, and sister Joanna had settled along the Sawlog north of Spearville. His pioneering spirit and his desire to expand his farming and make other investments helped make the decision to move a little easier.

In 1884, Ford Co., Kansas, became home to James H. and Sarah. It is believed that they stayed near Spearville until the Ford Dodge Reservation was opened for settlement in May 1886. Next they moved to a farm southeast of Wright. He and other family members obtained several government patents on land in Sections 19, 20, 30, & 31, T26 R23, and also obtained some land from the A.T. & S.F. railroad in Section 19. They continued to live on their farm southeast of Wright until 1905, when they moved to Dodge City and lived at 1101 Avenue G. James H.'s death on January 28, 1915, Sarah's death on May 1, 1915, followed by their interment in Maple Grove Cemetery brought to a close an active family chapter in Ford County history.

James' involvements in Ford County were wide spread. To provide for his

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

family, he was active in farming, ranching and realty. He bought and sold farm property as well as city lots in Ford and Dodge City. He was instrumental in the early success of the town of Ford during the years from 1886 to 1889. His influence is best described by the editor of the *Ford Gazette* in 1886: "J. H. was in town Tuesday and started town affairs to move as he invariably does every time he visits this city. Mr. Trebilcock has more life and enterprise than half the young men of this or any other locality."

Not only was he a major stock holder in the original Ford Town company and later the Union Town Company which was a consolidation of the Ford and Ryansville Town Companies, he served as director, vice-president and president at various times. He owned over 70 lots of which some had residential and business buildings for sale or lease. He purchased a wind-powered feed mill to use in conjunction with his sons' coal and feed business in 1887. He was constantly upgrading his buildings whether it be by the addition of brick flues or putting board walks in front. He and several other town members paid for a well on main street for public drinking access.

James H. was also active in community affairs. In 1886, he served as president of the Ford Agriculture Association and helped begin a fair at Ford. He continued his support for the Ford Fair by serving as director or vice-president the next two years. He was chairman of the citizens group for railroad bonds, chaired a group at the Herd Law Convention, and was a representative to present the Herd Law to the county commissioners. During this active time in Ford, he also owned lots on Locust Street in Dodge City. Another of his ventures in Dodge City included buying a blacksmith shop.

James H. managed to do all these things while he farmed southeast of Wright. In 1887, he had 206 acres in crops, of which 80 acres were in wheat, 80 in corn, 40 in millet, and six in cane. In 1888, he put out trees on his farm: 90 apple, 62 peach; 30 plum, 32 mulberry; 20 poplar, six box elder, 200

grapes and a large amount of walnuts and cottonwood.

Starting in 1890, James became less involved with the many activities in Ford even though he still owned numerous lots. He concentrated more on his farming. He continued to farm until 1905, at which time he sold much of his property and moved to Dodge City.

The perseverance and work ethic of J.H. are evidenced by a story reported after a storm during the winter of 1901. The story tells how J.H. had 121 head of cattle, 11 horses, and various hogs, chickens, ducks and turkeys. Although 66 years old, he attended, fed and cared for all of them without help. He had no losses whatever, which is rather remarkable. He and his aged wife were all alone on the farm. The storm was only one of many tests for J.H. and other pioneers.

James H.'s pioneering spirit was strengthened by his religious convictions. Soon after his marriage he was converted and united with the Methodist Church and continued to live until his death a consistent and exemplary Christian life. He was one of our most highly esteemed citizens and was always an influence for good in the community in which he resided.

WILLIAM DAVIES TREBILCOCK

William Davies Trebilcock (also known as W.D. or Davis) was born October 14, 1857, in Milton, Van Buren, Co., Iowa. He was the oldest of five children of James H. and Sarah E. (Jackson) Trebilcock.

On January 30, 1877, he married Alice M. Wallis of Milton. Alice was the daughter of H.D. Wallis of Van Buren Co., Iowa. They lived near Bloomfield, Iowa, until they came to Kansas, in 1886. They were the parents of seven children, five boys and two girls: Mamie Maude, Maggie May, Harley Ross, Wallis, Guy D., William Sidney and Frank.

William Davies (W.D.) and Alice, and his family of five arrived at his father's place near Wright's Station in November 1886. He came to Ford County primarily because his parents

lived there and also to seek out the opportunities to be had in Ford County. They settled on a claim on S31 T26 R23 near his father's farm. He lived there until April 1887, when he moved to Ford.

On July 9, 1887, he and his brother, Jesse Lee, purchased a coal and feed business in Ford. By November 1887, this partnership was dissolved. W.D. continued with the coal and feed business until he sold it in July 1889. At the time he moved to a farm one mile west of Ford that included 160 acres in sections six and seven. Here he farmed and raised livestock until his death on December 1, 1900. He died at the age of 42 leaving behind his wife and seven children. Several years later, Alice moved to Dodge City where she lived on West Spruce until her death January 23, 1926. Both W.D. and Alice are buried at the Ford Cemetery.

W.D. inherited much of his father's work ethic. He was considered to be a robust and industrious man. It was certainly a big job supporting his seven children but like his father, he was keen to business investments around him. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen and Watchman of the Lodge at Ford. He also served as director of the local school board and at the time of his death, he was a Deputy Sheriff until appointment of Sheriff Hale.



Alice M. Trebilcock, taken in the early 1900s.

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

Children of W. D. and Alice (Wallis) Trebilcock

Mamie Maude was born on July 5, 1878. She married Charles E. Malone and they lived in both the Chase, and Ellinwood, Kansas, areas. They had five children: Victor, Leo, Charles, Mary and Cecelia. Maude died in 1947, at the age of 70 and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Chase, Kansas.

Maggie May was born April 22, 1880, in Davis County. She was married on June 7, 1905, to Thomas H. Hall and resided in Bucklin, Kansas, for the remainder of her life. They had five children: Frank, Harry, Alice, Sidney and Tommy. She died June 16, 1922, at the age of 42 and is buried in the Bucklin Cemetery.

W.D. and Alice's oldest son, Harley Ross, was born March 5, 1882, in Davis Co., Iowa. He came to Ford County with his parents when but four years old. When his father died in 1900, Harley, now 18, accepted much of the responsibility for the family and the work to be done. He married Maude Drennan on March 4, 1911, and they lived on a farm one mile south of Ford, Kansas. Two children were born to this marriage; Charley in 1914 and Harley in 1918, after the death of his father. Charley now lives in Dodge City but still farms the family farm at Ford. The elder, Harley Ross, died January 18, 1918, at age 25 of complications from the flu and pneumonia. He is buried at the Ford Cemetery, Ford, Kansas.

Wallis was born September 11, 1883, in Davis County. He married Goldie Gove on August 22, 1909, and lived and farmed in the Ford community until 1932, when he moved to Gray County, then to Denver, Colorado, in 1947. They had four children: Thelma, Juanita, Wallis and Beverly. Wallis died May 20, 1952, at the age of 68 in Denver and is buried in the Ford Cemetery, Ford, Kansas.

Guy D. was born near Milton, Iowa, July 13, 1886, just several months before his parents would move to Kansas. He married Della Early on August 8, 1907. They had three children: James, Ethyl and Guy. Guy lived most of his life near Ford where he farmed. In 1945,

he sold his farm south of Ford and moved to Dodge City where he lived until his death. He died December 6, 1946, at the age of 60 and is buried at Ford Cemetery.

William Sidney was born at Ford on December 27, 1893. He was married to Dorothy Vincent on August 3, 1921. They had three children: William Sidney, Jr., Richard and Colleen. He was employed as a teacher and an administrator, serving schools in Dodge City, Scottsville, Bloom, Liberal and Burton, Kansas. In 1941, he moved to Garden City where he managed an employment office until retirement in 1963. He died May 14, 1969, in Garden City at the age of 75. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City.

Frank was the youngest of the seven children. He was born November 7, 1896, in Ford. He married Alverta Parish at Junction City, Kansas, on July 27, 1924. They had no children. He was employed as a pharmacist at Dodge City, Goodland, Clay Center and Oakley, before moving to Junction City, in 1944. He died May 23, 1955. He is buried in Junction City, Kansas.

Since 1884, when the first Trebilcock settled in Ford County, there have been many family members who have made their contribution to this community through farming and other ventures. Charley Trebilcock, now at the age of 79, represents the fourth generation of Trebilcocks in Ford County and apparently the last of the family to carry on the farming tradition.

CHARLEY ALEXANDER TRENT

Charley Alexander Trent, born in Worthington, Green Co., near Terra Haute, Indiana, May 13, 1867, was the first Trent to venture west to cattle range country near Dodge City.

The young lad's mother died when he was three and soon after his father, Alexander Trent, remarried. Growing up, Charley could not live in peace with his stepmother so in 1886, at the age of 19, he decided to go west to be a cowboy. He had saved enough to buy a horse and saddle when he reached Dodge City, Kansas, known throughout the midwest as ranch country.

However, he found his savings inadequate or somehow lost his nest egg, so he hired out to a freight wagon outfit for eight dollars a month. After a year he again had saved up enough to buy the horse and saddle and found a job on a ranch west of Dodge. He met two other young men, Oscar Simpson and Ben Strange, well known in the legends of old Dodge City as cowboys, adventurers, and even professionals, for Simpson practiced dentistry for many years in the frontier city.

They worked together, hiring out to ranchers and taking part in the cattle drives from Texas to Dodge City and other points west. After seven years, Charley, in from a long drive, decided to go to Sedalia to visit his brother, Samuel. He learned his father was visiting, so when Sam and Charley met the father, they played a trick on him, leading him to believe Charley was a friend of Sam's who lived in the area. Charley had changed so much in seven years out in the open range, his father did not recognize him.

However, they couldn't keep the secret and when they got to Sam's place where Charley would stay, they revealed his identity. They had a happy reunion and brought each other up on the news. He learned his stepmother had died just two years after his departure. His father had married again. Charley decided to postpone returning to Dodge City for the time being. He found work with several local people and finally, with the owner of a saw mill named Barry Wilson.

It happened Wilson had a pretty blond daughter, Letitia. They started going together but Mrs. Wilson objected to the romance for her daughter was only 16 and her suitor was 27.

The couple "ran off" and were married on December 7, 1894, at Clinton, Missouri. They continued living in that state for the next four years. During this time they had two children, a daughter named May Meyer Trent, born September 5, 1896; and a son, John Frederick Trent, born December 31, 1899, both at Blue Lick, Missouri.

Charley again got the itch to go west and wrote to his old friend, Simpson.

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

He learned that Oscar had gone to dental college and was now practicing his profession in Dodge City. Simpson had a patient, Joseph Minor, who owned a ranch west of the city who happened to be looking for a foreman. The ranch, seven miles from Dodge City at Howell, is now owned by Guy Josseland, Jr.

Charley wrote to Minor saying he was interested in the job and received a letter back from Minor. He was ready to hire Charley right away. Leaving his family for the time being, he traveled west and went to work for Minor. Later his wife and children, May and John Frederick (Fred) came to join him. They continued living at the ranch for Minor for several years.

Letitia also worked as a housekeeper for Minor, for he was a widower. During this time Forrest Oscar Trent was born at the ranch on September 23, 1902. A disagreement over a cattle count caused Charley and his family to leave the ranch shortly after that and they moved to Dodge City where he worked at other jobs. In 1903, they found work on a ranch and moved to Stafford County. They stayed with Oscar Martin, the rancher, for four years. Twin sons, Calvin Charles and Alvin Samuel, were born to the couple on July 20, 1904, at Stafford. A short time later, Charley heard from Minor who asked him to return to Howell and work for him at the ranch. Howell was more of a town or community center then with a post office, railroad depot and other businesses. The Trents returned to Ford County and another child was born, Gladys Frances Trent, on December 5, 1908, at Howell.

Alexander Trent died June 1904, at Clinton, Missouri. He was 75 years of age. With the settling of his estate, Charley received enough to begin farming on his own, a longtime dream. He rented a farm with a square section of ground from a man named Buleu who sold it to Frank O'Dell a year later. Charley continued to rent the farm ground for the next 17 years.

By this time, wheat had taken over the ranch land, so Charley with his boys, worked out with a threshing machine outfit for Oscar Johnson of Ensign.

Charles was the separator man which meant he kept the separator in repair as they moved about the country threshing wheat. It was cut by a header and elevated into a header barge which is a wagon with a high box, designed with one side shorter than the other to prevent the wheat from spilling out as it was cut. The barge then pulled up and unloaded between two large wheat stacks and the separator pulled up between these stacks as several hands with pitch forks piled wheat into the separator. There, grain was thrashed from the straw and put into lumber wagons to be hauled to grain elevators or the Dodge City Flour Mill where it was sold. When Johnson quit thrashing, Charley worked as a separator for a time for, Ernest Reynolds, a neighbor.

The family rented a farm from Minor who gradually sold land to be farmed from the original big cattle ranch. The family lived for three years on a farmstead with a new house which had ten rooms. It was handy for the big family that had grown over the years. But they returned to the O'Dell farm then and had a half section of grass land for their cattle. By this time the herd had increased to 100 head. Trent also

had eight teams of horses, three saddle horses and two buggy horses. All of the sons worked on farms or ranches near the home of their parents. Cal stayed at home to work with his father. Charley and his wife and sons continued living at the O'Dell farm from 1920 to 1931, when Charles became sick and died of cancer on October 10, 1931. Letitia and the two youngest, Hazel and Jack, tried to keep the farm going but in 1933, Letitia had a farm sale and sold everything and moved back to Missouri to care for her parents. They sold their farm home and moved to Mountain Home, Arkansas. Letitia returned to Dodge City in 1938, after her parents died. All of her children lived in or around the city and so she was happy there until her death at the age of 88 on December 9, 1962.

From 1901, when Charley returned to Dodge City from Missouri, he and his family continued to make it their home, if occasionally they tried somewhere else to settle. That is, all except William, who married and lived at the old home place near Sweet Spring, Missouri. Samuel lived for a time in Hodgeman County where he had homesteaded 160 acres. Later he returned to



Charley Alexander and Letitia Margaret Wilson Trent family, taken in the late 1920s at Dodge City. Front row, left to right: Jackson, Charley, Letitia, Hazel. Back row: Mae, Calvin, Alvin, Fred, Forrest and Gladys.

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

Ford County and farmed south of Dodge City.

During this time, Charley kept in touch with old friends of his youth, Strange and Dr. Simpson. Around 1925, the dentist, who dabbled in statuary, decided to commemorate the cowboy culture of his youth and asked Charley to be a model for a statue of the western, gun-toting cowboy. Charley had not worn cowboy boots for years, but purchased an expensive pair so that he would be appropriately attired. The boots hurt his feet but he held out, according to his children. Simpson ran the molds, working with them and changing them, but meanwhile Charley took ill.

In 1929, when the statue was ready to be unveiled at the new Dodge City City Hall, Doc Simpson called upon another early cowboy and one-time sheriff, Joe Sughrue, to be the final model and fill in for his friend as the prototype of the Dodge City Cowboy which is still on display across from Boot Hill.

Mae Mayer Trent, the oldest child of Charley and Letitia Trent, was born at Blue Lick, Missouri, September 5, 1896. She and Frederick Seldon Hughes, her future husband, knew each other for most of their lives since Seldon, as he was known, was the son of her Uncle Samuel Trent's second wife. Seldon left for an Army career and after several hitches ended up in Hawaii where he retired from service. He returned to Kansas and looked up his boyhood sweetheart, Mae Trent of Dodge City, with whom he had corresponded for years.

They were married December 24, 1924, and moved to a farm near Spearville. Their first son, Darrel Ray, was born there, and after several years, they returned to Dodge City to live. A second son, Benjamin Frederick, was born and they moved to Moscow, Kansas. When the depression hit they returned to Dodge City, moving to the Hollywood Addition. Seldon worked on a WPA project during the '30s. He died May 11, 1941. Mae died December 12, 1955. Their two sons still live in Dodge City.

John Frederick Trent, known as Fred, was the second child of Charley and Letitia Trent. He was born December 31, 1899, in Blue Lick, Missouri, and came to Dodge City with his parents. He married Orene Mabel Webb, on January 21, 1923, in Dodge City. He first worked for the International garage and later for the Santa Fe Railroad. Their children were: John Frederick, Jr., Floyd, Doris, Donna, David. John Frederick, Jr., was born and died on January 10, 1923.

Floyd Dale Trent was born in Dodge City, June 22, 1925. He married Maxine Irene Thomas, May 15, 1949. They were divorced and he married Orlene June Walters-Goodwin on February 28, 1953. They were divorced. He then married Opal LaFern Keil, November 6, 1973. His children are: Delpha Ann, born July 10, 1950; Thomas Dale, born October 15, 1951; Mona LeWilford, June 16, 1949; Marla Kay, February 9, 1956; and Martin Wayne, December 20, 1957.

Doris was born at Dodge City, October 4, 1929. She married Harold Joseph Hunter in LaHarba, California, May 6, 1951. They were divorced and Doris married again. No information is available on the name. She died on May 28, 1987. Her children are: Rocky Joe Hunter, born July 24, 1954; Kevin Hunter, September 28, 1957; and Thomas Joseph, born and died on October 10, 1951.

Donna Joan was born November 18, 1931, at Dodge City. She married Jack Arvil Davidson on December 26, 1958, at Las Vegas, Nevada. Donna died November 15, 1972, at Fulbor, California. They had no children.

David Dean was born on September 16, 1941, in Dodge City and married Lelia Kathryn Maher who was born December 9, 1941, at Dodge City. They are divorced. Their children, all born in Dodge City are: David Todd, October 22, 1963; Lisa Elizabeth, November 27, 1964 and Tara Jane, January 13, 1969. Fred died January 11, 1962; his wife died on January 7, 1974. They are buried in Greencrest Memorial Cemetery in Dodge City.

Forrest Oscar Trent, the third child

of Charles and Letitia Trent was born September 23, 1902, on a farm northwest of Dodge City. He married Mary Adeline Reekie on August 7, 1927. She was born January 30, 1907. Their first child, Frances Adeline, was born November 27, 1929, at the home of her grandparents in rural Ford County after her mother rode her horse to the farm home for help. A second child, Forrest James (Jim), was born in a half-dugout where his parents lived on October 27, 1931. The family moved to Dodge City where Forrest supervised a junk yard in the 1700 block of W. Chestnut, now Wyatt Earp. He did this in addition to other jobs. The children remembered waving as the trains passed by, the engineer honking and the hoboes and caboose riders waving and yelling, "Hi, kids!"

Frances recalled memories of the dust storms and depression years and living in a new house on West Division that her father built one half at a time. There was no electricity, water, bathroom, or telephone. Trent worked on it as he had time and materials to work with. He was digging a well by hand with post hole diggers on infamous "Black Sunday" (Palm Sunday) 1935. He barely got out of the hole and into the house when the black dust hit, making the Sunday afternoon pitch black and forever memorable.

By the time Jesse Dewayne was born on September 3, 1935, the family had electricity for lights. A garden was planted and watered by the hand pump Trent installed on his new well. The next summer the garden was thriving when the family went to the elder Trent's farm for Sunday dinner. Grasshoppers moved in while they were gone and stripped everything down to the ground. Only the potatoes under the soil were saved.

A means of getting by and finding recreation for the family were fishing trips.

Frances remembered, "We all sat quietly on the bank and I can't remember ever going home without fish for supper."

The Arkansas River also provided a place for family picnics. The Trent families would gather on a sand bar or the

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

bank near the present 14th Street bridge location. While the men fished and the kids hunted turtles, the women visited and watched the small children build sand castles and wade or swim in the shallow places of the stream that ran along side the bank.

Another fondly remembered break from those dreary years were the Saturday nights "downtown."

"We would park on Chestnut (Wyatt Earp) and buy groceries at Bushel's grocery store," Frances said. "Uncle Fred and Aunt Orene and other relatives and friends would park along the street, stroll and visit. The kids would share a sack of candy. We looked forward to that trip downtown on Saturday night."

A hard winter found the Trents and other folks walking along the creek bank, bundling up twigs and branches for firewood. Coal was too expensive or to be used sparingly just to keep the fire going over night. Even bones and cow chips, as in the pioneer years, were used for fuel. No jobs were available, even in 1937, so the family traveled to Chelon, Washington, to pick apples to sell back home. They lived in a tent and slept on cots by night, picking apples by day for two weeks.

After his return to Dodge City, Forrest got a WPA, one-dollar-a-day job. Some food and blankets were issued by the county and Mrs. Trent sewed school dresses for the girls by hand from flour-sack material. The WPA provide various types of employment for the hard-strapped people during those years. Frances recalled that Grandma Reekie taught a leather tooling class, along with piano and voice lessons. Weaving lessons and other crafts were free for the rural population.

When times improved, Forrest took a job working for Nevins International Harvester and started on the south half of the house for his large family. Then, after waiting almost ten years for their new house, the Trents were again disappointed. On May 10, 1942, the tornado that destroyed St. Mary of the Plains Academy also wiped out the Trent home as it wound its furious way north through the western section of Dodge City.

"The north side of the house was pushed out beyond the eaves, all windows broken, and tumbleweeds were blown in so tight under beds and tables that they had to be forcibly dug out. All of Mom and Dad's work was gone in a matter of minutes. All they could do was start over," said Frances.

The new house was created from cement blocks since lumber was taken off the market because of the World War II effort. While Trent was away at the implement store during the day, the young Trents and some neighbor helpers stirred up some cement and began laying the west wall. They were half way up when Trent got home. Since the cement was half dry, he left the walls as they were, somewhat crooked but sturdy, and commenced from that point. The doors used came from the St. Mary Academy wreckage.

Before his retirement, Trent worked for a time with Ark Valley contracting Quonset construction and then with Grain Products, a new industry in the city. The couple lived for a time in Bloom after retirement but then moved back to Dodge City. In July 1983, the Trents were involved in an automobile accident and Trent lost his life. Mrs. Trent was severely injured. She died September 16, 1986.

Frances was married on November 27, 1947, to Lee Roy Marrs, born June 23, 1923, at Fowler, Kansas. The couple moved to a farm west of Fowler just after his return from service and still live on this farm. They had four children: Garalee Frances, born November 27, 1951; Douglas Ray, born January 19, 1953; Forrest Lee Roy, born September 16, 1956, died February 15, 1959; and Duke Edward, born January 19, 1960.

Forrest James (Jim) Trent married Dixie Ann Rogers who was born July 19, 1934, at Broadwater, Nebraska. Their three children are Letitia Ann, born December 27, 1954; James Scott Trent, born April 4, 1954; and Kristina Lea Trent, born October 17, 1962.

Jesse Dewayne was married June 6, 1954, to Shirley Helms, born April 8, 1937, at Danville, Virginia. Their three children, all born in Dodge City, are

Dorinda Lee, born September 13, 1955; Bruce Dewayne, born February 28, 1957; and Wesley Lloyd, born December 29, 1958.

Alvin Samuel Trent, the twin brother of Calvin Charles, was born July 20, 1904, in Stafford, Kansas. The brothers attended Sear County School in Ford county. He was married to Helen _____ who had a daughter, Betty. The couple divorced. He married Myra Jo Rodgers, February 4, 1945, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he worked at the Howe Sound Mining Co. He was a diamond driller in a copper mine. They moved to Dodge City later and lived in Hollywood addition for a time and then to Manson, Washington, where he worked in the fruit orchards. The couple had 10 children, eight girls and two boys. They are: Connie Trent Gilbertson, Darlene Trent James, Linda Trent Pittman, Susan Trent Strocheim, Myra Trent Dietrich, Cheryl Trent Easterly, Patsy Trent Sanchez and Carole Trent Tomlinson. The sons are Samuel and Danny Trent. Alvin moved to Milan, New Mexico, for his health in 1976 and lived there until his death, December 22, 1983.

Calvin Charles Trent, the twin brother of Alvin, was born on July 20, 1904, at Stafford, Kansas. He came to Dodge City with his parents as a child and in 1928, he went to work at the Dodge City Flour Mill. He was a warehouse worker and when the mill burned in the early 1950s, he continued acting as assistant manager until he retired in 1968. He was married to Ethel Lee Eversole of Cimarron in 1929. The couple had three children: Bill Calvin, who is married and lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Velma Lee Webster who lives in Braidwood, Illinois; and Evelyn Louise Jones, Milford, Kansas. Calvin was a member of the First Baptist Church, the Ford County Historical Society and a lifetime member of the Ford County Sportsman Club. Cal died on September 23, 1981. He is buried in Greencrest Memorial Gardens. Ethel continues to live in Dodge City.

Gladys Frances Trent, the sixth child of Charley and Letitia Trent, was born in 1908.

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

Point of Rocks, the Arkansas River, and the old Soule Ditch are fond landmarks in the book of childhood memories for me. We lived five miles west of Dodge City and the Trent kids found these places full of interest, adventure and discovery.

We walked two miles to the old Sears School each day, night and morning. About twice a week we walked out of our way to go to the mail box and pick up the mail about a mile east. Then we would walk only one mile further to get to the Point of Rocks. There we might find Indian arrow heads and pretty rocks. At that time, about 1913 to 1918, the rock was much higher and more rugged than it is today. There was a road or pass under the south edge just wide enough for a wagon or buggy, so that provided a lot of fun for imaginative kids.

We knew about the old stories of buried treasure here where a rancher was supposed to have sold his cattle for a large amount of money and outlaws overtook him on the way home from Dodge. As they pursued him he buried his money in an iron kettle on Point of Rocks. So we spent a lot of time trying to figure out where a kettle might be buried. We knew that a lot of people dug around out there looking for that kettle, but as of now, 75 years later, I don't think anyone ever found it.

The Arkansas River was also interesting and only two miles straight south from where we lived. The old Soule Ditch was about one mile south. Most of the time there was water in the river. It came down from Lakin and wound across and around all over the country. We would go fishing often. Later we moved to the Joseph Minor Ranch near Howell and the river was even closer. We would fish often because when the river was full we could catch speckled trout about 12 to 16 inches long which were delicious.

There were bullhead catfish and of course, carp. An old prospector told us how to cut carp and dress them to get away from the bones. Mother would stuff and bake them and we liked them. Of course, people were not so particular about what they ate those days.

There was an artesian well in the river and it flowed into a cement pond only about 18" deep. Fish would get in there and we could catch them with bare hands or with a harpoon that Daddy had made for us.

In 1922, there was a flood and the river came up to where the railroad is west of Dodge City. We would sit on the front porch at Howell and watch things wash down the river or walk down and stand on the railroad and watch the water rise. The Howell bridge broke loose and floated down the river along with hay stacks and wagons, animals, anything that would float.

I remember a little dish I dug up one day that a neighbor lady said was probably tossed out of a wagon when settlers crossed on the Santa Fe Trail. The ruts were less than a mile away. The dish was pretty with little legs and a colored rim. I still have it and it is a favorite possession.

I was the little sister of Calvin and Alvin Trent, twin brothers who would dare me to do anything they could do. Usually it worked. But I guess it turned out all right. I grew up to be a Jill of all trades, doing everything on the farm after I married William Hessman. I taught the children to do everything, boys and girls, including cooking, sewing and all kinds of hobbies.

Maggie Lettitia Trent, the seventh child of Charley and Lettitia Trent, was born on May 26, 1913, and died on May 30, 1913.

Hazel Ruby Trent Weston was born on January 28, 1915, at Dodge City and married Monroe Welch on August 31, 1933. Their child, Joyce Yunone, was born October 19, 1934, in Dodge City. Monroe Welch died on June 4, 1934, four months before the birth of his daughter. Hazel married Clyde Weston on August 31, 1936, at Cimarron, Kansas. The couple had three children: Barbara, Nicola, and Charles. Joyce married Donald Lee Rosebrook at Dodge City. The couple had two children and were divorced. She later married Donald Baral, August 10, 1975, at Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and continues to live there. Barbara is married to a Mr. Genette but no information is

available. Ethel Nicola is married to Charles William Melton and has three children.

Jackson Alexander Trent, the youngest son of Charley and Lettitia, was born October 24, 1918, in Ford County, Kansas. On September 21, 1939, at Dodge City, he married Emma Evelyn Wells, born at Fort Scott, October 30, 1918. They lived in Wichita for a short time and then went to Washington State to pick apples in July 1940. They returned to Dodge City to live but each summer they went back to Washington for the apple-picking season for the next eight years. In 1956, Jack bought a D-8 caterpillar tractor and scoop and went into business on his own as a dirt contractor. He leveled land and moved dirt as the job required. Their children are Steven and Lynette Ann. Steven Alexander, born July 7, 1954, took over the contracting business when his father retired. He is married to Luara Diane Archer. They have two children, Lynette Ann Trent Anderson is a mail clerk at the Gibson's warehouse in Dodge City and has no children.

Gladys Trent Hessman

JAMES CALVIN TRENT

THE FIDDLER MAN

By the time he was 12 years of age in the 1880s, James Calvin Trent, or Cal, the Fiddler, as he was known, was playing for barn dances and hoe downs in his native Missouri.

"Besides that he could tap dance with his feet and his hands," recalls Gladys Trent Hessman. "He was still playing at the age of 73, when he was playing for a picnic in Wright Park and fell. Two years later he died at St. Anthony Hospital."

Many will recall Cal Trent, the entertainer on KGNO radio from the time it started in 1931, playing his fiddle with his group, or tap dancing to the beat, using his knuckles, for radio audiences. It maintains the record as the longest playing "live" entertainment on the local station.

Others remember J.C. Trent, the City Commissioner of Streets and Utilities elected to office in 1938, who served

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

until 1947.

Trent was born March 3, 1875, in Henry Co., Missouri, near Clinton. He married Gemima Ellen Kerrens at Butler, Missouri, March 17, 1896. She was born March 6, 1879, in Hodgeman County and grew up in Missouri. In June 1898, the couple moved to Dodge City and continued to live there until their deaths on March 8, 1950 (Trent) and March 13, 1958 (Ellen).

In the Dodge City area, Trent worked on ranches in the Howell vicinity until he started a dairy farm about 1903, south of the Arkansas River. Around World War I, he traded the dairy to W.P. Jones for wheat land and started a harvest crew. His only son, Calvin Otis, took that over shortly, as a teen.

What Cal Trent could do was play the fiddle and dance. For a time the family lived at Sylvia and Cal and Ellen won a state square dance contest. He won fiddling contests in Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma. In 1931, when KGNO was formed, he played fiddle all day on a hayrack located on South Second, broadcasting for a fascinated audience.

The Trents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1946, noted on the front pages of the *Daily Globe*.

Although they had one adult son, they mourned a son, Desmond, who died at three months, and a stillborn daughter. They also had two foster sons, one a nephew and cared for seven boys paroled from the state reformatory while they lived in Reno County.

Their son, Calvin Otis, was born August 8, 1906. He married Cleo B. Schwein, who was born November 26, 1906, at Sylvia. Their children are John Melvin, Calvin Otis, Jr., Billy Lee and Elma Lou.

Gladys Trent Hessman

THE TRUJILLO HOMESTEAD

THE NIETO FAMILY HOME

Many thousands of homesteaders came from the eastern states to file on homestead land but few came from the Southwest. Reyes Juan Trujillo is one of those exceptions. He was born in San Miguel Co., New Mexico, on January

6, 1825. He was the great grandson of a lieutenant in the Spanish Army under DeEspejo, the discoverer of New Mexico. It was DeEspejo who had planted a settlement in Santa Fe in 1582.

Trujillo spent his early years in New Mexico and moved to the panhandle of Texas in 1879, and on to Dodge City in the same year. At that time he owned and operated a freighting train that traveled between Council Grove, Kansas, and Ft. Supply, Oklahoma. His first teams were oxen but later he drove mules. He carried supplies for the first trading posts including those of Bob Wright and York and Draper in Dodge City. On these long, weary marches across the prairies he often traded with the wandering Indian tribes and had perhaps the only freighting train that had the perfect record of never having trouble with the Indian.

In 1884, Mr. Trujillo homesteaded the land that for many years was known as the Nieto farm. It was the SE 1/4 of S4 T26 R25 in Dodge Township, four miles north of Dodge City. It remained in the family until it was sold to Scott Rankin, a neighbor, in 1973. It was one of the oldest homesteads around Dodge City.

Trujillo had married Polly Quintana in 1866. He broke sod not only for farm-



Reyes Juan Trujillo
1845-1925



Mrs. John (Bertha) Nieto and son Edward, nicknamed "Buster," taken about 1908.

ing but for a home for his wife and six children. The 1903 record of the school in that district lists Marietta and Florence Trujillo as students. Their older sister Bertha's children were also enrolled.

John David Nieto, born June 24, 1862, in Taos, New Mexico, had married Bertha, the daughter of Reyes and Polly Trujillo in 1886, and in 1888, he bought the homestead from his father-in-law for \$50 and a team of mules. Both families continued to live on the farm for several years, but John Nieto spent the rest of his life farming the old homestead. All of his eleven children were born on that farm that remained in the family for 90 years. John Nieto died September 11, 1915. His oldest son, Ray Nieto, lived on the farm with his family until he moved to Yuba City, California, in 1922. Two of the Nieto sons met tragic deaths. Edward, in the U.S. Army during World War II, was on a ship which disappeared off the coast of Florida, April 29, 1943. It was suspected that the ship was sunk by a German submarine. Tom and his family were living in Alaska where he lost his life in 1947, while fishing off the Alaskan coast. The grandfather of the Nieto children, Reyes Trujillo, died October 3, 1925, at 80 years of age. Their mother, Bertha (Trujillo) Nieto

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

died June 18, 1936, of heart failure at the age of 67.

The children of John Nieto and Bertha (Trujillo) Nieto were: **Josephine** the oldest daughter, born April 4, 1887. She married Walter Barrett. They had eight children. **Reyes (Ray)** born June 6, 1889, married Lois Chafin. They had nine children. Ray lived to be 104, dying June 24, 1993. **Anna Beatrice**, born July 19, 1891, married Fred Schaefer. She was the mother of four children. **Agnes** born June 7, 1893, married Arthur Crowe and had six children. **Thomas** who was lost off the coast, had six children who were sent to the children's home at Mooseheart, Illinois, after his death. **John** married Molly Rogers and had five children. **Andrew** married Gwendolyn Wilhite and had two children. He and his second wife, Ada Jones, had three sons. **Bonnie** married Glen Lott and had five children. **Inez** married Louis Seaton and had three children. **Edward** married Pearl Westerman but had no children. The youngest son, **Elwood** married Lucille Goff. They were the parents of four children.

This family consisted of early pioneers whose Spanish ancestors had helped in the settlement of New Mexico. They themselves helped with the settlement of Ford Co., Kansas. Their talent, labor and friendliness did much to make their neighborhood a better place to live.

Lola Adams Crum
(Information taken from
Nieto family records)

CARL VAN RIPER

Carl Van Riper was a man of humble beginnings, who overcame many obstacles to rise to the top of his profession in Dodge City and Southwest Kansas.

He was born near Iola, Kansas, on December 27, 1879. When Carl was about eight years old, the family moved to Hamilton County, Kansas, where his father took up a claim. It was open-range county where the principal agricultural pursuit was cattle raising. Farming was poor and unproductive, and in 1891, the family moved to Clark

County, Kansas. In 1893, they moved to a half-section of land in southwestern Ford County near the post office of Wilburn.

Farming was better in Ford County, but life was hard. Mr. Van Riper related to the writer how often the meat dish at their home was jackrabbit which he and his brothers had shot and the mother prepared. His father, Joseph Van Riper, died and the mother carried on the farming operation with the help of her four sons and also served as postmistress at Wilburn.

Carl had three brothers but no sisters. His brothers were Frank, who became a cattle buyer and shipper in Ford County; John, who became a lawyer in Denver, and Herbert. John and Herbert survived Carl and lived in Los Angeles at the time of Carl's death.

Joseph Van Riper was a Civil War Veteran who served in the Union Army of the Potomac in the great battles of Antietam, the second battle of Bull Run, Gettysburg and Appomattox when General Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to Grant.

Carl's mother's maiden name was Delila George, and she was born in that portion of Virginia that later became West Virginia. Her family owned slaves



Carl Van Riper

and all of her father's brothers served in the Confederate Army. However, her father served in the Union army.

Van, as Carl was called by his close friends and associates, attended high school in Dodge City and graduated in 1900. He played on the high school's first football team. One of his teammates was Richard W. Evans, who also became a lawyer and for 20 years was probate judge of Ford County.

After graduation, Carl taught school one year at Minneola. In the fall and winter of 1901-02, he attended the business college in Salina, taking courses in shorthand and typing. He then got a job with the Dodge City law firm of Sutton & Scates as a stenographer. While working for Sutton & Scates, Carl also read law, and in 1905, he successfully passed the examination for the Bar. In 1907, he became County Attorney of Ford County and served two terms. He was a vigorous prosecutor. His first case as County Attorney was prosecution of an accused for stealing a white mule.

In about 1912, he joined with Lew Madison to form the firm of Madison & Van Riper, which served Dodge City for many years. Lew Madison was famous as a criminal lawyer, and tried many jury cases. He was also a wit. Many years later Van related to the writer that the partners divided the fees at the end of each day, and once when business was slow Lew came into his office and threw a five dollar bill on his desk. Van knew that they hadn't taken in any money that day, so he asked Lew what the five dollars was for. Lew replied that "so-and-so," a well-known deadbeat, came into his office earlier that day and tried to borrow \$10. Lew told Van, "I knew he'd never pay us back, so I turned him down. I figured that was as good as making \$10; so this is your half."

Mr. Van Riper was a candidate for district judge in 1914, but was defeated. Several years later he was offered an appointment to that office when the district judge died but he declined it.

Mr. Van Riper practiced law alone for many years after the death of Lew Madison. In November 1945, he formed

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

a law partnership with the writer, who had just returned home from World War II. In 1948, Carroll Hughes was added as a partner. In the same year, Van suffered a heart attack and his health declined thereafter. He died in January 1950.

While Carl was a very competent trial lawyer, he flourished as an office practitioner, too. He was scrupulously honest and he inspired confidence in his abilities. People trusted him. As a consequence, he built a large practice. He was attorney for both Dodge City banks and other banks in Ford County at the same time. He was attorney for the Board of Education, local attorney for the Santa Fe Railroad, the Fox Theater interests and a great many other businesses in Dodge City and the surrounding area and a host of individuals.

In addition to his heavy law practice, Carl Van Riper was a vigorous community worker. He was a pillar of the Methodist Church in Dodge City, serving for many years as chairman of the church Board of Trustees and as Sunday School superintendent. He served as president of the Southwest Protestant Hospital Association on Sixth Avenue in Dodge City which later became Trinity Hospital. In 1927, he was one of the organizers and first president of the Southwest Kansas Bar Association, which covered most of the southwest quarter of Kan-



**Stella (Imel) Van Riper
1875-1946**

sas. He was the first president of the Dodge City Kiwanis Club and was later district governor of that organization. He was also the chairman of the first advisory committee of the Salvation Army, was a Mason, a Knight Templar and an Odd Fellow.

On June 21, 1905, at Roswell, New Mexico, he married Stella Imel, whose father was a pioneer merchant in Dodge City. Stella Imel was born in Madison, Indiana, on July 24, 1875. She was a teacher in the primary grades in the Second Ward School in Dodge City. Her sister was the wife of Charley States, who operated the Palace Drug Store for many decades in Dodge City. The Van Ripers had one child, Ruth Van Riper who graduated from the Kansas University law school and married her classmate, Martin Dickinson, who became a prominent lawyer in Kansas City, Missouri. They had a son and a daughter. Their son, Martin B. Dickinson, was dean of the Kansas University law school for 10 years in the 1970s and 1980s. Carl Van Riper and his wife lived at 801 Fourth Avenue in Dodge City for practically all of their married life. Mrs. Van Riper died on January 15, 1946. She is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Carl Van Riper built his life and his law practice on the Golden Rule. He was universally respected for his ability, honesty and integrity. He had an uncommon amount of common sense. If he didn't know the law on a certain legal question, he knew what it ought to be and he was usually right. He was respected and admired by his fellow lawyers and all who knew him. He was a kindly man.

James A. Williams
See the Peter Imel and
Joseph Van Riper entries

JOSEPH AND DELILA JANĒ

GEORGE VAN RIPER

Delila Jane George was born October 22, 1859, near Phillipi, West Virginia. She was 12 years old when she and three brothers and sisters came with their parents from West Virginia to Iola, Kansas. She was married to Joseph Van



Delila Jane George Van Riper

Riper on February 19, 1879, near Iola, Kansas. She and her husband lived in several different places in Kansas before coming to Ford County. In 1893, Joseph Van Riper joined the "run" when the Oklahoma Strip was opened. After finding nothing there, Delila Jane and her husband and three sons settled in 1893, on the farm at Wilburn, a vacant town site in Crooked Creek Valley in southwest Ford County, about 25 miles from Dodge City. It was a desirable location because of artesian wells there. One more son was born in Ford County. Their four sons were Carl, Frank, John and Herbert. Delila Jane ran the Wilburn post office in connection with a small store on the farm that became a sizable cattle ranch. In 1919, the ranch was sold and they moved to Gardena, California. She died June 7, 1933, in Gardena, California, and is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Inglewood, California.

See the Carl Van Riper entry

DANIEL FRANKLIN VAN VOORHIS

AND AMELIA TITUS VAN

VOORHIS

Daniel Franklin Van Voorhis and his wife Amelia Marie (Titus) Van Voorhis were both born in Greene County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Elgy and Hester (Frye) Van Voorhis. Amelia was the daughter of Levi and Anna Stewart



Amelia M. Titus Van Voorhis
1847-1937



Daniel Van Voorhis
1847-1926



Home of Daniel Franklin and Amelia Van Voorhis

Titus. They were married in Morgantown, West Virginia, on July 2, 1868, and came to Ford County in 1885, to homestead with their four children: Earnest "Van," Lenora "Della," L.G. and Levi "Leslie" Van Voorhis.

They were among the early settlers in the Pleasant Valley community. "Van" became a merchant in Bucklin; L.G. had a dray service in Bucklin and farmed; Leslie was a farmer in Pleasant Valley and at Syracuse, Kansas, while Della became the wife of C.A. Jones and was a neighbor to her parents until her untimely death in 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Voorhis were simple hard-working people who came to Kansas to make a home for themselves and their children.

Mrs. Van Voorhis was known for her hospitality and her caring personality. She helped care for her small grandchildren following the death of her daughter. Amelia was small of stature but quite an independent lady.

Daniel was also independent. Amelia became angry when he brought a jug of whiskey as well as supplies home from town. She broke the jug over the wagon wheel. He left home and stayed away for several years. He later returned home.

Daniel passed away February 26, 1926, and Amelia passed away September 9, 1937. They are buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

Juanita Gulick

ERNEST "VAN" VAN VOORHIS
AND JENNIE TRAVIS VAN
VOORHIS

Ernest "Van" Van Voorhis was born in Dunkard, Green Co., Pennsylvania, on July 15, 1870, the son of Daniel Franklin Van Voorhis and Amelia (Titus) Van Voorhis. He was the oldest of four children who were all born in Green County, Pennsylvania. He came with his parents to Kansas in 1885, where his father homesteaded north of Bucklin, Kansas, in the Pleasant Valley Community. He continued to live in this community and was married to Jennie Bell Travis, daughter of Josiah Washington Travis and Margret (Evans) Travis on June 21, 1891. Jennie was born June 10, 1873, in Patterson, Nevada. She came to the Pleasant Valley Community with her parents in 1885. To this union 12 children were born, four dying in infancy. Their children were: Lloyd, Maggie, Edwin, Harvey, Earl, Gordon, Nellie, Lorine, Albert and Hubert (twins). Fern and Chester. Albert, Hubert, Maggie and Chester all passed away within their first year of life.

They lived in Dodge City before moving to Bucklin in 1899 and engaged in the confectionery business with his brother, Elgie Van Voorhis as a partner in both cities. The store developed into a general store when he bought out another business man in Bucklin. He soon took over the entire business in Bucklin until his death. His first store and his later store occupied the same lot but in 1910, his store was located a little north of the original location. The first store burned in 1904, along with the Bae-decker Hotel, just south of his store. The second structure was built and later moved to the back of the lot to make room for the new brick building in 1910. The older store was still used for a storage room at the back of the new store.

Gordon Van Voorhis, Van's son, said he remembered the new building well. "Some Amish people who lived southwest of Bucklin moved the old store," he said. "We kids would go up there every day and watch those horses move

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

that building.

"The first thing they did when the new building was done was to have a dance. I'll never forget it," Gordon said. "Everything was completed except putting in the shelves, so they had a dance."

Allie Hope (later Goff) played the piano and Lloyd Van Voorhis played a little bit of violin and Guy Padgett played the drums. Gordon told about delivering groceries all over Bucklin on a pony. The store used to be open until 10 o'clock and even later during harvest.

Van Van Voorhis was described as one of Bucklin's "most substantial and unselfish citizens." He was an avid fisherman who was seldom seen without a cigar.

Two of Van's sons, Lloyd and Gordon, took a special interest in the store and became partners in the business after their father's death. The store became an IGA store in 1943. Gordon sold his interest in the store in 1944 and bought a grocery store on West Center Street from the Pendergraft family. He ran this store until his retirement in 1959.

Chester Van Voorhis, the son of Lloyd and grandson of Van purchased the store from his father in 1958 and operated it until 1979, when the store passed out of the Van Voorhis family.

Van was baptized and joined the Methodist Church on November 11, 1888, in Pleasant Valley. He had a philosophy that characterized the man. He had faith in his fellow man and believed wholeheartedly in the teaching, "Do unto one another as you would have done unto you." In many cases he proved to be his brother's keeper inasmuch as he would not turn down a hungry man or family.

His favorite activity was to go fishing or hunting with some of his family, to be out in the wide open spaces. He was a devoted family man and was well known as an honest, fair, hard-working man. Van passed away at Bucklin, Kansas, on December 10, 1941.

Harvey C. Van Voorhis, a son of Van and Jennie, graduated from school in Bucklin and then attended the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia,

earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1924 and a Masters in Education in from the University of California at Berkeley. He served as Superintendent of Schools at Kingsdown in Ford County. During 1923-24, he was secretary of the Bureau of Educational Measurements and Standards at the teachers college. He was school superintendent at Plains in 1924. He married Faith Lorena Baker in 1918, at Spearville, Kansas, and they have one daughter, Virginia. He moved to California where he was the school superintendent in Oxnard, California, and then went to Tracy, California, where he was principal of Central Elementary School until he retired in 1965, when they returned to Kansas. They are now living in Mt. Hope, Kansas.

Edwin E. Van Voorhis lived in Dodge City where he traveled for Dodge City Wholesale Grocery Company and served two years in the Aviation Corp. Later, he became a barber in Dodge City. He was married to Rachel Waunetta Meyer in 1919. They had two children: Lester Van Voorhis and Delores (Van Voorhis) Sutton. Edwin died in 1973 and Rachel in 1981.

Earl Harris Van Voorhis lived in Dodge City and was an automobile salesman. He moved to Hutchinson and was a tank truck driver for Reno Coop until he retired in 1963. He was married to Julia M. Hendrickson at Dodge City in 1919. They had three children: Earl Lewis Van Voorhis, who lived only three days; Earlene Marie (Van Voorhis) Stewart and Howard Maynard Van Voorhis. Earl passed away in 1964 and Julia in 1962.

Nellie Clarice Van Voorhis married Russell Goff in 1923. They had one son, Van Goff. Russell was an automobile salesman and real estate man in Bucklin and later sold cars in Dodge City. They made their home in Dodge City. Nellie died in 1956 and Russell in 1977.

Lorine Margarite Van Voorhis married William Spence in 1923. William was a painter and decorator in Bucklin. She attended school in Bucklin and moved to Dodge City in 1938. They were the parents of seven children with one that died in infancy. The children

were: Robert Spence, Willetta Maxine (Spence) Marinelli, Maynard Lee Spence, Norman Van Spence, Ronald Dean Spence, William Keith Spence. Lorine died in 1993 and William in 1960.

Fern Gladys Van Voorhis married Frank Wilson in 1934. They were the parents of seven children: Jerry, Thomas, Frankie, Robert, Patricia Ann, Michael Lee and Dennis Ray Wilson. Frankie died in 1961.

Lloyd Van Voorhis married Lenore Tout in 1910. They were the parents of three children: Oscar "Myron" Van Voorhis, Chester Edwin Van Voorhis and Ruby Darlene (Van Voorhis) Mills-Patterson. Lloyd was in the grocery business. He died in 1972 and Lenore in 1974.

Gordon Evans Van Voorhis married Beatrice Sauceman in 1935. They were the parents of one daughter, Charlene Kay (Van Voorhis) Walters. Gordon was in the grocery store business with his father, brother and with his own store, all in Bucklin, Kansas. He died in 1993.

Juanita Gulick

THE WAGNER FAMILY

Daniel Wagner, son of John Wagner, was born in Scharbach, Germany, on March 23, 1805 and died May 15, 1890, near Crandall, Indiana, at the age of 85 when a horse ran under a tree limb with him.

Daniel came to America in 1830, by way of New Orleans. Lacking money for transportation, he began walking up the Mississippi River to Crandall, Indiana, where relatives lived. He became ill with yellow fever and was hospitalized somewhere along the way. He was shocked to see a room filled with corpses. "This is no place for me," he thought and he slipped away, paying his way by stopping at plantations and working a short time to get food and gain enough strength to reach Indiana.

Daniel later married Anna Elizabeth Borch (or Bersh or Brush—each of her brothers entered the country through a different port of entry and so was given a different spelling on his name each time.) She was born in Hesseim Canton, Frankenthal, Bavaria, on March 23,

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

1813; she died February 18, 1903, at the age of 90 years. She had come to America in 1833, at the age of 20. She and Daniel had not met in Germany before coming to America, though they were raised not far apart.

His was a kindly nature, but hers became irritable and bossy toward the last, and her grandchildren learned early to keep their distance from her cane as she sat in her chair.

The children of Daniel and Anna Elizabeth Wagner were: Elizabeth Stauth (1839-1924); Lewis (1840-1914); Margaret Mossler (1841-1914); Mary Reinhart (1843-1929); John (1847-1927); George (1849-1926); Daniel (1852-1853); Caroline (Carrie) Davis (1854-1949); and William (October 3, 1857, died at three months).

Lewis and John were both with General Sherman on his March to the Sea in the Civil War. Lewis volunteered and John was paid \$1,000 in gold to go in someone's place.

Morgan's army raided the Daniel Wagner farm in 1862, after crossing the Ohio River in the Alice Dean, a pleasure boat owned by southern aristocrats which Morgan had commandeered. It isn't known whether or not they killed the owners of the boat.

George and two of his sisters were sent to drive the cattle back into the woods to hide them, thus saving them,



"Sally" Salome Margaret Wagner



Left to right: Mabel Johnson, Daniel and Edmund Wagner, Eileen Ruby, Ethel and Mary Johnson.

but they didn't take the horses, so Morgan's men took them both and left two old bone-poor horses in their place. Later the Wagners had a hard time feeding them up so that they could be worked. Morgan and his men also butchered all the hogs and chickens on the place, eating a lot of them on the spot and taking the rest.

Grandma had the money which the boys had sent home hidden in a trunk upstairs, and she guarded the trunk with a hickory broom while standing at the top of the stairs, scolding them in German. They said, "Don't pay any attention to her. She is old and senile." Thus the money was saved.

When Daniel was 80 years old, he took his passport and slipped off to Germany to visit. Since his passport was missing, they decided that was what he did, which was correct. When he arrived home, he told them about his trip.

Carrie (George's sister) and John Davis came and settled close to Bucklin and John ran the elevator there.

George Stauth (George's nephew and Salome's cousin) came before George did and settled southwest of Dodge City, marrying Mandy Rhodes.

George married Salome Margaret Stauth (Sally). He came in 1905 and bought a section of railroad land and paid five dollars per acres for it. They lived in the Excelsior schoolhouse while

they were building their own home. George had Lewis and Lena by a previous marriage. These children never came to Kansas as they were already married and settled, but Otto, John, and Annie, came here with their parents. Otto remained single; John married Clara Derking. They had two children: Edmund and Daniel; Annie married Oscar Benjamin Johnson on December 29, 1908. Their children are Mabel McQueen, born September 23, 1909; Eileen Phillips, born November 19, 1911; Ruby Warner, born December 19, 1913; Ethel Penka, born December 1, 1915; and Mary Spurgeon, born February 15, 1918.

Mabel has no children. Eileen has one girl, Sharon Renfro, born February 28, 1935. Ruby has three boys and two girls: Elaine Pohlmann, born May 27, 1942; Willis Warner, born July 26, 1944; Kathleen Graf, born June 25, 1947; Jack, born March 6, 1951; and Kelvin, born January 3, 1955. Ethel has two boys and three girls: Oscar, Bobby, Mina Jones, Mary Alice Lee and Veva Imroth. Mary has one girl and three boys: Linda Demmitt, Del Roy, Shannon and James.

Eileen Phillips

THE WARNER FAMILY

JOHN WARNER

In the spring of 1884 in the Catskill Mountains in Green County, New York, when Willis B. Warner read an advertisement in the *Country Gentleman* for help on a Montana horse ranch, he wanted to take Horace Greeley's advice and "Go West." The Homestead Act of May 20, 1862, made it possible for a person over 21 years old to preempt 160 acres of government land. That was attractive to Willis and since the woolen mills at Leeds, New York, had closed, the town was dead and he couldn't see much future there. He answered the advertisement, was given the job, boarded a train in New York City and headed West.

About the Iowa-Nebraska line he became homesick and wanted to go back, but he had told the Montana rancher he was coming and felt he had

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

to keep his word.

His starting pay of \$25 per month was doubled while he was there and he stayed six months, and never left the ranch. Other hands went to town every week and spent their wages, but Willis saved his, for he had plans for the future.

Willis then left Montana, stopping to take a job helping build the cog road up Pike's Peak and another job in a brick yard in Pueblo, Colorado. He was shoveling too fast and the foreman told him to slow down, load his shovel heavier as the other workers did, and not so often, and he would accomplish more and not work so hard.

Since he knew some other New Yorkers who had stopped in Great Bend, Kansas, he went there to meet them. They had one horse, so while in Great Bend, he bought another horse, a set of harness and a wagon, and they started west again. In Cheyenne Bottoms, they stopped a short time to work putting up hay and continued west.

North of Spearville, they passed a homesteader who told them a man named Stannard on the Sawlog Creek was sick of the country and wanted to sell out and go back east. That information interested Willis Warner, and they drove directly to Stannard's home and learned that Stannard had lived on his claim a while, but it wasn't proved up and he wanted to sell. So, Willis paid him the price he asked, which was \$180 for relinquishment of the land. Willis had to occupy the land for a period of five years, then go over to the land office at Garden City with two witnesses to prove he had occupied the land and cultivated the land for five years and had not left the land for more than six months at one time during the five years. At that time he was entitled to a patent on the land. The land office had recently been moved to Garden City from Larned due to the increase in the number of settlers coming to the western part of the state in search of homes. Hundreds of homesteaders were waiting in line every day to get necessary legal business relative to filing or get title to their land. These daily crowds in those lines gave rise to the expres-



Willis B. Warner

sion, "Doing a land office business."

Willis had acquired his first quarter of land with a little frame house on it, but he had no furniture or tools of any kind to work with. He planned to dig wells for his neighbors, quarry rock and do any kind of work to earn an honest dollar. He had a little experience handling rock in the Ichabod Crane area of the Catskill Mountains, and he wanted his New York crowbar, saw, plane, railroad iron, a spade, pick, and shovel. He decided to make a trip back to New York, gather up some of his furniture and tools, tell his home folks good-bye and ship his belongings west. He left his team with a neighbor named Bangs and caught the train at Spearville for Leeds, New York.

When the shipment of furniture and tools arrived, Willis went to work long hours quarrying rock for buildings and digging wells for neighbors.

His cattle had increased to 50 head, and in 1893, he bought his first registered Angus bull for \$25. By culling off colors, his cows were soon all black with better conformation. He continued to use the best registered Angus bulls he could find, and as a result his feeder steers placed second at the 1905 American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City. By 1931, the steer calves were the Champion Angus feeders at the American Royal. Several steers were cham-



Charlotte Breakey Warner

pion 4-H calves over the years. In the 1940s, Warner-bred fat steers fed by an Illinois feeder were first place in the heavyweight class at the International Livestock Show in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1885, two of the Breakey family from Bloomington, Illinois, came west. They were Charlotte Breakey and her brother, James (also known as Jim, J.G. or J.) Breakey. Charlotte was born November 18, 1863 in McLean Co., Illinois. J.G. and Charlotte each proved up a claim. Charlotte Breakey's claim was on the Mulberry Creek south of Dodge City. She had a teacher's certificate from Bloomington High School and taught the school on land joining her claim quarter. The school was called "Flea Home" for obvious reasons. Later she taught the school near her brother James' claim, which was some three miles southwest of Willis' claim on the Sawlog Creek. While teaching there, she went to a Sunday School picnic. She met Willis, and on June 4, 1891, they were married in the Park Hotel in Spearville. The wedding date depended upon whether Willis could catch his driving horse "Charlie" who might be grazing most anywhere on free range.

To this union four children were born; Ruth, Kate, Lucy and John. Charlotte died on November 13, 1953, in the Spearville Hospital at 90 years of age, less five days.

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

Ruth rode her horse to Kim, Colorado, at the age of 23, proved up a claim and spent her life there. She married Roy Chappée and later George Brown and had two children, Gene Chappée and Marie Herald Brown.

Kate married Leo Krumrey, a wheat farmer south of Offerle, taught school locally and in Idaho and wrote several books, among them *Saga of Sawlog*. They had two daughters, Betty and Sharisla.

Lucy married Lester Campbell, the Rush Center postmaster, and lived on the home place of her father, Willis Warner.

John married Ruby E. Johnson of the Ensign neighborhood, and they are living on the west end of the ranch. John and Ruby's son, Willis B. Warner II now lives on the home place where Lucy and Lester Campbell once lived. Their five children besides Willis, include Elaine, Kathy, Jack and Kelvin. Four generations have been involved, each adding some acreage to the ranch. About 1950, some registered black Morgan horses were added to the black livestock occupying the ranch and are good advertising when ridden in parades.

John Warner

RUBY JOHNSON WARNER

In the late 1800s and the early 1900s, many of the early settlers and homesteaders lived on farms in Ford and Gray counties. They had come to build homes, settle and gain a better life.

Among these neighbors were my parents and grandparents. My father, Oscar Johnson, along with his parents came from Ohio, to take advantage of the Homestead Act.

My grandparents, Robert Wallace Johnson and Catherine Koepple Johnson, came with five sons and one daughter. These sons worked at different jobs, the main job was the railroad section gang. My mother, Annie Wagner, came from Indiana along with her parents, George Wagner and Salome Stauth Wagner, and her two brothers. My Grandfather Wagner bought a section of railroad land in Ford County.

My mother and father were neighbors. They were married December 30,

1908. After living with their folks and being the parents of two daughters, Mabel and Eileen, they built a new home in Gray County. This was a nice bungalow house with three bedrooms, bath, dining room, living room, pantry, kitchen and hall. While living in this home three more daughters were born to them, Ruby, Ethel and Mary. These five daughters attended school in Gray county. The district was named "Diamond" because it wasn't exactly square. Later they attended school in Ensign, Kansas.

When the steam engine came, much of the farming was done with steam power, even much of the sod was broken with steam power. Coal was used to heat the boiler. It had to be hauled in on coal cars from the eastern United States. It would come in to the railroad stations in Ensign, Dodge City, etc. It was a special job to keep the coal fired up and regulate the steam.

When you heard the steam engine whistle blow, you knew the heat was up and the engine was ready to go to work. This was always a thrill to my sisters and me. There was nothing that could compare with the excitement of the steam engine, separator, feeder, and the cook shack complete with the cooks. Cooking was considered a one-woman job but could be shared by two—all that food, being towed down the road to the next stop, where they pulled the separator up between the stacks that the neighbors had ready for threshing. The crew consisted of engineer, separator

man, six to eight pitchers, water monkey, spike pitcher, grain haulers and cook.

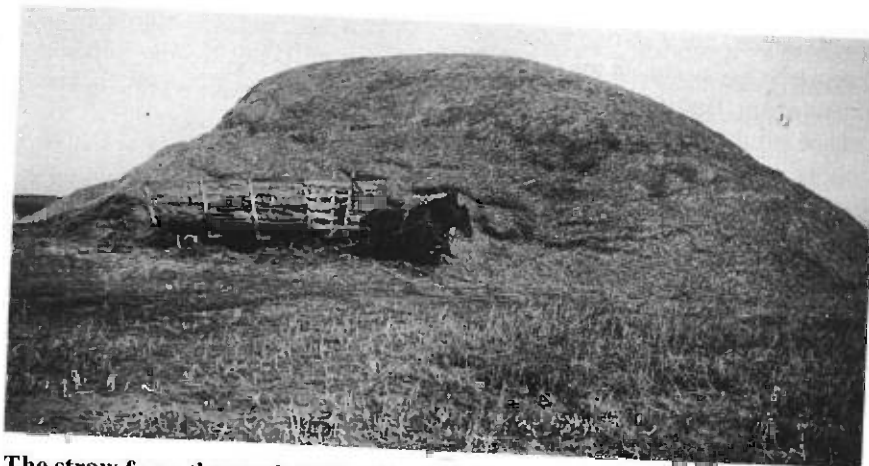
As my sisters and I grew up we shared in the farm work. Since we had no brothers, we did chores as milking and herding cattle. We harnessed teams of horses, hitched them to farm implements, plows, discs or cultivators, we planted and stacked feed. We either rode horses bareback or saddled them and rode them after the cattle and to school.

We also drove horses and buggies or we walked the two miles to grade schools. Cars were becoming common in those days, so sometimes our father would drive us to school. When we attended high school we had a car that we drove the four and a half miles to Ensign.

Life in the early 1900s was much different than as we live it today. We think of our early life as the horse and buggy days. We depended on the wind to pump water, coal oil or wood to light and heat our homes, and wind-up phonographs for our music.

After high school we mostly worked in people's homes. When Mary and I decided to attend the local junior college in Dodge City, we applied for and received a work program called National Youth Administration or N.Y.A. Each student worked 21 hours per month. The work was to help a teacher in printing tests, grading papers, etc.

After attending college in Dodge City, I came to the Sawlog community. There I met and married John Warner



The straw from the stack left by the threshing machine was hauled by team and hay wagon and loaded by pitch fork.

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

June 22, 1941. We have lived on the farm along Highway 283 for 53 years. We have gradually improved the place with buildings and fences. In 1947, Victory Electric built their power lines and we had electricity for the first time. Life became much easier with electric lights, refrigerators, power washing machine, dryers and other electrical appliances.

We are parents of five children, Elaine Pohlmann, Willis B. Warner, Kathleen Brown, Jack Warner and Kelvin Warner. We have 10 grandchildren.

Ruby Johnson Warner



W.B. Warner II making haystacks on the ranch.

THE WILLIS B. WARNER

FAMILY

Willis B. Warner, oldest son of John J. and Ruby E. Warner, grew up roaming the same banks of the Sawlog Creek with his sisters, Elaine and Kathleen and brothers, Jack and Kelvin that their father and aunts, Ruth, Kate, and Lucy had roamed as children growing up at the turn of the century. He attended grade school at the public school in Wright and then at Bell Center. He remembers that he made a bed in a sandbox at Bell Center during a blizzard when it was impossible to get home. He attended Dodge City schools, and graduated in 1962. He joined the army in 1963 and served in Germany until 1966. He returned to the family ranch where he helped with raising Angus cattle and Morgan horses.

He married the former Ann Teter,



W.B. and Ann Warner

daughter of George and Dulcie Teter of Dodge City, on June 11, 1967. Born January 16, 1947, in Ashland, Kansas, she lived in the Protection community before moving to Dodge City in 1953. She attended Dodge City schools and graduated from DCCC in 1967.

Willis and Ann still raise Angus cattle and formed the Black Diamond Angus Ranch in 1992, on the same land homesteaded by his grandfather, Willis B. Warner, in 1884.

They have five children. Monica Suzann, born February 3, 1969, married Dustin Walker of Follett, Texas, on December 30, 1990. Monica is a graduate of Kansas Newman College and works as office manager for the Frigon Law Firm in Dodge City. Dustin is a senior at Ft. Hays State University majoring in Animal Science. Melissa

LeAnn, born January 11, 1973, is a junior at Kansas State University majoring in Animal Science and Ag Business. Marcella Mayann, born May 25, 1975, is a freshman at DCCC majoring in Animal Science and Art. She works as a student assistant at Frigon Law Firm. Willis B. Warner III, born April 8, 1977, is a junior at Jetmore High School and Myrinda Roseann, born February 18, 1981, is a seventh grader at Jetmore Grade School. They are all involved in the ranch and help with the business.

A 16-acre grove of osage orange, black and honey locust, ailanthus and box elder trees originally planted by George M. Hoover 100 years ago as a tree claim has been the site of many picnics for local organizations, schools and celebrations through the years, starting in 1910, with a picnic to celebrate the



Warner children in front of the rock barn built by their great grandfather, Willis B. Warner. Left to right: Myrinda Warner, Sean Hood, Marcella Warner, Melissa Warner, Monica Warner Walker and Willis B. Warner III.

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

housewarming of Willis and Charlotte's new home and in 1984, with a centennial celebration for the Warner Angus Ranch. Now annually in August the Warners and the Ron Cole family of Hodgeman County hold the Sawlog 'n' Strings Bluegrass Festival there.

Ann Warner

VIOLET WATSON

Violet Watson's father was Willis Watson. Her mother was Dora Jean Dessery. Dora Jean's mother came from France. She had grown up in the same village as Maurice Chevelier to whom she was distantly related. After coming to the United States, the Dessery family settled in Chicago where Dora Jean and her two sisters were seamstresses. They later moved to Lawrence, Kansas.

It was in Lawrence, Kansas, that Willis Watson and Dora Jean Dessery met when they were both singing in the church choir. Three children were born to Dora Jean and Willis. Besides Violet, the oldest, there was a son, Arthur, a violinist who married and had a child but died in the flu epidemic of 1918. Their youngest, a daughter named Mildred, married Bill Peterson, a relative of the Stubbs family. They lived in California.

The Watsons lived in Lawrence when Violet was born May 28, 1888. They lived in Lawrence for two more years then moved to Kansas City, Missouri. When Violet was 11, the family moved to Carrollton, Missouri, then to Dodge City in 1903.

After the family arrived in Dodge City, Violet attended Third Ward School for two years where she studied typing and shorthand. In 1905, she started to work for Coolege-Smith Abstract Company. She worked there five years. In 1910, she started working for the H.B. Bell Land and Auto Company and worked there until 1947. The business was located in the 100 block of West Chestnut (now Wyatt Earp). When that business closed, Mr. Bell opened a pet shop in the 200 block of West Spruce Street on the south side of the street. Violet worked for Mr. Bell in the pet shop, too. Most of the local old timers probably remember and knew Violet

best when she worked in Mr. Bell's Pet Shop. She loved her work with the animals. Memory recalls watching parrots, parakeets, monkeys, squirrels, and dog, especially the puppies. At one time Violet had seven dogs of her own, each very special. As each one died, she buried it in her back yard and planted flowers on the grave.

After the Pet Shop closed and Ham Bell retired, Violet worked at Boot Hill for nine years before she retired. Violet remained active in her home as long as she was able. She was quite a household mechanic. She did her own electrical work and built cupboards and shelves. Like her mother, she was a fine seamstress. She was always willing to make doll clothes and doll bodies for friends and other collectors. She had a collection of over 150 very fine dolls. She was also a collector of antiques and was an authority on antique glassware and china.

One of her favorite pastimes was visiting her neighbor, Mary Robinson, who lived across the street. Mary had a car and when there were errands to run or groceries to buy, Mary and her car were always available. Violet and Mary both loved to fish. They often took their fishing poles, put on old straw hats and went fishing. In season they could always find the wild sandhill plum bushes. Nieces and friends often enjoyed a breakfast of biscuits and sandhill plum jelly with Mary and Violet. Because Violet was good company, she was almost always invited to go with Mary on her frequent visits to the family farm. Both were active members of the Old Timers Club.

Violet never married. She was engaged to be married, but her fiancé died before the wedding. She lived with and cared for her parents until their deaths; Dora died in 1955 at 91 years of age; and her father, Willis, lived to be 95. He died in 1957. She cared for Ham Bell until his death. Violet, however, had no one to care for her in her old age. She lived for five and one half years in the Good Samaritan Home. She died February 15, 1981, at 93 years of age.

The Robinson family and
the Home of Stone Files

THE BERNHARD AND MARY

JOSEPHINE WEBER FAMILY

On February 11, 1913, Bernhard and Mary Josephine (Wagner) Weber borrowed \$5,250 from the Fowler bank using as collateral the quarter section of land located in Wilburn Township two miles north of the Meade county line and one-half mile east of the Gray county line or eight miles north and one-half mile west of Fowler, Kansas. The abstract shows two previous owners; James R. Flinn, to whom the original patent in 1903 was granted by President T. Roosevelt; and Linn Frazier who acquired the property in 1908. Bernhard has been described to me as a short, stout man with black hair and beard. Mary was small and blonde with a jolly, friendly personality.

A neighbor said, "I always thought that he got his smile from her."

Their children were Alban, Alice, Ben, Oliver and Clotilda. They had buried two children in Norborne, Missouri, their previous home and left numerous family members there.

Sometime before the move in late 1913, Bernhard had come looking for land. They lived in Missouri among family, but land was expensive, and he needed a larger piece of land to support his family. He considered two different places. The place he did not choose was about two miles farther away from the nearest Catholic Church in Fowler. Before the family came, Bernhard and Alban brought the farm equipment and animals in a train box car. They had tickets, but rode in the box car with the animals, fed them, milked the cows and sometimes gave the milk to men riding in the box cars without benefit of tickets. Dodge City (I think) was as far as they could come by train. There they stored the farm equipment temporarily, and set out driving the animals across country to their new home. The farm house which was on the place then is still standing and in use today, with some additions and improvements. A family was living in the house, renting from the previous owner, when Bernhard made arrangements to buy the property. They didn't move out right

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

away, so Bernhard and Alban stayed in one of the upstairs bedrooms after they brought the farm equipment and animals from Missouri. Meanwhile, Mary packed the remaining children and household goods, and started to Kansas by train. They stopped in Great Bend to visit Mary's sister, Elizabeth, (Mrs. Fred) Wolf and her family. They changed trains and stayed overnight in Bucklin. Ben remembered that his mother, Clotilda and Oliver slept on the bed and he saw "dust bunnies" under the bed as he and Alice prepared to sleep on the floor. Back at the new homestead, the other family was still in the house. Bernhard told them one morning that he was going to the train station that day to get his wife and family and that they would have to be gone when he got back. When the Weber family arrived at their new home, the other family was gone.

Life in Kansas was not without problems. The crops failed the first two years. There was discussion of returning to Missouri, but the family stayed and a grandson, John Weber, currently lives in the original home. Alban, Alice, Ben Oliver and Clotilda attended the country school about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile southwest of their home. There was a barn near the school to protect the animals that the students rode to school. Alban rode a horse to attend high school in Fowler. The fence on the east border of the farm



Children of Bernhard and Mary J. Weber, left to right: Alban, Bennie and Alice.

angled from southeast to the northwest. The owner of the land east of the farm was convinced that the south end of the fence should be moved west. A survey was done and it showed that the north end should be moved east and so it was. The old fence line can still be seen today. A grandson remembers Bernhard digging out farm equipment completely covered with dirt in 1928, with a horse and shovel.

Bernhard Weber was born August 20, 1867, near St. Charles, Missouri, the eighth of the ten children of John and Elizabeth (Doll) Weber. Bernhard's father, John, was born in 1827, in Alsace, France and died in 1904, in Bernhard's home near Norborne, Missouri. John and his brother came to the United States earlier, their parents and siblings following in 1850. Arriving in New Orleans, Louisiana, the family came immediately to St. Charles, Missouri. John farmed several places near Norborne, Missouri, before retiring in a home in Norborne. Elizabeth Doll was born in 1834 in Germany and died in 1903, in their home in Norborne. John and Elizabeth were married in 1852, in St. Charles, Missouri. Bernhard wore a brown derby hat. He smoked a clay pipe. Actually he had two pipes—when one got too strong, he'd put it in his pocket and use the other. He carried his tobacco (which he ordered from a man who grew it near Norborne) loose in his pocket. He had a shot gun and sometimes shot rabbits for dinner. His grandson, Ralph Weber, now owns that gun. Bernhard especially liked apple butter. It was said that he ate apple butter during every meal of his life. He was good at healing horses. One time a neighbor had a horse that he thought was sure to die. Bernhard took the horse, doctored it for a couple of months, then it was well enough that he rode it to the neighbor and gave it back. He would sing and dance around the house just for fun. Bernhard died suddenly of a stroke on November 25, 1942, on his wife, Mary's, 64th birthday. He is buried in Fowler, Kansas.

Mary Josephine Wagner was born November 25, 1878, in Norborne, Missouri, the seventh of eight children of

Berthold and Barbara (Gutterman) Wagner. Mary's father, Berthold, was born in 1839, in Baden, Germany, and died in 1916, in St. Joseph, Missouri. Berthold's nickname was Peter. He came to the United States with his parents at the age of six, settling in St. Clair Co., Illinois. At about 21 years of age, he came to Carroll Co. (Norborne area), Missouri, and spent about five years with an uncle. He returned to Illinois where he married Barbara Gutterman on August 20, 1865. After their marriage they traveled to Miles Point, Missouri, by steam boat. They lived in the Norborne area the rest of their lives. Barbara was born in 1846, in Belleville, Illinois, and died in 1931, near Norborne. Mary was an excellent seamstress and designed many beautiful quilts for her family and friends. She was also talented at crochet and knitting. Her daughter-in-law, Leona, said that Mary fit into any group. She could play dominos with her grandchildren or cards with adults and could have a conversation with anyone. Mary died August 14, 1963, at the Meade, Kansas, hospital shortly after her son, Ben's, 58th birthday and shortly after Bernhard's birth date. Mary is buried at Fowler, Kansas.

Bernhard and Mary were married April 18, 1899, in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Norborne, Missouri. Mary had joined the Catholic Church [before] their marriage.

Once during their courtship, they were riding up a hill in a horse-drawn vehicle. The hill was so steep that they had to get out and walk. As they struggled up the hill, Mary fell and rolled down the hill. Bernhard was caught between trying to get the horse up the hill and going down to help Mary. Ben reminisced that in Missouri, the children would stop at their Grandmother Wagner's home for a snack of homemade bread and preserves on the way home from school. The table used for these feasts was shipped to the Weber family in Ford County by Sam Wagner, Mary's brother, presumably after the deaths of Mary's parents. It was probably used for a while, then after spending some time stored in the rafters

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

of the barn built by Ben, is now in use in the home of his daughter, Theresa, in Dodge City, Kansas.

Bernhard and Mary Wagner Weber were the parents of seven children: Alban John (1900-1968), Clotilda Amelia (1901-1902), Alice Matilda (1903-1989), Bernard Louis (1905-1990), Samuel Clemment (1908-1908), Charles Oliver (1909-1992) and Clotilda Elizabeth (1912-1933). All of their children were born in the Norborne, Missouri, area. Clotilda Amelia and Samuel Clemment are also buried there.

Alban John Weber was born January 10, 1900, in Norborne, Missouri, the oldest of Bernhard and Mary's seven children. He was a tender-hearted person. Mary said that when he misbehaved as a child, she would just look at him crossly and he would get upset and say "Poor little Abby, poor little Abby!" not wanting to be punished. Alban did not like horses. He joined the army at about the age of 18. He was stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and fought in World War I. He met and married Edna Holden in Wichita, Kansas. Alban was working for her father who was in the produce business. Alban and Edna had three children: Alban James (January 30, 1923) who married Marie Motta. They had no children and currently live in Newark, California. Al visited the Ford County farm several summers, helping with wheat harvest, etc. Ralph Raymond (March 15, 1927) married Shirley Mae Rolsing. They had two children: Patricia Ann and Michael John. Ralph currently has two grandchildren and resides in Red Bluff, California. Mary Virginia (August 30, 1932) married William Fraulino. They have six children: Craig William, Carey Michael and Cheryl Ann (twins) Curtis Scott, Colleen Teresa and Christina Lynn. Mary has seven grandchildren and lives in Fremont, California. During the winter of 1935, Edna and the children stayed at the farm near Fowler while Alban worked in Florida. Those in charge didn't want the boys to ride the school bus to town to attend the Catholic school, but Berthold convinced them that since he paid taxes, his grand-

sons should be allowed to ride the bus. Alban worked in the produce and nursery businesses most of his life. They lived in North Dakota, then moved to California in 1941. Edna died of cancer in 1963. Alban died in December 1968.

Clothilda Amelia Weber was born October 13, 1901. She was the first of Bernhard and Mary's children to precede them to heaven. At the age of eight months she died on June 11, 1902, and is buried in Norborne.

Alice Matilda Weber was born April 26, 1903, near Norborne, Missouri. She was a small, determined lady. She married William Meng. They lived their married lives near Waterloo, Kansas. Bill died while their son, Paul, was in high school. Alice died after a long illness on September 20, 1989, in Kingman, Kansas. They had six children: Mary Catherine, Anita, Laurine, Robert, Agnes Louise and Paul. Mary Catherine (February 4, 1931) married Paul Needham; they had four children: Mary, Clare Louise, Christopher Paul and Michael Allen and six grandchildren and live in Bumpass, Virginia. Anita Rose (January 15, 1933) married Lawrence James Pozsgay. He was killed in an auto accident. They had two children: Andrew Michael and Joyce Melinda. Anita lives in St. Louis, Missouri. Laurine Cecilia (May 9, 1934) married Richard Blankenau; they have four children: Paul David, Renee Chris-



Back row, left to right: Bennie, Oliver and Alban. Front: Mary J. Weber.

tina, Mark Richard and Andrea Mari and live in Omaha, Nebraska. Robert (November 12, 1937) married Betty Paney; they have five children: Cynthia Marie, John Robert, William Sylvester, Stephen Paul and Kendra Sue; they have five grandchildren and live near Murdock, Kansas. Agnes Louise (March 15, 1943) is single and lives in Alexandria, Virginia. Paul Michael (September 17, 1944) married Carole Lorg; they have six children: Melissa Marie, Rebecca Sue, Louis Paul, Sarah Jane, Lawrence Michael and Marcus Alan. They live near Waterloo, Kansas, on the farm where the family was raised.

Bernard Louis Weber was born August 11, 1905, in Norborne, Missouri. Other than his first nine years, he lived all his life on the farm in Ford County. Ben loved to joke and laugh and took joy in simple pleasure. He said he was not smart enough to do anything but farm, but he certainly was a clever man, though educated only through the eighth grade. You can see his humor in the following poem that he wrote:

I gathered corn when I was but a little tot,
Drove a team of mules that wouldn't start or stop
Cracked upon one with a corn stalk
When Dad was going to walk.
And of all the fun, I simply had to squawk!
I started school when I was almost six
I was as dumb as either Hans or Fritz.
I went ten years or so
Til the teacher put me thru
With an average grade of almost 62.
I tried to farm about eight years, I think
But I could never even raise a stink.
I put out kafir corn,
And the wind made it look forlorn.
And I soon went broke, as sure as you are born!
I bought me up some horses and mules,
There were bigger men, but none were bigger fools.
I blowed in all my dough,
Buying Pete and Jim and Joe,
If the bank will lend me a dollar, I don't know,
The tractor took the place of Jim and Joe,

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

Of what I made on them, I could not
crow.
Mules were poor property in 1926,
I sold them just like selling stix,
And was right up in the swim when I
had but six
But what I did in 1926,
Put me in one dickens of a fix,
I bought me up a Star,
And thought I had a car!
But from that, I found that I was awful
far.
In 1927, I bought a Maxwell,
The old boat would get out and run like
h___!
I jimied the back main bearing,
Til the oil came out a raring
And the bill would almost start one out
a swearing.
In '28, I bought a Chevrolet,
Two thirds of it was all that I could pay.
I called upon my sis, She paid without
a miss.
And I still think it beats a model T liz.
If that would not make a man forlorn,
I failed on grass and kafir corn,
I put our feteria,
White cattle came to eat 'er,
I think I've almost strained my every
leader!
In 1929, I bought a calf,
And soon the market price began to lag.
I paid almost 40 dollars,
And never made a holler.
But next time will someone grab me by
the collar?
And now I have begun to sowing wheat,
And this year I've raised nothing else
but cheat
It got six inches high,
In the twinkling of an eye.
And if anyone goes broke, 'twill sure
be I.
In '30, I bought a truck, a Chevrolet,
She eats so much I'd like to feed her
hay:
She'd run a mile a minute.
I raised nothing to put in it,
And I think that I have surely gone my
limit.!

Ben commented that everything in
this poem was true, except one thing.
In truth, he had problems, but slowly
and continually gained wealth. Ben was
a caretaker of the earth, always trying

to make improvements such as plant-
ing trees or building terraces. He raised
wheat and cattle, he said if one failed
the other carried him through. He rented
and farmed the land of landlords who
didn't farm, and cared for it as if it were
his own land. Except for the house, Ben
built all the buildings that currently
stand on the farm, doing most of the
labor by himself. To put up the rafters
of the shed, he stacked up bales of hay
so he could carry one end up as far as
possible on one side, then the other end
up the other side, until he could nail
them in place. Ben inherited Bernhard's
talent of healing horses. During the de-
pression a common horse illness was a
problem in the neck. Ben figured out
how to treat this and sometimes bought
ill horses, healed them, and sold them
to make needed income.

When he was 42, Ben married Leona
Elizabeth Buehler Albrecht on January
23, 1951. Leona was the widow of
Ben's cousin, Leonard Albrecht, who
had died of pneumonia nine months af-
ter their marriage, leaving Leona four
months pregnant with their daughter,
Anna Marjorie, born October 23, 1929.
Marj was 24 years old when Leona
married Ben. Marj married Larry
Donahue and they live on the Donahue
home place northeast of Plains, Kan-
sas. They have five children: Greg, Ann,
Janet, Gary and Regina. Gregory Jo-
seph, born May 30, 1958, lives in Plains
and farms with his Dad and Uncle. Ann
Michelle, born August 11, 1959, mar-
ried Tim Taylor, they have four children
and live in Oklahoma. Ann was born
on Ben's 54th birthday and her young-
est son was born as Ben died. Janet
Laureen, born February 10, 1960, mar-
ried Ted Brock, they have three chil-
dren and live in Dodge City. Gary
Gerard, born May 7, 1963, is single and
lives in Wichita. Regina Kay, born Oc-
tober 21, 1964, married Eric Victor, they
have one child and live in Hays, Kan-
sas.

Ben and Leona had two children,
John and Theresa. John Bernard born
May 11, 1952, is single and now owns
and lives on the family farm. John has
an inventive mind and like to build im-
provements into his equipment and ve-

hicles. John follows Ben's example in
being a favorite uncle to nieces and
nephews.

Ben and Leona's daughter is Theresa
Mary, born April 4, 1954. She married
Roger Settle. They live in Dodge City
and have one daughter, Mary Laurine,
born December 14, 1982. Theresa is
keeping current the family records left
by her grandmother and mother. Theresa
inherited Mary's gift as a seam-
stress, and a cherished striking clock
that was given to Bernhard and Mary
as a wedding gift in 1899. Her husband,
Roger, keeps it wound for her.

Ben died suddenly April 23, 1990,
shortly after Theresa's 36th birthday.
Leona felt very alone and followed in
death October 13, 1991, shortly before
Marjorie's 62nd birthday and the birth
date of her sister-in-law, Alice. Ben and
Leona had a unique unity in their mar-
riage that was an inspiration to others.
They are buried in Fowler, Kansas.

Samuel Clement, born January 1,
1908, was the second child Bernhard
and Mary gave back to God. He was
about two and a half months old when
he died, March 20, 1908. He is also
buried in Norborne.

Charles Oliver Weber was born De-
cember 26, 1909, in Norborne, Mis-
souri. He was the sixth of Bernhard and
Mary's seven children. He married
Marie Gerber in Fowler. They lived one
place for a time, then moved to the cur-
rent residence about 15 miles southwest
of Fowler. Oliver built the home using
some materials salvaged from a build-
ing scheduled for demolition. Oliver
raised laying chickens, turkeys and hogs
at different times. He started the dairy
operation which is currently being man-
aged by his son, David. At one time,
Oliver and his brother Ben raised
skunks, and sold their pelts for use in
making coats.

Oliver was also a joking person.
Oliver always bought Fords while Ben
preferred Chevrolets. One time they
raced from the home in Ford County to
the mailbox one-half mile away. The
Ford was quick to get going so Oliver
was ready to start back before Ben's
Chevy (slower to warm up) was just
getting out of the driveway. Many Sun-

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

day dinners and afternoons were shared by Oliver and Ben's families at either of their homes. Oliver died after fighting leukemia for about two years, on October 10, 1992. October is the birth month of one of his children and four grandchildren, one of whom was killed in an auto accident 11 months after his death. His sister-in-law, Leona, died less than one year before his death. He is buried in Fowler. His widow, Marie, is the only Weber left of that generation.

Charles Oliver and Marie (Gerber) Weber had 10 children: Irene, Thelma, David, Marvin, Dennis, Ivan, Arlene, Mark, Anthony Dale and Richard. Irene Marie was born August 22, 1937. She married Joe Howell. Irene and Joe live in Goddard, Kansas. They have seven children: Debra Ann, Shari Lynn, Kimberly Kay, Tamara Jo, Jeffrey Todd, Curtis Brian, Michelle Rene. There are nine grandchildren. Thelma Rose was born January 9, 1940. She married Garry McKissick. They have two children: Trenton Dean and Troy Alan. There are five grandchildren. They live in Wichita, Kansas. David Charles was born July 3, 1942. He married Sarah Bouilly. They have six children: Stacy Renae, Brian Van, Lance Charles, Derek Paul, Craig Alan, Jason John. There is one grandchild. Marvin Joseph was born January 31, 1944. He lives in Denver. Dennis William was born June 14, 1946. He married Jackie Smith. They live in San Marcos, California. They have two children: Nikki Marie and Shawn William. Ivan Lee was born April 11, 1948. He married Diane Marie Neifert. They have two children: Toby Lee and Ryan Lee. They lived in Glen Elder, Kansas. Diane died of cancer on September 11, 1994. Arlene Ann was born May 15, 1950. She married Sid O'Dell Carlile. They have two children: Matthew O'Brian and Holly Marie. They live in Hays, Kansas. Mark Alan was born October 1, 1954. He married Penny Peterson. They have one child: Justin Alan. They live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Anthony Dale was born December 15, 1955, is single, lives in Fowler, Kansas. Richard Dean married Sharri Young, he farms near Fowler.

Clotilda Elizabeth Weber was born

May 19, 1912. She was a jolly person, and would sing as she worked. She was her sister Alice's bridesmaid. At the age of almost 21 years, she was the third child of Bernhard and Mary's to precede them in death on February 27, 1933. Her mother said that before she died, she raised up in bed, held out her arms to Jesus and slumped back. She is buried in Fowler.

In 1995, descendants of Bernhard and Mary living in Ford County are: their grandson John Weber, who lives on the home place; granddaughter Theresa Settle, her husband Roger and daughter Mary, living in Dodge City; and great-granddaughter Janet Brock, her husband Ted and children, Krista, Tanner and Trevor, also living in Dodge City. Seventeen other descendants live nearby in Meade County.

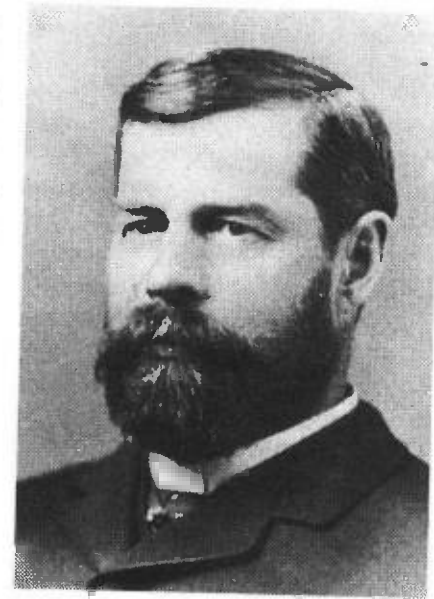
Theresa Weber Settle

A.B. WEBSTER

During its first 15 years of existence, Dodge City was never as wild and woolly as TV and the movies portrayed it, but it was an exciting place to live. In the middle of it all was A.B. Webster.

Webster, a veteran of the Civil War, left his home in New York City in 1869 and journeyed to Hays City, Kansas. After arriving, he opened a general store, and served as a dispatch rider between various frontier forts. It wasn't long before Webster made a name for himself. The stories vary, but apparently Webster was part of a committee of concerned citizens that were delegated to deliver a notice to a group of troublemakers telling them they were to leave town. The rest of the committee failed to show up so Webster delivered the note. Later in the day the leader of the group, named Weiss, showed up at Webster's store to kill the messenger. Webster, expecting trouble, out-drew the ruffian and killed him. Weiss's friends began firing and a small war started until Wild Bill Hickock arrived on the scene and took over.

Webster moved to Dodge City in 1872, becoming one of its first citizens. Within a short time he was in the dry goods business on the corner of Front Street and First Avenue, opposite Beatty



A.B. Webster

& Kelley's saloon and restaurant. In July 1878, he purchased the Sitler brick yard supplying bricks for government contracts at forts in Oklahoma and for much of the building in the Dodge City area, including the first Third Ward school. He later opened a lumber yard. In April 1885, he formed a partnership with Brick Bond and opened a drugstore. This business prospered and was enlarged to include wholesale drugs for the trade area.

Webster was also involved in the saloon business. He owned the building that housed the Old House saloon at First and Front Streets, and opened the Stock Exchange Saloon in the building between Wright, Beverley & Co. and the Long Branch Saloon. The Long Branch would have been the second building east of where the longhorn statue now stands.

Several years later, in 1884, he purchased the Marble Hall in Kansas City that was a very nice saloon and restaurant. He traveled back and forth between Kansas City and Dodge City as he managed his business interests in both areas.

In March 1881, Webster was appointed acting sheriff for the ailing George Hinkle and then took office as mayor of Dodge City in April 1881. He was determined to clean up Dodge and enforce city ordinances already in place.

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

The "fighting mayor" was in the middle of everything. It was inevitable that a show down would occur between various factions in town. In April 1883, many differences culminated in the Dodge City Saloon War. The contest was between Webster, Deger and other friends against Luke Short, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and similar characters. It was a bloodless war with negotiations settling differences and creating understanding.

Webster was involved with many community activities besides holding public office. He helped form the Ford County Irrigation Company, the Electric Light and Steam Heating Company, was a member of the Ingalls Town Company and was on the board of directors of the Dodge City Mining Company (a group of Dodge City speculators that conducted mining operations in Colorado for several years) and helped create the Board of Health—one of the first in Kansas. He was the organizer of the Dodge City Bull Fight.

Webster and his family lived a number of places in Dodge. He built a new home at 811 West Chestnut that he later sold to Colonel R.J. Hardesty and his new bride. This is the Hardesty House that is found today at the Boot Hill Replica. Webster also built another nice home on Railroad Avenue (Central Avenue). This home he sold to Charles Rath. Mrs. Rath, (later Mrs. Bainbridge) lived in the house the rest of her life. It was moved to 211 Military when the area was cleared for the Lora Locke Hotel.

The Websters lived a number of places in Dodge including farms they owned near town. Mrs. Webster usually spent the winter in Rochester, New York, where their children went to school. Webster was elected major again in 1886. Bad health began to catch up with him. He spent time at various health spas trying to find relief from rheumatism. A.B. Webster died at the home of his niece, Mrs. M.W. Sutton, on April 12, 1887. He was 41 years of age.

Webster's funeral was probably the largest service ever held in Dodge City. More than 1,000 persons attended from

as far away as Larned. He was buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery north of town.

Noel Ary
The Dodge City Legend,
Oct./Nov./Dec. 1993

Used by Permission of KC Printing,
Dodge City, Kansas

HERMAN AND CHRISTINA

SIEBERT WEISS

Herman Christian Weiss was born in April 1852, in Muelsen, St. Michlen, at Zurickau Saxony, Germany. In 1872, at the age of 20, he came to America. He first settled in Butler Co., Pennsylvania. In June 1874, he married Christina Siebert. Christina was born April 12, 1854.

In October 1877, he left Pennsylvania, rode the train for five days and finally arrived in Kansas. He homesteaded on land south and a little west of Offerle. In December, the mother and two small sons joined him. Like all pioneers they had hard times. Farming was the aim, but difficult to get started. They had a few cattle, hogs and chickens. Traveling across country on the Butter and Egg Road, the mother sold farm eggs and homemade butter in Dodge City. They raised their own vegetables. It was really a trying time for them. Herman Weiss worked on the railroad during these bad times. Mrs. Weiss stayed home with the children. One day some cowboys came by and drove their cattle through her garden. When she asked them to go around it, they chased her into her house with a six shooter. Other hardships endured by the family were the droughts, grasshoppers, the blizzard of 1886, and prairie fires. They lost their home to fire in 1891.

Herman Weiss was active in community activities. He was one of the first to help organize the Zion Lutheran Congregation in 1878. This church still stands in eastern Ford County. In the past the congregation has had four addresses. The original location was Wheatland Township, Ford County; between 1898 and 1905, it was in Windthorst; from 1905 to 1960, it was at Bellefont and since then it has been in Offerle. In the year Zion was orga-

nized, Indians made their last raid in Kansas and Bat Masterson was elected sheriff of Ford County. Until their farms became profitable, many early settlers earned a living by working for the railroad as it extended its rails toward Colorado. Other men collected and sold buffalo bones from the prairie. Mr. Weiss was an active member of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, organized in 1891, and the Farmers State Bank organized in 1913. He served as director and president of the bank for twenty years or more. He was one of the organizers of the Offerle Co-op Grain and Supply and served as one of the directors for thirty years. Mrs. Weiss was killed in a fall from her wagon. This happened between Offerle and Kinsley when a train whistled and frightened her horse causing him to rear. She fell from the wagon and was killed on March 3, 1910.

Children of Herman Christian Weiss and Christina Siebert Weiss were: Harry, Frederick, Etha, Albert, Edwin, Walter, William, Maria Magdalena (Lena), Christina, and Meta Juliana.

Harry G. was born February 14, 1875, in Butler Co., Pennsylvania. He came to Kansas with his mother and younger brother Fred in 1877, where they joined Mr. Weiss who came ear-



Herman Christian and Christina Siebert Weiss

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

lier. He told of living with his uncle George Siebert on the bank of Coon Creek. George evidently had to live there to claim his homestead. Later the family moved to the present homestead in Wheatland Township, a little over a mile from Zion Church. As a young man, Harry operated a threshing machine in Russell County for the Dunker and Hermann Company. Later he and his father purchased a threshing machine of their own and he threshed for 52 seasons. He spent many nights sleeping in the haylofts and straw stacks. On May 29, 1902, Harry married Martha Brandel in the home of the bride's parents in Gray County near Ensign. They had two sons, Edward and Alvin and one daughter, Elsie. Harry died March 20, 1963, and Martha died June 23, 1991. *Edward* was born February 22, 1903, on the home farm south of Offerle. He married Esther Ley August 18, 1925. They bought a farm in Pleasant Valley three and a half miles south of his father's farm. They had three daughters, Leona, Maurita and Norma. Ed attended the Hutchinson Vocational School where he studied mechanics. He operated his first repair shop on his father's farm and later moved his shop to his farm. He was active in his community. He was on the Pleasant Valley School board for 25 years; on the Pleasant Valley township board for 25 years; served a number of years on the Offerle Cooperative board and was active in his church. He died June 21, 1991. *Alvin* was born October 1, 1904. He married Edna Rau and lived on the home place until they moved to Garden City. They had three children, Earl, Philip and Mildred. He was on the Board of Directors of the Edwards County Hospital for 22 years and on the Board of the Ford County Mutual Insurance Co., for many years and on the Board of District #14 until it was closed. He was active in the Zion Lutheran Church. He died April 20, 1975. *Elsie* was born October 8, 1906. She married Herman Wetzel and had two sons, Carol and Edgar. They lived on a farm in eastern Ford County. They moved to Offerle in 1974, then to a retirement center in Spearville.

Frederick was born August 12, 1876. He married Frances Krumrey. They made their home four miles southwest of Offerle. Fred served on the Co-op board for a number of years and also on the District #2 School Board. He died September 9, 1939. They had two sons and three daughters, Carl, Edmund, Esther, Luella and Zelma. *Carl* married Anna Lobmeyer. They lived in the Ingalls area. They had seven children. *Edmund* married Avanelle Kurth. *Esther* married first John Demain, was divorced and married Jess Dawson. *Luella* never married and kept house for her Uncle Albert. *Zelma* married Clarence Mitchell.

Etha was born in September 1879. She married Rev. Louis Eschbach. They had six children: Herbert, Harry, Arthur, Viola, Kermit and Herman. Etha died April 5, 1961.

Albert was born March 8, 1882. He married Mary Raden. They had no children. He died April 1970.

Edwin was born February 17, 1884, on the family homestead. Early in 1900, he went to Kansas City and worked for the Santa Fe Railroad but was required to come home and help his father on the farm. He became the steam engine operator for his brother Harry's threshing crew, and did this for a number of years. At one time the engine blew up and he was badly burned. He was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church all his life. Three generations

worked on the Zion Lutheran Church; Herman Weiss helped build it in 1878, Edwin helped raise it and put a basement under it and his son Herman helped remodel it in 1951 and 1952.

Edwin was a farmer and a carpenter. He and Fred and Will Torline built many of the homes south of Offerle, also some in Offerle. He belonged to the Ford County Mutual Insurance Co. and was an adjuster for this company. He married Bertha Kurth. Their home was one-half mile north of Zion Church. They made their home there until 1943, when they moved to Dodge City. There he worked as a carpenter and cabinet maker until ill health caused him to quit working. Bertha died in 1953 and he lived with Arnold in Rangely, Colorado, then with Viola in Sacramento, California, and Montgomery, Alabama, but maintained his home with Elda in Dodge City, Kansas. Edwin died July 26, 1978.

Edwin and Bertha had seven children: Viola, Orville, Arnold, Meta, Elda, Herman and Jerome, who died in infancy. *Viola* married Rev. Carl T. Schmidt. Their first home was in Canada, then Carl joined the Air Force as a Chaplain and they lived in several places in the United States and in several foreign countries. They retired to Colorado Springs, Colorado. They had two daughters, Delores and Elizabeth. *Orville* was born April 13, 1912. He married Milda Mehl and they lived on



Back row, left to right: Bill, Lena, Fred, Harry, Tina and Walter. Front row: Albert, Etha Edwin and Julia.

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

a farm north of Dodge City and in Bucklin. They had two children, Gary and Delma. **Orville** died March 31, 1967. **Arnold** was born April 11, 1914. He married Florence Werner. They lived in Rangely, Colorado. They had two sons Walter and Anthony. Arnold died November 26, 1968. **Meta** was born June 10, 1916. She married Albert Mehl. They lived on a farm north of Bellefont. They had four children: Elden, Lois, Doris and Eileen. Albert died in 1986. Meta married Mark Komarek on April 15, 1990. They live in Dodge City. Elda was born August 2, 1919. She married Elmer Wetzel. They live in Dodge City. They have three children: Deanne, David and Debra. **Herman** was born September 15, 1922. He married V. Lou Hickman. They lived on the home place and then moved to Rangely, Colorado. They had three children, Janet, Keith and Nancy. They were divorced and Herman married Evelyn Brown and lived in Farmington, New Mexico. He died April 20, 1977.

Walter was born June 12, 1888. He died in 1924. He was never married.

William was born September 18, 1890 and died December 5, 1978. He married Lucy Wetzel. They had three children, Everett, Irene and Donald. They lived on a farm just south of the home. **Everett** married Phillis Maskus. They have two sons, Alan and Greg. They lived in the original homestead. **Irene** married William Maskus, they had four children. Kathy who died as a young child, William Jr., Stanley and Shirley. **Donald** married Gloria Bradley. They have four children: Bradley, William Brent, Todd and Christina. They lived in Dodge City.

Maria Magdalena (Lena) was born March 22, 1893 and died June 5, 1976. She married Carl Albert (A.C.) Kurth. They lived on a farm in eastern Ford County until they moved to western Edwards County. They had seven children: Woodrow, Homer, Reinhart, Gerhard, Gertrude, Vera and Wilma. **Rev. Woodrow** married Lucille Tollesen. They had three children. **Rev. Homer** married Evelyn Weber. They had five children. **Reinhart** (a twin) married

Myra Blem. They had seven children. **Gerhard** (a twin) never married. **Gertrude** married Rev. Louis Wittl. They have six children. **Vera** married Edgar Buss. They had three children. **Wilma** married Duane Lancaster. They had four children.

Christina was born August 18, 1898 and died March 25, 1975. She married Arthur Libhart. They had a daughter, Helen. They lived in Offerle and then on a farm home south of Offerle.

Meta Juliana was born November 27, 1900 and died May 13, 1993. She made her home with her father until he died then lived in Dodge City, and later on a farm with her sister, Christina.

Elda Weiss Wetzel

THE LOUIS WETZEL AND CHRISTINA LANG FAMILY

The story of the Louis Wetzel family and their settlement in Ford County, Kansas, can best be told from excerpts of a diary kept by one of their daughters. As Elizabeth Wetzel Westphal approached her 90th birthday, these are the remembrances she wrote. (Corrections have been made to the spelling and dates where applicable by the submitter.)

"My Father and Mother's Life Story"

by Elizabeth Wetzel Westphal
 "... Louis Wetzel was born March 7, 1843, at Saxony, Germany, and came with his parents, Gottlieb John Wetzel and Hannah R. Merkle, to America when he was one year old. My Grandpa, Gottlieb John Wetzel, had a large family. His children were: Gottlieb (March 6, 1828 - November 27, 1910), Christian (December 28, 1829 - December 28, 1905), Frederick (July 7, 1832 - February 18, 1912), Heinrich (1834-1907), Charles A. (May 1, 1845 - November 19, 1889), Eubemia, who married a man named "Leiske" and a girl who died at the age of 12.

My mother, Christina Lang, was born at Weilsdorf, Bavaria, Germany, on May 25, 1843. Christina was five years old when she came to America.

Christina's parents were John Lang, Sr., and M. Wolfram. They first settled in New Orleans, but left there and headed for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where John Lang, Sr. had a sister. While enroute, Christina's mother died on the boat. The captain pulled to shore so they could bury her somewhere along the Mississippi River. In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, John Lang, Sr. married Eva Kaufenstein. Their children were: Mar-



Louis Wetzel home, their first wooden house with shingled roof that they used. Standing, left to right: Charley, Will, Lizzie, Alice and Anna. Seated: Louis and Christina Lang Wetzel. Taken about 1891.

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

garet Catherine Lang Fielding (November 25, 1853 - February 4, 1915), Johan Adam Lang (born ca. 1855, died 1862), William Martin Lang (February 10, 1859 - November 10, 1943) and Henry J. Lang (October 1, 1862 - February 22, 1897).

After Eva died in 1863, John Lang Sr. married Elizabeth Kornrumpf and they had three children: Anna Elizabeth Lang Sachs (July 30, 1866 - June 15, 1950), John C. Lang (August 8, 1867 - October 17, 1949) and George A. "Sammy" Lang (October 12, 1869 - December 31, 1952). All other siblings of Louis and Christina Wetzel stayed in Pennsylvania.

Louis Wetzel and Christina Lang were married February 26, 1865, in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania (now known as North Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). My Dad (Louis) worked in a coal mine and also a foundry. The coal miners could just walk into the mountains. The mountains were all lit up with little lights on their caps. Mother said she often watched until the lights all disappeared.

After my father, Louis, quit the coal mine and the foundry, he went back to his father's home near Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, and took over his little farm and also took care of his parents. Louis and Christina also rented a farm close by. Five children were born to Louis and Christina while they were living in Pennsylvania. They were: Mary, Henry George, William John, Anna Catherine "Katie," and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Laura.

Finally my father got the "wunderlust," as his family was growing and he could not make enough on those little farms in Pennsylvania. My father had a sale and sold everything but what he could pack in trunks. Louis and Christina boarded a train at Delano, Pennsylvania, and came to Kansas.

The further west we went, the wind was blowing real hard. Here and there a little house with miles between. Father got homesick and said to mother, "What shall we do? Get a ticket right back to Pennsylvania?"

Mother, said, "No, that won't do."

So they bought a ticket right back to

eastern Kansas, near Lawrence, Kansas, a place called Willow Springs. Father rented a farm from a widow; a young couple by the name of Jackson lived in one room and all of us in the other part. While in Willow Springs, Charley August Wetzel was born.

One day, a friend of my folks came from Pennsylvania to see us. He, too, had the "wunderlust." Herman Weiss said to my Dad, "We cannot buy land here. We must go further west where we can get land free by living on it."

So one day Dad and Herman Weiss started out west and they got to Ford Co., Kansas. Things looked better. There were more settlers and more little houses built. They went seven miles south of Offerle, which was a little station then. Weiss was a carpenter and he was to put up a sod building for my Dad which had a shingle roof, two windows, one west and one east, with the door in the south end. My dad bought a "mans wright" or papers from this man where Weiss should build the sod house. My Dad found out later the sod house was on another man's ground and the well was just on the line and the barn was on some other man's property. The barn

was of lumber and only big enough for two horses.

When all was done (barn, and sod house built) Mother and the four kids (Mary, Katie, Lizzie, and baby Charley) came by train. Father, Henry and William came by wagon. We had three cows: Willie, Lillie and Lady. Father loaded everything in the wagon: the boys could drive the cows. It was in March 1878, when the cows wouldn't eat any dry feed any more, they found plenty of green grass. Rattle snakes were plenty. As I said before, we had three cows. Lillie was bitten by a rattle-snake. An old-timer came along just then. He cut a big whole [sic] where the cow was bitten and he filled it with chewing tobacco—he must have had a big wad in his mouth. She had been giving a big bucket of milk. She dropped to about one-half cupful of milk and it was as yellow as gold. We milked her on the ground. It took a long time before she got over it.

I don't know how long we lived in the sod house. Later when land was all measured out, my Dad built a frame house and used the same shingle roof of the sod house on it. Those old timers



Standing, left to right: Anna Catherine "Katie" Henning, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Laura Westphal, William John Wetzel, Henry George Wetzel, Anna Kregar, Mary Taylor. Seated: Louis and Christina Lang Wetzel. Taken about 1915.

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

had a hard time, some loaded all what they had on wagon and left the country for good. My Dad had planned to leave the country. They had wrote [sic] a letter to a party at Willow Springs to meet us, but for some reason he did not mail it. Perhaps he did not have the two pennies. It hadn't rained for a long time, but that night we got a big rain and things looked a little brighter. My parents had lots of courage and lots of hope for better days.

Spearville was nine miles west where they done [sic] most of their trading. Henry, my oldest brother, needed a pair of shoes. My Dad told Mr. Leidge the man of the store his hard luck story; one cow was fresh, and the other one would be fresh soon, if he would trust him with a pair of shoes. The store man shrugged his shoulders and said, "if it was a sack of flour, he could do it, but not on a pair of shoes." At that time there were only two stores at Spearville. My Dad walked out, with a heavy heart, and went to the other store. This one owned by a Jew. My Dad told him the same story. "Yes, I will trust you with a pair of shoes for the boy," the Jew said.

One day a man came to our door. His wife was working at Fort Dodge for Mr. Langton. His wife was ready to come home. Her husband should find a good woman to work in her place, to work for the Langtons. I will first say who the Langtons were. The Langtons were wealthy people, a brother and two sisters who came out west for their health. The brother had a grocery store. The girls kept house at Fort Dodge. The Langtons lived at the edge of the Fort, up on the hill where the hospital is now. The soldiers were at Fort Dodge at this time. Mr. Langton also had a bunch of sheep. Mother went to work for the Langtons. She took Charley with her. He was just a little fellow, two, going on three. Mother was paid \$15 a month. Mary, my oldest sister (age 14) worked for a Mrs. Gaudy in Dodge City. She could help Mrs. Gaudy wash dishes and such. And brother William (age 11) went and herded sheep for Mr. Langton, and stayed with Mother and Charley. Father tried to farm. Later he did some freighting from Dodge City to Fort

Dodge such as coal and groceries. Sometimes he took a wagon load of soldiers to Dodge and waited until they were ready to come back to the Fort. The Soldiers, they paid good for the trip. Father had a big pair of mules and a wagon. He, too, could stay overnight at the Langtons with Mother. The Langtons never charged him room rent or board, or barn rent for his mules. Henry, Katie and I took care of things on the farm. (Henry was 12 years old, Katie was eight and Lizzie was seven.) Henry did the cooking, he never spanked me but he would say, "Liz, if you don't behave, you will have to stay outdoors all night." I guess that's why I'm such a coward still. Sometimes Dad could not come home for two weeks—Dodge was 30 miles from where we lived. A Mr. Fredlake, a German Catholic and his family, lived $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from us. He looked after us. "Children, if there is something wrong, just call, just call," he told us. Sometimes our parents would send some groceries with Mr. Fredlake and if it was too late when he got home, he surely was over early the next day to deliver them. That summer I was going on eight years old and Mary made me a dress from one that she had outgrown and I was to come to Dodge City to try it on. That day was so very long . . ."

Louis Wetzel's obituary [stated]: ". . . As a member of the Lutheran Church from the east, he at once, after he had settled on his homestead, showed an active hand and heart in organizing a Lutheran Congregation in his new community and thus he became one of the original organizers of the E.V. Lutheran Church near which his body is now laid to rest . . ."

This church, located in eastern Ford County, is Zion Lutheran Church, the mother church of Lutheran congregations in Southwest Kansas. It was organized on September 29, 1878, a constitution adopted and signed by the following charter members: Moritz Israel, Julius Israel, Gustav Israel, Carl Gueldner, Robert Gueldner, Louis Wetzel, Carl Reich, Herman Weiss, John Schultz, and Moritz Schmidt. Moritz Israel, Carl Gueldner, and Louis



Louis and Christina Lang Wetzel

Wetzel were elected as the first elders of the congregation.

Land Owned by Louis Wetzel and his Son

The following is a list of land owned by Louis Wetzel and also who owns it at the present time. All land is located in Township 26 South of Range 21 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, except where otherwise noted.

March 16, 1885—Purchased W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ S14 from Carl and Minnie Reich of Ford County, Kansas. Price \$180 for 80 acres. Carl Reich homesteaded this on September 10, 1883. Present owners: Louis R. and Gertrude A. Wetzel. Louis R. Wetzel is a great-grandson of Louis Wetzel.

January 18, 1888—Homesteaded E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S10. 80 acres. This is the Louis Wetzel home place. Present owners: Alan L. and Diana L. Wetzel. Alan L. Wetzel is a great-grandson of Louis Wetzel.

October 25, 1888—Purchased E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ S10 from Adolf and Elisabeth Fredelake of Ford County, Kansas. Price \$600 for 80 acres. Adolf Fredelake homesteaded this on February 25, 1885. Present owners: Alan L. and Diana L. Wetzel.

November 28, 1890—Purchased W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S10 from Joseph and Mary Antermeyer of Buchanan County, Missouri. Price \$500 for 80 acres. Present owners: Alan L. and Diana L. Wetzel.

December 26, 1891—Louis Wetzel

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

Timber Culture Claim #36. Application 3502 at the Garden City Land Office for the NE 1/4 S22, containing 160 acres. His son, Will Wetzel bought this land from him on December 17, 1897. Present owner: Kevin Setzkorn, great-great-grandson of Louis Wetzel.

September 28, 1896—Purchased SE 1/4 S22 & L5 & 6 in S27 from Hubert A. and Emma Holtfreich of Ford County, Kansas. Price \$1,000. This land was sold on June 30, 1917, to Will Wetzel. Present owner: Kevin Setzkorn.

June 14, 1897—Purchased W 1/2 S11 from J.T. and S.L. (his wife) Carpenter of Sedgwick County, Kansas. Price \$1,000 for 320 acres. Present owners: Alan L. and Diana L. Wetzel and Louis R. and Gertrude A. Wetzel.

A 1906 Edwards County Plat book shows that Louis Wetzel also owned the N 1/2 NW 1/4 S21 T26S R20W. This book also shows that Henry Wetzel owned the E 1/2 SW 1/4 S18, the NE 1/4 S19 and the N 1/2 S20 T26S R20W. A 1916 Ford County Plat book shows that Louis Wetzel owned the SE 1/4 S22, the SE 1/4 S10, the E 1/2 SW 1/4 S10 and the W 1/2 of S11, all in T26S R21W. This plat book also shows Will Wetzel owned the NE 1/4 S25 and the NE 1/4 S22 T26S R21W. This land is presently owned and farmed by Leroy and Steven Wetzel, great-nephews of Will Wetzel.

The Descendants of Louis and Christina Lang Wetzel

Louis and Christina had seven children. Five of them, Mary, Henry, William, Katie (Anna Catherine) and Elizabeth, were born in Butler County, Pennsylvania. Charley was born in Willow Springs, Kansas, and Anna was born in Ford County, Kansas. More information on these families is given below.

Mary (December 21, 1865 - February 22, 1954) married August Taylor September 16, 1885, in Dodge City, Kansas. They lived in Pueblo, Colorado, and had three children: Walter (August 21, 1888 - November 5, 1961), Louis (September 22, 1891 - June 15, 1953) and Edna Elizabeth (March 6, 1894 - November 25 1894). Mary also had a daughter, Alice (November 25, 1882 - April 8, 1963), wife of Fred

Quasebarth, who was raised by Louis and Christina Wetzel. Mary lived in Pueblo, Colorado, since 1885 and for 32 years was a custodian at the Corona School. She also came back to Kansas to help care for her parents shortly before their deaths in 1923 and 1925. During this time she lived with her sister "Lizzie" Westphal in Kinsley, Kansas. She is buried in Roselawn Cemetery, Pueblo, Colorado.

Henry George Wetzel (February 25, 1867 - April 9, 1940) married Emma Strowhitz on April 6, 1890, at Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle, Kansas. Henry homesteaded land in Edwards County, three miles east of his father, Louis Wetzel. The land homesteaded by Henry is the SE 1/4 S18 T26S R20W. This land is presently owned and farmed by Henry's grandson, Leroy Wetzel. In addition to farming, Henry took an active part in community affairs. He served as a director of the Offerle Co-op for 15 years, and as treasurer of School District No. 47 from 1904 until his death. He also served as a township trustee, treasurer and clerk at various times. He was active in the Zion Lutheran Church serving as treasurer and elder. Henry and Emma had 11 children. They are: Edward, William, Lucy, Frances, Harry, Albert, Herman, Emil, Elmer, Herbert and Ella. 1. **Edward Wetzel** (January 25, 1891 - April 5, 1987) married Lillie Ley. They had three children: Raymond and Loretta of Offerle, and Hazel of Dodge City, Kansas. They farmed land close to Henry Wetzel in western Edwards County. This land is now farmed by Raymond. 2. **William "Billy" Wetzel** (November 27, 1894 - February 18, 1991) married Lucy Demain. They had nine children: Vernon, Kinsley; Edith Larson, dec.; Velma Williamson, dec.; Erna Sanko, Ordway, Colorado; Eugene, dec.; Robert, dec.; Dorothy Riddle, Pawnee Rock, Kansas; Merlyn, Hutchinson, Kansas, and Carolyn Langley, Hugoton, Kansas. William Wetzel farmed land in eastern Ford county and also did construction work. 3. **Lucy Wetzel** (June 12, 1896 - December 7, 1981) married William Weiss. They had three children: Everett, Offerle; Irene Maskus, Jetmore, Kan-

sas. and Donald, Dodge City, Kansas. They farmed land in eastern Ford County. Lucy and William Weiss also lived in Dodge City for a few years and worked as caretakers for the Cave family on La Vista Blvd. Everett lives on the original Weiss homestead and continues to farm. 4. **Frances Wetzel** (May 24, 1898 - July 9, 1985) never married, but stayed at the home place helping to take care of her siblings and her mother until her death. 5. **Harry H. Wetzel** (December 3, 1899 - July 28, 1971) married Dora Froetschner, daughter of Alvin and Sophie Froetschner. They had five children: Kathleen Pickard, Lamar, Colorado; LaVern, Kinsley, Kansas; Leroy and Steven, Offerle, Kansas; and Joanne VanCoevern, Salina, Kansas. Harry farmed land next to the original Henry Wetzel homestead. This land, as well as several other acres in western Edwards and eastern Ford counties is presently farmed by LaVern, Leroy and Steven Wetzel. 6. **Albert Wetzel** (November 15, 1901 - October 27, 1985) married Martha Craighead. They had no children. Albert lived on and farmed the original Henry Wetzel homestead, as well as the August Strowhitz homestead and other land until his death. 7. **Herman Wetzel** (December 8, 1903 - December 24, 1992) married Elsie Weiss. They had two children: Carol, Spearville, Kansas, and Edgar, Great Bend, Kansas. Herman farmed land in eastern Ford county and upon retirement moved to Offerle. This land is now owned by his nephews, Leroy and Steven Wetzel. 8. **Emil Wetzel** (December 4, 1906 - March 11, 1966) married Bertha Wagner. They lived in Pratt, Kansas, where he was a star-route mail carrier. They had two children: Walter, Reno, Nevada, and Kenneth, deceased. 9. **Elmer Wetzel** (September 21, 1908) married Elda Weiss. They had three children: Deann Drach, Garden City, Kansas; David, Breckenridge, Colorado, and Debra West, Oceanside, California. Elmer and Elda live in Dodge City, Kansas. Elmer worked for the Fidelity State Bank until his retirement. 10. **Herbert Wetzel** (March 14, 1911 - February 26, 1985) married Hilda Kregar. They had three children: Vir-

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

ginia Goldsberry. Dodge City, Kansas; Elizabeth Maskus Mobley, Beaver, Oklahoma, and Paul, Offerle. Herbert farmed land near the Henry Wetzel homestead. This land is now being farmed by his son, Paul. 11. *Ella Wetzel* (born September 14, 1913 -) married Ervin Schneidewind. Ella and Ervin ran a creamery in Ness City, Kansas. They moved to Larned, Kansas, where they owned Larned Floral and then back to Ness City. They had no children.

William John Wetzel (November 28, 1868 - September 17, 1927) married Bertha Ley, November 8, 1896, at Zion Lutheran Church. On December 26, 1891, Louis Wetzel filed a timber claim on the NE 1/4 S22 T26S R21W containing 160 acres. Will Wetzel bought this land from Louis on December 17, 1897. Will and Bertha had two children: Carl H. Wetzel (August 6, 1897 - May 19, 1969) and Alma (August 20, 1901 - September 13, 1984). Alma married William Froetschner, son of Alvin and Sophie Froetschner on May 24, 1936. Alma and William "Bill" Froetschner and her brother Carl "Charley" lived and farmed the homestead until their deaths. They had no children. Will Wetzel was also an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, serving as an elder for 25 years, as well as treasurer and secretary for a number of years. Will and Bertha Wetzel are buried at the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Anna Catherine "Katie" Wetzel (February 5, 1871 - April 30, 1960) married Henry A. Henning. Henry Henning came to Spearville Twp. Ford County in 1885. from Quincy, Illinois. He and Katie lived on this farm until 1921, when they moved into Bucklin. The Hennings had six children, five girls and one boy. Henry Henning, Jr. preceded his father in death. The girls were: Anna, who married P.G. Krause; Rosa, who married Earl Dixon; Amelia "Mollie" who married Edward Kurth; Alice who married Grant Powers and Dorothea, who married Ted Boger. The Hennings were active members of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Bucklin, of which Katie was a charter member of its Ladies' Aid Society. The Hennings are buried at Bucklin Cemetery.

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Laura Wetzel (August 19, 1872 - March 11, 1966) married William J. Westphal. They lived on a farm northwest of Kinsley, Kansas. Some years after the death of her husband she moved to Kinsley. Then for a number of years she and her daughter made their home in Dodge City and thereafter at Lincolnville and Haven, Kansas. Three children were born to this family. They were: Robert Westphal who married Persis Dixon; William J.L. Westphal who married Angie Welsh and Ernestine who married Rev. Karl J. Karstensen. The Westphals are buried at Hillside Cemetery near Kinsley.

Charley August Wetzel (September 25, 1877 - December 7, 1957) married Laura Krupp. Charley was a baby when his parents, Louis and Christina, settled in Ford County. Charley took over the family farm and spent the remainder of his life there except for about seven years when he and his wife and two children lived in Kinsley. He was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church and served as treasurer. Five children were born to this marriage. One son, T.G., and two daughters. Ella and Rosa died in infancy. The other two children are Harry W. Wetzel and Clara Wetzel Froetschner. *Harry W.* was born in 1906 and married Helen Kuhn in 1928. Their children are: Robert "Bobby" Wetzel who married Thelma Setzkorn; Elvira, who married Delbert Setzkorn; Bonnie who married Clarence Drewes; Alan who married Diana McKee and Louis who married Gertie Schmidt. Bonnie and Clarence Drewes live in Dodge City. Their children are Delissa and Cedric. The other four children all live within two miles of the original Louis Wetzel farmstead and farm his original holdings. *Clara Wetzel* was born in 1913 and married Harry Froetschner, son of Alvin and Sophie Froetschner, in 1935. Harry and Clara lived on a farm southeast of Offerle, in Edwards County. Their children are: Marilyn, Kermit, James, and Jerome. Marilyn married Jack Kersting, and



Louis and Christina Lang Wetzel family in 1915 on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

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

lives south of Offerle. Kermit married Nina Beth Hensleigh and lives north of Spearville. James married Karen Katz and lives northwest of Kinsley, and Jerome married Beth Montano and lives in Colorado. Charley Wetzel and his wife Laura are buried at the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Anna Wetzel (April 30, 1883 - June 14, 1929) married Herman G. Kregar. They moved from the Windthorst community to Dodge City, where Herman worked in the railroad roundhouse and also owned and operated a taxicab service. They had two children: Elsie, who married Ernest Genthe and Leonard, who married Ruby Yoss.

As reported by *The Lewis Press* of August 5, 1993: in July 1993, about 200 family members attended a Wetzel-Lang family reunion in Offerle. The family attended a special church service at Zion Lutheran Church to honor the founders of the church, one of whom was Louis Wetzel. Pastor Parks conducted the service in the way that services would have been held at the time of the founding of the church. Women sat on the left, men on the right. Part of the service was conducted in German. The offering was collected in the old offering bags connected to a long stick and passed in front of each person.

Despite the severe hardships faced by the Louis Wetzel family in their early years in Ford County, they persevered and succeeded in building a secure future for the generations to follow. Many of the descendants of the Louis Wetzel family still live in Ford County and surrounding areas.

Joanne VanCoevern

GEORGE AND ALICE WILCOXEN

George and Alice (Berry) Wilcoxon came to Ford County in 1885. They left Hopkins, Missouri, in northeast Missouri in 1884 by covered wagon. The couple with their two children, Jesse, born 1880 and Lulu, born 1882, reached Kingman, Kansas, where they stopped for the birth of their third child, Charles, on July 29, 1884. The family remained in Kingman during that fall and winter.

George began freighting from Kingman to Ford County in order to

support the family. On one of his trips one of the horses died and he finished the trip with an ox and horse combination for a team.

In the spring of 1885, the family arrived in Ford County by covered wagon. During the journey the baby, Charles, had become used to the banging of the pans in the wagon. When their journey ended, Charles was very fussy. To quiet him, his mother and sister, Lulu, would bang on a pan.

George was a cattleman. When he reached the dry Mulberry Creek, he dug down a way to the bottom of the creek bed and found water. He said, "This is where we are staying."

The Wilcoxens homesteaded about eight miles southwest of Ford. Their first home was a dugout just west of the creek. They went through the big blizzard of 1886. Their next two children were Bert, born 1888 and William or "Bill," born 1889. They built a sod house that was the first in Ford Township. Their last child, Lena, was born in 1894. During the mid-1890s, they built a frame house.

George Wilcoxon was instrumental in organizing the Mulberry School in 1887. It was located on the H.A. Rink land. There were 15 students the first year. The first board members were David Drake, John Powers and George Wilcoxon. George remained on the board until after 1900; Alice also served on the board.

Their family lived and grew up in that community. Their three sons, Jesse, Charles and Bill, farmed in the same township and lived on the same road. Lulu married John Reynolds and lived in Ford. Lena married a railroad man, George "Wellington" Tucker, and lived in Dodge City.

George and Alice Wilcoxon had four sons and two daughters: Jesse, Lulu, Charles, William, Lena and Bert.

Jesse I. and Nellie (Imboden) Wilcoxon had three children: Jesse I. "J.I." Jr., Alma (married Arnold) and Helen (married Steele). Lulu (Wilcoxon) and John Reynolds had four children: Marie (married Herzer), Georgia (married Wooley), Lester and Lola (married Andrews). Charles and Anna

(Hays) Wilcoxon had three children: Betty (married Gibson), Bob and Joe. William and Louvie (Murrell) Wilcoxon had four children: Clifford, Kenneth, June (married Estes) and Maida (married Benson). Lena (Wilcoxon) and George "Wellington" Tucker had three children: Vivian (married Allen), Lora (married Brown) and Bob. Bert Wilcoxon died of complications from measles. He caught a cold that turned to pneumonia one month before he was to marry Lena Imboden. She was the sister of Nellie Imboden who married Jesse I. Wilcoxon, Sr.

Descendants still living in Ford County in 1994, include three grandchildren: Jesse I. "J.I." Wilcoxon, Jr. of Dodge City, Helen (Wilcoxon) Steele of Ford and Vivian (Tucker) Allen of Dodge City. There are several great grandchildren. Two great grandsons living in Ford County, in 1994, are Jimmy Allen of Dodge City, and Alan Steele of Ford, Kansas.

Information from J.I. and Mary Wilcoxon and the 1985 Ford, Kansas, Centennial book.

DAVID DEWITT WINTAMUTE

David Dewitt Wintamute was born September 1, 1856, in Sussex Co., New Jersey. He came to Kansas in 1878 and settled on a homestead east of Dodge City on the Butter and Egg Road.

He improved and farmed the land, which at that time, was a large farm. He built a sod house and also built a large barn and other out-buildings. He had a shop, hog houses and a smoke house. There were no trees on Coon Creek, which was $\frac{1}{8}$ mile north of the house. He planted trees along the creek and today there are many trees found there. He planted many fruit trees, mostly apple and plum.

The refrigeration at that time was mainly running water. You set your buckets on jugs in a tub and ran water by them. To cool his food, he dug a hole in the creek bank over a spring and let the water run into the tub and out into the creek.

He married Laura Drew on October 14, 1883, in Osage County. Laura was born in Steuben Co., New York, on February 14, 1855. She had come to Kan-

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

sas with her sister and her husband. They settled in Osage County.

David and Laura had three children; Alma, Russell (Bud) and Dewitt (Major). They all grew up on the homestead. They lived in the sod house until a two-story modern house was built in 1917.

They raised lots of mules, which were their main source of power at that time. There are pictures showing three six-mule teams standing side by side ready to go to the field. It was quite a sight to watch them hitch the mules together and get them ready to go to the field.

In the fall they would butcher hogs and after the hogs were cut up, they were hung in the smoke house. The smoke house was a small building with hooks and racks along the sides and part of the ceiling. A small trench was then dug from the middle of the smoke house back some 10 or 12 feet. At that point they dug a hole which was used for the fire. The fire was covered so it would smoke really well and go through the trench to the smoke house. To make good smoke, they used fruit wood. After the smoking process was over, the meat was stored in a cave for use in the winter.

Alma married and had three children. Her married name was Hartman. She had two children who grew to adulthood.

Russell married Evelyn Reekie and they had seven children: Irene, Howard, David, Larea, Warren, Marie and Virginia. Irene and Howard were born on the homestead; the other children were born later. Evelyn Mae Reekie was born in Ellsworth County. She went with her parents, Henderson (Harry) and Cora Reekie to Oklahoma. They settled on Kiser Creek. At that time they lived among the Indians. They stayed there ten or twelve years. Then they came back to Great Bend for a time, then moved to a farm south of Spearville, which was one mile north of the Wintamute place. Dewitt was never married.

In the early teens (the date is unknown to the writer). David turned the farm over to the family and he went farther west. He settled in the San Luis

Valley, close to Alamosa, Colorado. He died in 1921, in a farm accident and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Howard Wintamute

THE WIRE, ARGABRIGHT, MILLER AND DEWELL FAMILIES

Thomas Wire, born 1744, who was the first member of the Wire family to come to the United States, was kidnapped on the streets of London, brought to this country and sold in Boston. He was taken in by a good family and lived with them until he was grown. When the American Revolution broke out, he enlisted and served throughout the war. He settled in Litchfield, Co., Connecticut, where he married Content Beach, daughter of Landa and Abigail Baldwin Beach and raised a family. He died June 15, 1800, Goshen, Connecticut. She died February 18, 1829, in Taylor, New York.

There are several rather interesting notes from early Wire history showing life as it was long ago.

Amyra Wire, the daughter of David and Olive Emmons Wire, married Levi Wheeler in 1815. It was the custom of Mr. Wheeler to start each son at age 21 with a team of horses, \$500 and a chest of bedding which had been woven by their mother. The chest was a simple box, hand made from lumber cut while clearing the home land. They had six sons.

Edward Andrews, the son of Minerva Wire Andrews and Ambrose Andrews, was "put out" to Garrett Pritchard when he was nine years old, soon after his mother's death. Pritchard was to give him a certain amount of education, a suit of clothes and \$100 when he was of age, but he did better than that for he gave him more than double when he was 21.

Melville Wire, son of Reverend Thomas Wire, born 1809, Goshen, Connecticut, stated: "My father was a good evangelist. He was a preacher of great power. He was six feet five and a half inches in height, had an expressive face, keen gray eyes and a tremendous voice. It was said when he preached at camp meeting he could be heard a mile."

A distant cousin, John Wire, the son of David and Catherine Pomeroy Wire, born June 18, 1852, settled in Kinsley, Kansas. He was very active in politics and served as Probate Judge. He was a farmer, politician and musician. He had a son, John, born May 16, 1892, who also had a son, John, born July 13, 1938, all of whom resided in Kinsley. I believe the youngest one served as Sheriff.

The three Wire sisters, Alida, Nellie and Lillie, were descendants of Thomas Wire and daughters of Valson Wire, son of Cyrus and Kezia Beebe Wire, Courtland Co., New York, who was born March 3, 1828, and died June 3, 1883, Winslow, Illinois. On April 23, 1856, he married Catherine Fravel who was born August 18, 1837, in Germany and died February 12, 1870. The Fravel family immigrated from Germany, in 1848. After Catherine died, he married Sarah Jane Hunt, starting another branch of the family. The Wires were buried at Christian Hollow, Stephenson Co., Illinois. He enlisted at Lena, Illinois, in Company A of the 92nd Regiment of Illinois Volunteers on August 13, 1862, and served in the Civil War. He was discharged at Smithland, Kentucky, February 3, 1863.

After the death of their parents, Alida, Nellie and Lillie were brought to Sedgwick, Kansas, by their brother, Carl Schurz Wire, born December 15, 1859, Winslow, Illinois; died June 1, 1929, in Pond Creek, Oklahoma. Carl and his family had moved to Pond Creek at the opening of the Cherokee Strip. He married Cora Emma Wales formerly of Winslow, Illinois, September 30, 1883, and moved to Sedgwick, Kansas. He was guardian for Lillie, who was only 17. His accounting to his father's estate for her expenses from February 1884, to October 1885, contained such items as shoes \$3, underwear \$4.50, etc., for a total amount of \$33.15.

The family story is that when Nellie and her sisters came to Ford County, Nellie and Lillie claimed adjoining pieces of land and built a two-room cabin on the line so that they could live together, but on their own claims. Prox-

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

imity to their mother's brother, William E. Fravel, was probably the reason for their choosing to settle in Pleasant Valley.

Alida Wire, born November 7, 1861, settled in Pleasant Valley in Ford Co., Kansas, and married Thomas Lincoln "Link" Miller, born April 13, 1861, Huntingdon Co., Pennsylvania, died June 9, 1936, at Bucklin, Kansas. He is buried in Pleasant Valley. Alida died February 4, 1944. The newspaper obituary stated: "No one lived their life more beautifully than "Grandma" Miller, as she was known, even though an invalid, being denied many blessings of life, hers was a life full of love, rich in faith and friendship, abounding in hope."

The Alida and Link Miller children were: Raymond, Morna, Sidney, Lois, and Phillip. **Raymond**, born January 16, 1890, died March 29, 1930; **Morna Eleanor**, born November 28, 1891, died June 25, 1911, married Leslie Van Voorhis, December 17, 1910; **Sidney Lawrence**, born September 26, 1894, died September 29, 1968, married Mary Eliza Whittiker, April 28, 1920; **Lois Margueritte**, born October 25, 1898, died in December 1975; m/1 November 11, 1917, James Franklin Jones, born September 20, 1894, died September 7, 1960, m/2 December 2, 1967, George Domme, born December 21, 1897. Lois and James Jones raised spotted Arabian "Paint" horses. They organized a group of four couples who performed square dances on horseback at fairs and other area events. Their children were: Bobby, Melvin and Juanita. **Bobby James**, born August 5, 1922, died May 4, 1971. **Melvin Eugene**, born October 8, 1923, married July 26, 1947, Frances Gilliam. **Juanita Grace**, born August 23, 1932, married July 25, 1950, Walter Earl Gulick, born August 29, 1929. Juanita has been Ford County Register of Deeds for many years. They live at Bellefont, Kansas. Their children are: Cynthia Ann, born April 17, 1952, married May 26, 1973, Eric Halling; and Chris Lee, born March 17, 1958. **Phillip LeRoy**, born December 27, 1908, died July 24, 1970, buried Pleasant Valley. From Phillip Miller's newspaper obituary: Phillip L. Miller of

Bucklin, Kansas, died suddenly at Hill Top House following his usual walking trip downtown. His life was spent in hard work for his friends and neighbors. He was a proud and good man.

Nellie Wire, was born April 12, 1864, Stephenson Co., Illinois, and died June 5, 1932. She was married on December 15, 1886, Richard Collins Dewell, son of William and Ruth Dewell, born September 28, 1859, Susquehanna Co., Pennsylvania, died August 15, 1952. Both buried at Bucklin, Kansas. The Nellie and Richard Dewell children are: Nellie, Richard, Carl, Ralph, Jennings, Millard, Edith, and David. **Nellie Ruth**, born December 11, 1887, died October 8, 1957, married October 1910, Arthur S. Miller; **Richard Lynwood**, born July 21, 1890, died February 15, 1973; **Carl Valson**, born May 18, 1893, married October 6, 1920, Thelma L. Bunnell; **Ralph William**, born November 24, 1894, married June 25, 1916, Dorothy Grace Schellhamer, born May 27, 1898. Their daughter Virginia Marceline Dewell, born August 2, 1922, married November 27, 1941, Bruno Hoffman. They live in Dodge City. **Jennings Bryan "Jenks,"** born May 14, 1897, died January 9, 1973, married August 8, 1920, Valeria Austin; **Millard Phillip**, born November 29, 1900, married June 4, 1927, Ruby Wright; **Edith May**, born May 7, 1905, died November 1, 1970, married August 26, 1927, Eugene Frazier; **David Collins**, born August 21, 1907, married October 4, 1935, Thelma Smith.

Lillie Wire, daughter of Valson and Catherine Fravel Wire, was born October 10, 1866, Stephenson Co., Illinois. She died December 24, 1957, Oakdale, California, buried at Oakdale. She married on March 15, 1886, Charles E. Argabright, son of Samuel Argabright and Sarah Boblet, daughter of James A. Boblet all of Vigo, Ross Co., Ohio. He was born January 4, 1864, and died November 2, 1940, in Kansas City, Missouri, with burial in Kansas City. Mr. Argabright filed on a homestead for the NW 1/4 of S18 T27 R21, Ford Co. He received a government patent February 14, 1891. He later purchased other

parcels of land in Ford County and owned various lots in Dodge City. Two of his brothers lived in Sedgwick and worked for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Charles Argabright began teaching in Pleasant Valley School District #21 in 1885. He continued to teach there until the 1888 term. He taught the 1889-90 term at Sunset School District #46. The school terms were for 16 weeks a year. He was paid \$35 a month. Teachers taught all eight grades, usually in one room, and did all the janitor work. Discipline was whatever they deemed to be correct, and they had full responsibility for teaching, caring for the children if they became sick or injured, building fires and pumping water. The school was the social center for the area, and the students put on plays, recited, sang, etc., for their families and neighbors.

Mr. Argabright was very active in the Masons. He joined the Bucklin Lodge #325 in the 1890s and served in many capacities. In 1899, he joined St. Bernard Lodge #222. He held a number of offices, serving as Junior Warden in 1904, Senior Warden in 1905 and Master of the Lodge in 1906-08. He joined the Royal Arch Masons, #75 February 10, 1906. His brother, George, joined in 1907 his son, Herbert in 1910 and his son, Lawrence, in 1923.

From 1899 to 1910, he was a partner in the Argabright-Sidlow Grocery Store in Dodge City, moving his family here from their Pleasant Valley farm. The Argabright children attended Dodge City schools, the family attended the Presbyterian Church and had many friends among the early Dodge City families.

Mr. Argabright was elected Sheriff of Ford County in 1910. He served two terms and then served as Undersheriff for the next four years under Sheriff Charles Woolwine, who had been Undersheriff under him. He joined the Federal Department of Justice in 1918, in Kansas City, Missouri, and continued with them until his retirement in 1932. He then served in the legal department of Kansas City Power & Light Co., until suffering a fatal stroke in September 1941. The Argabright children were:

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

Herbert, Mabel, Nelle, Charles, Mary, Grace, and Lawrence. **Herbert Ainslee**, born August 24, 1887, died December 30, 1974, married Florence Mills, June 30, 1912. He died August 3, 1974, one daughter, Patricia. **Mabel Irene**, born May 29, 1889, died in February 1939, Oakdale, California, burial in California, married July 4, 1914, Frank Bedell in Dodge City. **Nelle Dewilda**, born September 6, 1890, died July 1, 1959, burial Maple Grove, Dodge City, married July 19, 1913, Dodge City, Kansas. **Everett C. Minner**, born August 22, 1888, Crittenden Co., Kentucky, died April 6, 1969, son of W.D. and Mary Young Minner, of Kentucky, burial Maple Grove. Their daughter: **Kathleen Minner**, born December 13, 1914, died July 4, 1993, m/1 Frank Holton div, m/2 Galen Thurman Davis, son of W. Galen and Leona Taylor Davis, born January 14, 1919, Haggard Gray Co., Kansas, died December 27, 1992, burial Maple Grove; **Charles Madison**, born February 20, 1892, died November 28, 1892, burial Pleasant Valley Cemetery; **Mary Edith**, born September 25, 1893, died August 10, 1984, married December 17, 1912, Guy D. Gardner, born May 14, 1888, died August 5, 1945. Both buried at Chanute, Kansas. Two sons, Sam and Dan; **Grace Lillian**, born July 21, 1897, died April 8, 1980, Yuma, Arizona, married February 12, 1916, Ralph Benton "Dub" Reeves, son of Albert B. and Mae McCarter Reeves born January 6, 1892, died May 29, 1970, Phoenix, Arizona. Both buried Yuma, Arizona. Mr. Reeves, Sr. was known to all old-timers as "Judge" Reeves. Three children: Lorraine, Robert and Doris; **Lawrence Elmer**, born November 10, 1899, Dodge City, died November 5, 1961, Oakdale, California, burial at Oakdale, married August 30, 1935, Kathleen Elbert, who taught violin at the Dodge City School of Music before going to Los Angeles, California, to become a nurse. They lived in Los Angeles for several years before moving to Oakdale where they operated an almond ranch.

Juanita Gulick
See the Thomas Miller, Charles Argabright
and Jones Family entries.

NILES AND ELLEN LUCAS

WISEMAN

Niles Wiseman, a homesteader who came from Columbus, Ohio, to the Sawlog area of Ford County in 1883, "bought Wright in 1903," as his grandson, Don Wiseman recalls his grandfather's words.

There were five girls and four boys in the family of Niles and Ellen (Lucas) Wiseman. The family pitched in, running the hotel that was built by William Hunt in 1887, the post office, the creamery, and the Santa Fe depot, as well as farming and ranching on acreage west and north of Wright.

Niles Wiseman was a pioneer in wheat farming. He bought one of the first binders to help harvest his wheat crop and brought in the first load to the local elevator. He died in 1914. Ellen continued living on the farm until 1930, when she moved to Dodge City and was next-door neighbor of Doctor Simpson, the dentist and creator of the Dodge City Cowboy statue.

Their son, George, married Lucita Anders. Their sons are George, Jr., and Don. George moved to Wright in 1930 and continued living in the hotel, now a private home, ranching and farming. Later George and his second wife, Louise, built a new home where the old hotel stood in the northwest part of Wright, overlooking the old stage coach trail, now U. S. 50/56. George restored the early-day Pleasant Vale Cemetery which was located in a field north of their home. Neighbors continue with the upkeep of the plot where some 20 early-day residents were buried.

George died in 1968 and Louise in 1976. Don and his wife, Alice (Ross) Wiseman, moved to the Wiseman home and farm that year. They have three children; Brent, Sheila and Sonja. Don and his son, Brent, continue to farm the Wiseman land. They are the third and fourth generation of the family who have farmed the Wiseman homestead.

George Wiseman's son, George, Jr., married Frances Crane. Their children are Niles and Sondra. Niles married Sue Bartlett. They have two children. Sondra married and divorced and took

back the name of Wiseman. She also has two children.

Evelyn Steimel

HENRY B. WOOD

Henry B. Wood took up a homestead in Royal Township on the Sawlog Creek in 1889. In traveling the 13 miles angling across the prairie from his home to Dodge City, Mr. Wood would pass just four other homes. The section of the Sawlog that ran through the Wood land had no springs or trees as it did a few miles downstream.

Prior to filing on his homestead, beginning in April 1886, Mr. Wood carried mail from Dodge City to Ravanna—a distance of 48½ miles. The route angled across the prairie and served post offices in Snyder, Wittrup and Kalvesta. Kalvesta and Ravanna were located in Garfield County which is now a part of Finney County. For two years, he drove from Dodge City one day, spent the night in Ravanna and returned the following day. During the third year on this route, he kept a man and a team at each end of the route and they would meet at Wittrup, giving their customers daily mail service.

Mr. Wood was born in LaSalle County, Illinois, on January 5, 1860. His parents had settled there from Vermont in the 1850s. He moved to Great Bend in 1884 and to Dodge City in 1886. He and his first wife, Mary Saul, had two children: Lyman, who died when he was nine years old, and Sarah, who taught school south of Dodge City. She married Fred Bell and bore him two sons, Leslie and Doral.

Mary (Saul) Wood died in about 1895, leaving Henry with their two small children. In 1898, he married Dora Ridenour, the youngest daughter of John Ridenour, a neighboring homesteader. She was a great help to him in building up the farm. Henry and Dora had two sons. Lester was born in 1901. He died in 1989. His family lives in the Hutchinson area. In 1920, when Lester was 19, his brother, Howard was born. Howard is retired and lives in Dodge City. His children are scattered, living in four different states.

Henry and Dora lived in his home-



The Henry Wood family about 1905, clockwise from left, Henry, Sarah, Dora and Lester.

stead until 1941 and then moved into Dodge City. While they were living on the farm, they were very active in community affairs. He served many years as trustee for Royal Township and was the assessor for the township. He also served on the school board and helped with organizing and building the Community Hall which served as a meeting place for the area for many years. He helped organize the Dodge City Cooperative. Dora, with her husband, was active in the affairs of Rocky Point School, the Community Hall Sunday School, the Royal Sunflower HDU and gladly lent a hand whenever there was sickness or death in the neighborhood. In later years, she was an active member of First Christian Church in Dodge City.

After many years of service to his community, Henry died in 1943, at the age of 83. Dora was 88 when she died in 1966, at Fort Dodge, where she lived for the last few years of her life. They are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Howard B. Wood

MEARL C. AND JENNIE WOODALL

Mearl C. and Jennie Woodall came to Dodge City from Garden City, Kan-

sas, in 1912. Mearl worked as a drayman for Mr. Young's Wholesale and Produce Company, located at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Trail Street. For several years he drove a team and wagon. Later he drove a Reo truck and delivered groceries to homes in the city.

I, Roberta, am their first child and was born at 704 Fourth Avenue. The snow was belly deep on the horses and Doctors Pine and Alexander had difficulty in arriving to deliver me. I was Dr. Alexander's first baby delivery.

A few years later, my father purchased property at 500 East Cedar Street. My sister, Alberta, was born there on May 22, 1918, and my sister, Evelyn, on December 22, 1921. At that time Dr. Noble Melencamp was Mother's physician and he was also mayor of Dodge City. A new law had just been established stating that no one could bury a human body in his residential property within the city limits. Dr. Melencamp had been asked to go to a home to enforce the new law so his assistant, Dr. Kline, delivered Evelyn, who was two months premature.

To increase his income, my father took up carpenter work. He helped build the present Presbyterian church and the former St. Anthony's Hospital located

at the corner of Comanche and Central where the Homeland Store is now located.

One spring we had a real blizzard. My father had gone to Wichita to have a tiny piece of steel removed from his eye. Mother had to get to the barn to feed and water the horses and also milk the cow. The snow was higher than the fences so with the help of Mr. Charles Mullendore the chores were done.

When I was in the 5th grade, I was enrolled at the Second Ward School, as it was called then. It was located on Central where the grade school is now. Because of too many pupils, I and several other children were sent to First Ward on Avenue G. There was an outbreak of impetigo, a skin infection which caused me a lot of problems. Consequently, my folks sold their home and we eventually moved to the 1600 block of 1st Avenue, a long walk to town. Many Sunday mornings, my mother would push my brother, Homer, who was just a little baby. Alberta and I would help carry Evelyn and we would walk to the Methodist Church for Sunday School and church and then walk home. My father belonged to the First Christian Church so if he wasn't working we would ride to that church for services. I was baptized in the Methodist Church when I was 15 years old and my father moved his membership to the Methodist Church at that time. At this time, my father was employed as a city



Mearl and Jennie Woodall

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

fireman where he eventually became fire chief, a position he held for more than twenty years.

My mother presented us with a little sister, whom she named Jennie Marie in January 1928, making four girls and one boy to complete our family.

Until her health failed, mother was active in the American Legion Auxiliary, the Methodist Church, the Royal Neighbors and the Moose Lodge women's groups. My father died at the age of 75 in 1963. Mother died at the age of 81, in 1972. Alberta Brollier lives in Boise, Idaho; Evelyn Padget lives in Dodge City, Kansas; Homer Woodall lives in Hillsboro, Oregon; Jennie Shafer lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon; and I, Roberta Mark, live in Coldwater, Kansas.

Roberta Mark

CHARLES W. WOOLWINE

The records show that four Woolwine brothers came from Germany, in the latter part of the 18th Century. They settled near Baltimore, Maryland. Only two of them married, one moved to Philadelphia and the other settled in Virginia. If the records are correct, the C.W. Woolwine family are descended from the Pennsylvania Woolwines. C.W.'s grandfather, Thomas Jacob, known as Jacob, was born in 1802, in Downing, Co., Pennsylvania. He married Mary Harmon in 1823. They moved into the western part of Virginia after their marriage. They were the parents of nine children. Wesley L., their youngest, was the father of Charles W. Woolwine.

In 1871, Wesley L. was working in Missouri where he met and married Tabitha Cope. Wesley almost died of malaria in Missouri, where he was told to move to a healthier climate. They first moved to Nebraska and later to Kansas in 1878. Wesley and Tabitha Woolwine's son, Charles, was born in Cherokee Co., Kansas, April 21, 1878.

Charles Woolwine grew up in eastern Kansas where he married Elsie Connaway, December 25, 1902. They had three children when they moved to Dodge City, November 27, 1907. Like the move west from Missouri, the move

from Saffordville, Kansas, to Dodge City was because of the health of their frail daughter, Leila, not quite four. They had planned to go to California but stopped at Dodge City to visit Mrs. Woolwine's parents, the N.J. Connaways. They decided that the higher, drier climate of western Kansas might agree with their daughter. Leila began to improve almost immediately, so C.W. found a job and they never got to California.

Leila became strong and healthy. The Woolwines stayed on and have contributed much to the cultural and civil development of Dodge City. The family arrived with only \$200. One of Charlie's first jobs was to dig the footings for what is now the Eckles building at Second and Gunsmoke for two dollars per day. Later he worked at the Santa Fe docks at 15 cents an hour, 10 hours a day.

Woolwine was Dodge City Marshal beginning in 1910. He worked in the sheriff's office either as deputy or sheriff for 14 years. He left that office in 1932. Charlie had bought the Transfer and Storage business in 1919, from the Wilcoxon brothers. They had purchased it from Ed Rumsey who had started it in 1910.

In the 50 years as owner of the Woolwine Transfer and Storage Company he had moved hundreds of people from one place to another in Dodge City and many out of Dodge City. Besides the hundreds of individuals that he told of moving, he had moved huge 5,000 pound boilers into the basements of the buildings of the Lora Locke Hotel and both the Protestant and Catholic hospitals as they were being built.

Woolwine moved Jim McCollom's first KGNO radio equipment to the first location in the First National Bank Building and later into the *Daily Globe* building. These are only a few of the changes that Woolwine's moving equipment helped to make in the map of Dodge City.

The Woolwine family was always active in church and fraternal circles. Charles W. Woolwine was often spoken of as Mr. Odd Fellow, because of his loyalty to and his work in that lodge.

He and his family have served Dodge City long and well. They have made and are still making it a better and happier place to live.

The Woolwines had five children: Leila, Alice, George, Lee and Harlan. The Woolwine's "frail" daughter, Leila, born January 26, 1904, celebrated her 90th birthday in 1994, proving that the Dodge City move was a good one. Leila married Nelson Johnson. They had two children, Anna Lew and Georgene. Alice born August 27, 1905, married Patrick Riley. Their children were Patricia, Esta Lou and Charles. George born July 8, 1907, married Mary Knight. Their children were George Jr., Charles, Mary, Bobby Dean and Thomas. Lee was born October 16, 1910. He married Jane Daeschner. Their children were Jerry, Margaret and J.W. After Jane and Lee divorced and he married Elsie Bibby. They had no children. Harlan, born December 11, 1912, married Jean Pinney. Their children were Gene and David. C.W.'s wife, Elsie (Connaway) Woolwine died in September 1954.

After the death of his brother in 1960, C.W. Woolwine decided to have a family reunion to bring the various branches of the Woolwine family together. This proved to be very successful. Relatives from the farthest parts of the country were in attendance. The first reunion was held in August 1961. Reunions are still being held in August every two years. Charles Woolwine married Delmar Patterson November 9, 1960. Delmar had worked with the public for many years, and was able to help him in his many civic and fraternal activities until his death February 22, 1972. Delmar died September 23, 1979.

Woolwine Family Records

ROBERT M. WRIGHT

Robert M. Wright was possibly the best known and most famous of all the pioneers who founded Dodge City. Everyone in Kansas knew him and every important visitor to Dodge City met him. He spoke the language of frontiersmen but was equally at home with government and railroad officials, politicians and eastern businessmen.

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



Robert M. Wright

Robert M. Wright was born in 1840, to a prominent Maryland family at Bladensburg, Maryland. His grandfather was a clerk in the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., for many years. He left home and went west when he was 16. He worked for three years on a farm in the St. Louis area and while there, married Miss Alice J. Wright of Rose Mount Farms. In 1859, he made his first overland trip to Denver. During the next eight years, he crossed the plains to Colorado six times, four times by wagon and twice by stagecoach. For three years Wright was employed by Barlow Sanderson Stage Company as contractor and overseer of their interests on the Santa Fe Trail. In 1866, he located at the Cimarron Crossing where he had a contract for supplying wood and hay to Fort Dodge. The Wrights lived at different small forts on the western border of Kansas where several men were hired to repair wagons and serve as guards.

Once while Wright was away, a large group of Indians attacked their place which was near the present town of Coolidge. Alice covered the two babies with feather beds and then set about loading guns for the men. When the Indians drew back in the evening, one of the men took Alice and the children and started down the river in a canoe. The next morning Mr. Wright and some of his men rescued them from the river. After 1865, Wright settled at Fort

Dodge and became, along with his job of overseer, the operator of the Sutler Store.

When the movement was made to establish Dodge City, Wright was elected president of the Town Company and held that position for many years. Over the years he had been a freighter, stage line operator, Indian fighter and wood contractor; but it was as a shipper of buffalo hides and outfitter of hunters, cowhands and cattlemen that Wright became wealthy.

Wright built a two-story store building at the corner Front and Bridge Streets (now 2nd and Wyatt Earp just east of the longhorn statue.) Through the years he had several different partners. He, Charles Rath and A.J. Anthony owned the store. Anthony soon sold out and after a few years so did Rath which left Wright the sole owner. The store grossed millions of dollars during the buffalo hunting days and the cow town years. Most nationalities could be accommodated in the store. Wright could understand and be understood in most Indian languages; Mr. Isaacson spoke French, while Sam Samuels had mastered Spanish, German, Russian and Hebrew. The store was a big success with branches being established in the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas. Morphy, the editor of the *Globe*, described the Wright store:

"Those gentlemen do an immense business and make a specialty to cater to the Texas Trade. The jingling spur, the carved ivory-handled Colt. or the

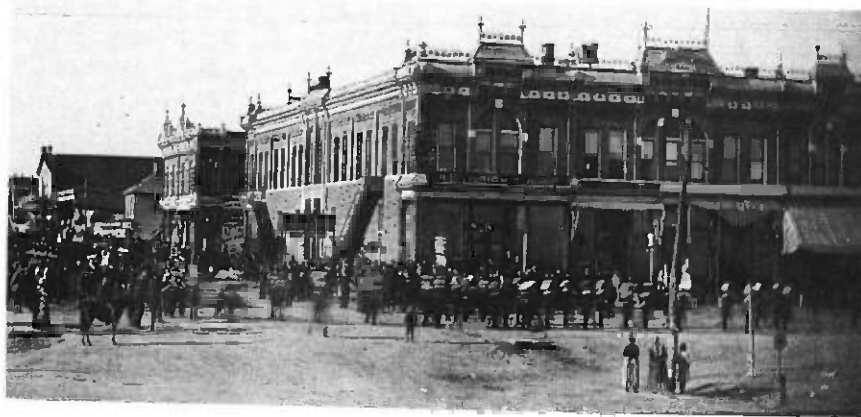
suit of velveteen, and the many, many other Texas necessities, you will find by the gross or cord. An upstairs room, 30 x 75 feet, is devoted entirely to clothing and saddlery . . . the house also does a banking business . . . will accommodate you with five dollars or five thousand, as the case may be . . . their sales average a thousand dollars a day, Sundays not excepted. Profits are \$75,000 a year."

Wright said it was a common practice to send shipments of \$50,000 to banks in Leavenworth for deposit because Dodge had no bank.

Wright had many other financial interests in the territory, for instance at Adobe Walls when it was attacked by an overwhelming force of Indians. In fact, he was dubbed "Merchant Prince of the Prairie" and known over the state as "Mr. Dodge City."

Bob Wright was a merchant, post trader, stockman, farmer, postmaster, contractor, county treasurer, mayor, forestry commissioner and legislator from Ford County for eight years during Dodge City's growing years.

Wright was elected to the state legislature for several terms. He became a very influential legislator and had a big hand in keeping the quarantine line for Texas cattle just to the east of Dodge. Eventually, as pressure mounted to do something about the terrible problem of the Texas tick disease, the governor was forced to move this line to the Colorado border. Wright had managed to hold the line to the east of town for 10



R.M. Wright Building in Dodge City.

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

years so that cattle could be driven to Dodge. Suddenly the cattle trade stopped and Dodge City began to settle down and mature into a small western town.

The Wrights had several children and there was much tragedy in the family. One child died in infancy; Clara the oldest daughter, died in 1882, when she was 18 in Las Vegas, New Mexico, where she had gone for treatment of heart disease. In 1889, James was stabbed to death in Guthrie, Oklahoma, where he was working in his father's store. Alice herself died of heart disease in 1892, Nelson was run over by a train in 1902, daughter Mittie committed suicide in St. Louis in 1905, Charles died of pneumonia in 1913. Henry, the oldest, died in June 1915, four months after his father's death. Henry had married Kate Ruel, the daughter of Annie Ruel, an early-day entertainer in Dodge City. They had three children, Robert, Henry II, (Heinie) and Lucille. Heinie, born in 1895, was the only one of the three to stay in Dodge City. He married Nina Dye, born 1896. Heinie was a business man in Dodge City for many years. He and Nina became famous locally for their Wright's potato chips. Their son, Huck (Henry III) is married to Dorothy (Dottie) Wright. They have no children.

Bob Wright married Sally Ivens in 1907. Their son, Conner, although much younger than Heinie, was his uncle. Conner married Florence LaMunyon. Their son, Lance, born October 19, 1943, lives in Newton, Kansas. Conner lived in Dodge City until his death in 1970.

During his later years Robert Wright wrote a book of his remembrances of frontier life, *Dodge City, The Cowboy Capital*, a classic reference book of early days in southwest Kansas. Though Wright had been prosperous, even wealthy most of his life, he died of pneumonia in 1915, practically penniless. The store was sold at auction in 1893, a year after Alice died and his thousands of acres of farmland were sold off over the years. Bob Wright died in January 1915. He left Dodge City a precious gift—Wright Park.

Few men accomplished as much. He had been mayor, county treasurer, postmaster, legislator and served on almost every committee and organization that worked for the improvement of Dodge City. He was one of those special men that were leaders in the building of the west.

DR. C.B. WYCOFF

Dr. Charles B. Wycoff was born February 10, 1883, at Garnett, Kansas. He attended Anderson County schools and the University of Kansas School of Medicine. In 1908, he spent a training year under Dr. W.O. Thompson. In 1909, he was sent to Greensburg, Kansas, as a medical examiner for the state in a death there.

On August 9, 1911, he married Rose Snyder at Topeka. They moved to Hanston, Kansas, where he began his practice of medicine.

He was an early-day country doctor. He carried his medical bag and his pill case at all times. He would sometimes go into his patient's kitchen to mix medicine. He often traveled by horse and buggy or by horseback to get to a patient or deliver a baby in northern Ford County. He also traveled into the surrounding counties. In his 31 years of practice, he delivered over 2,700 babies.

Two children; Mary E., born May 23, 1912; and Charles B., born July 30, 1913; were born in Hanston. In 1919, he moved his family and practice to Jetmore. Another daughter, Rose, was born. He married Esther Traver in 1927.



Dr. Charles B. and Rose Snyder Wycoff.

During the 1918 flu epidemic he slept in his buggy or at a patient's home and he did not get home for over a week.

He died October 9, 1942, at age 59 in Dodge City. He is buried at Garnett, Kansas.

Veryle Wycoff

PHILIP HENRY YOUNG

Jacob Jung, father of Philip Henry Young, was born October 8, 1829, in the German state of Bavaria where he received a common school education and learned the trade of carpenter. Jacob came to the United States during the revolutionary unrest in Germany in 1846, a young man of 17 years. He adopted the English spelling of *Young*. He first lived in Sandusky, Ohio, where he found work as a carpenter, later moving to Geneseo, Illinois, where he went into the construction business for himself. He married Maria Eva Walter, born in Philippsburg in the German state of Baden, now Baden-Wurtemberg. She and her parents also came to the United States in the 1840s, settling near Highland, Illinois, where they farmed and where Maria Eva adopted the more American name, *Mary*. Jacob and Mary's children, two boys and five girls were all born in Geneseo, Illinois.

Their third child, Philip Henry, was born November 17, 1861, and named for his grandfather, Philip Jung (1788-1844). Philip Henry attended public school in Geneseo through one year of high school and was apprenticed to a jeweler there, where he learned the trade of watchmaking and jewelry repair. Geneseo, Illinois, was also the home of three young men, Lawrence and John Offerle, and Edward P. Ott, who in 1876, traveled to a point one-half mile east of the boundary between Edwards and Ford counties in Kansas where a well had been dug by Santa Fe railroad workers. There the three laid out the town of Offerle, Kansas. Later Philip's older brother William Eugene Young joined his friends from Geneseo and began raising cattle and sheep near the new settlement of Offerle.

Philip Henry Young arrived in western Kansas on January 1, 1879, at age 17. His first job was herding cattle and

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



P.H. Young, about 1915.



Florence McMichael Young

branding steers as a cowboy on a ranch near Offerle. His brother left western Kansas, eventually settling in Portland, Oregon. But Philip continued his ambition to become a large rancher, gathering together a small herd of his own.

Often events first viewed as calamities turn out in the long run to be blessings in disguise. The disastrous western Kansas blizzard during the winter of 1885-1886, took a terrible toll on the cattle scattered by the thousands over the prairies of Kansas. Thousands of cattle died and Philip Henry Young sold his equipment and what remained of his property to raise enough capital to open a small jewelry store in Kinsley, Kansas. As the proprietor of his store in the "Post Office Building" in Kinsley, from 1885 to 1887, he dealt in watches, clocks, jewelry, silverware and optical goods, and specialized in repairing fine watches and jewelry. As his business grew and the notorious reputation of Dodge City lessened, Young's good business judgment told him that future success lay in the famous cow town thirty miles to the west. In 1887, he moved his jewelry store to Front Street in Dodge City, where he became the official watch inspector for the AT&SF railroad and acquired the title of *Graduate Optician*, eyeglasses being a specialty of jewelry stores at that time. Later he added a music department to his store.

While running his jewelry store in Dodge City, he started making private

loans and operated an extensive business in cattle and raised alfalfa on land acquired north of Bucklin, Kansas. He became interested in all branches of Masonry at this time and remained a member of all of the Dodge City branches until his death. He was one of the first 33rd degree Masons in western Kansas.

He married Florence McMichael of Kinsley, Kansas, at her home in Kinsley on July 2, 1896. Florence McMichael was born October 22, 1866, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Julia Sutton and Richard McMichael. She taught in the Dodge City public schools, was an accomplished pianist and played the organ at St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church.

P.H., as he became known, brought his father and mother to Dodge City in 1900, where they died in 1901 and 1902, respectively. They are buried in Maple Grove cemetery in Dodge City. Though lacking a formal education, P.H. Young was a serious reader of religious and historical works as a means of self-education. He became a member of the first public library board organized in 1905 and continued as president of the board from 1910, until shortly before his death in 1931.

P.H. and Florence first established their home at the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Spruce Streets where they lived in a one-story frame house. In this home were born two sons, Donald P. Young and Maurice R. Young. Donald, born in 1897, remem-

bered as a child, crossing the street to attend the old Third Ward school, looking down from the second floor and noticing depressions in the ground all around the school house. His father told him these were where the bodies were removed from Boot Hill in 1879. Donald also told of the pet prairie dog that his father and mother kept in the house, and of his chores taking care of the horses in the stables behind the house and helping his mother pump the organ at the Episcopal Church. Maurice, born in 1900, remembered watching the local dentist, Dr. O.H. Simpson, cast his cowboy statue in 1927. Wooden forms were constructed on the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church, and Joe Sughrue, policeman, lay down between the forms. With just a straw in his mouth for breathing, he was covered with plaster of Paris. Maurice related that the only problem was that the plaster stuck to Joe's face, and he was almost skinned alive when the dentist tried to remove the mold. The statue was moved to Boot Hill in 1928, where it stands today as a memorial to Dodge City's early residents. Its inscription reads, "On The Ashes Of My Campfire, This City Was Built."

P.H. Young was interested in horse-racing and owned *Winnie-Y*, a mare well known in racing circles in western Kansas. In 1909, together with former mayor, George M. Hoover, he and others organized the Ford County Building and Loan Association. He later became its president and remained so until his death. In 1910, he became a director of the State Bank of Commerce of Dodge City, later known as the First National Bank in Dodge City and was its vice-president until his death. In 1912, he sold his jewelry store, later known as Bang's Jewelry, well-known in Dodge City for many years. The same year he purchased Dodge City Abstract Company and reorganized it as Dodge City Abstract and Investment Company, an abstract of title and hazard insurance agency.

Florence McMichael Young died at age 46 in 1913, at 1300 Central, which had been the family home since 1911. P.H. Young married Frances Irene

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

Bloom of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, in 1917.

During World War I, he served two years as chairman of the Liberty Loan committee for fourteen counties of southwest Kansas. He was a member of the Dodge City public school board for six years, serving as president for four years. In 1927, he offered a gift sufficient to construct and equip a new and enlarged public library building in Dodge City. A committee was appointed and selected a site. Because of opposition to the site by some, the city commissioners put the acceptance of his gift to a city-wide vote in the November general election of 1928. His offer was voted down by approximately 165 votes, and the library remained at its site on Second Avenue and Spruce Street.

Shortly before his death, on January 2, 1932, with knowledge of his terminal illness, he related to the editor of the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, "I have already lived longer than most men live, I have had my share of life's satisfactions. I have adopted a mode of life of which my own conscience can approve, and I am not afraid to die." At the funeral services of the First Presbyterian Church in Dodge City, its minister W.D. Templeton, eulogized "Mr. Young was a pioneer . . . All honor to the pioneers, to those who suffered the sacrifices and bore the burdens of pioneer days. We fail, I fear, often times to appreciate the inheritance they have handed down to us. They laid the foundation, we are building thereon.

"Mr. Young reared his own monuments, they are all about us, his name is linked with many of the good movements of which we are justly proud today. He was a great traveler and brought back with him most interesting stories of the whole world . . . He loved music, especially the old hymns . . . He was just and fair and generous in his relationship with friends and business associates . . . He met death as calmly and as fearlessly and with as much resignation and fortitude as any other experience of life . . ."

Philip Henry Young was survived by two sons, Donald P. Young and Maurice R. Young. Donald P. Young became

president of the Ford County Building and Loan Association and Dodge City Abstract and Investment Company. served as a director of the First National Bank in Dodge City, and was interested in wheat and sorghum farming in western Kansas and eastern Colorado. He died in 1975, in Dodge City and was survived by two sons, Donald P. Young, Jr. and Fredric R. Young. Donald P. Young, Jr. died in 1986, in Dodge City. Fredric R. Young is living in Dodge City.

Maurice R. Young was president of the First National Bank in Dodge City and was chairman of the board until his death. He was past president of the Kansas Bankers Association, Dodge City Chamber of Commerce and Dodge City Kiwanis Club. He served as ruling elder of the First Presbyterian Church. In addition to banking, he had wheat farming interests in western Kansas. He died in Dodge City, in 1971, and was survived by three sons, Philip M. Young, living in Phoenix, Arizona; Dean R. Young, living in Dodge City; and Charles M. Young, living in New York.

Philip Henry Young left his imprint as a pioneer of western Kansas on the early history of Dodge City.

Fredric R. Young and Dean R. Young

FREDERICK C. ZIMMERMAN

Frederick Carl Zimmerman was born in Saxony, Prussia, in December 1833. He was the son of Christian and Christiana (Hege) Zinumerman. He attended the common schools of Saxony until he was 14 when he was apprenticed to a gunsmith. After serving the compulsory three years military service, Zimmerman practiced his trade in Paris and London. In 1863, he came to America. Two years later he and Miss Matilda Messinger of New Britain, Connecticut, were married. The daughter of John and Margaret (Falmer) Messinger, who was orphaned at the age of seven and came to America to live with an older brother.

In 1868, the Zimmermans started west settling first in Laramie, Wyoming, then Sheridan, Kansas, Kit Carson, Colorado, and finally in July 1872, in Dodge City. When they arrived, they



Matilda Messinger Zimmerman
1844-1929

found only a sod house and two canvas buildings. An experienced gunsmith was a valuable addition to the new town. Over the years, Zimmerman added hardware, general merchandise and lumber to his business. The F.C. Zimmerman Hardware store was one of the most profitable businesses until well into the 20th century.

The Zimmerman home was on a large acreage on the west edge of the city where as a "gentleman farmer" he experimented with fruit trees, vines and windmill irrigation. He was the first to produce alfalfa successfully in Ford County. In 1885, his vines produced over a ton of grapes. The beautifully



Clarissa "Clara" Zimmerman
Churchill Rose
1872-1954

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

landscaped estate was called "Fountain Grove."

Zimmerman was a leader among the German population and served as president of the German Immigration Society. He was also elected county commissioner several times and served two terms as county treasurer. The Zimmermans had five children, three of whom died in infancy. Son Arthur was killed in a horse accident when he was 16. The surviving daughter, Clarissa, was married to John H. Churchill and, after John's death, to George B. Rose.

F.C. Zimmerman died January 20, 1888; Matilda in September 1929; and Clarissa Rose in February 1954.

FORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1996 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lola Crum
Clayton Hall, Vice-President
David Kloppenborg
George Laughead, Jr., Secretary
Arthur Leonard
Dr. Gus Liebl
Russel Lupton
Jim Moran
Floyd Olson, Treasurer
Herb Roenfelt
Evelyn Steimel
Nellie Stewart
Candice Vigil
Ann Warner, President
Ruby Warner
Elmer Wetzel
Jim Williams
Verlye Wycoff

FORD CO KANSAS

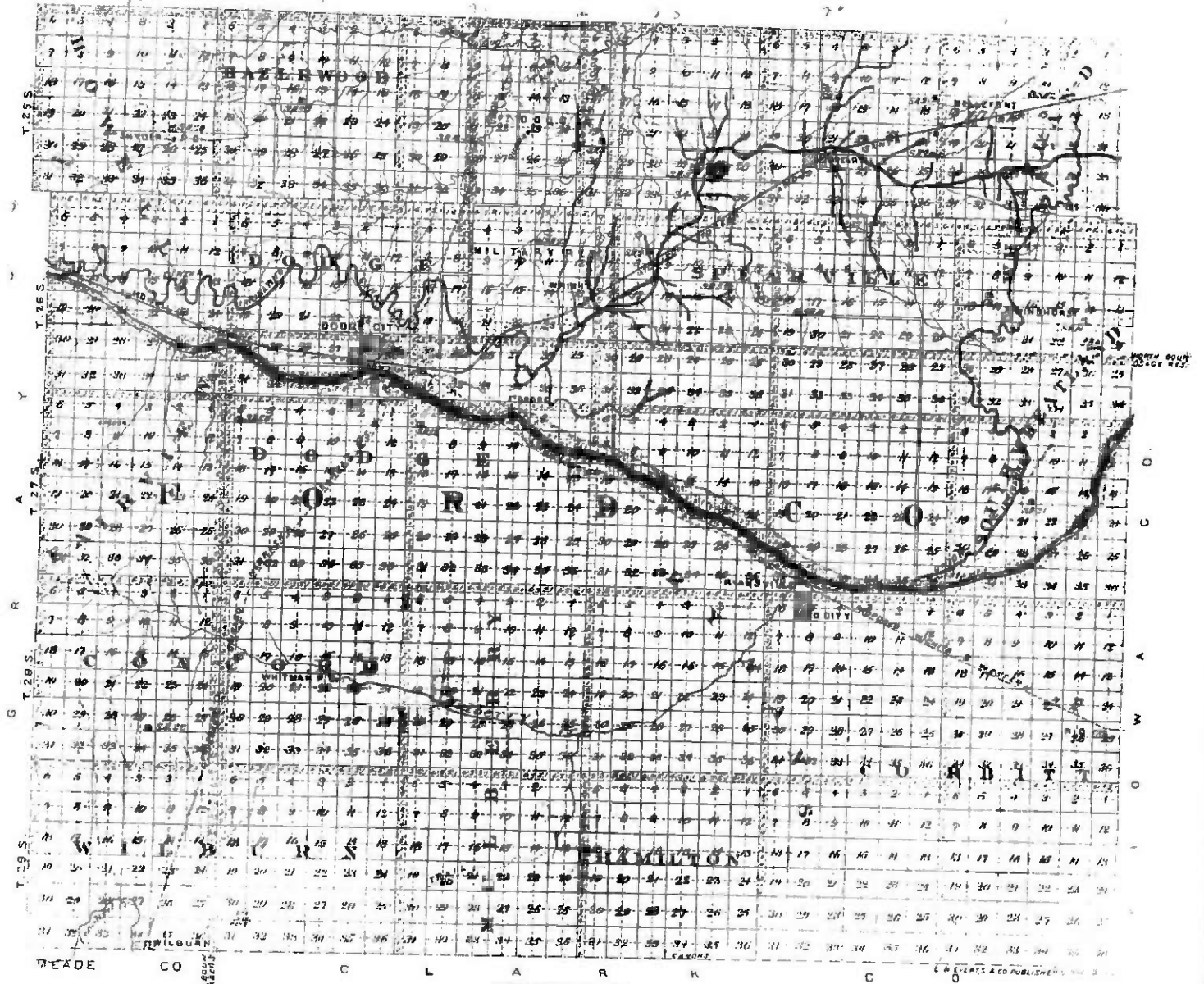


TABLE OF EXPLANATIONS

Township Lines	Section Lines	Quarter Section Lines	Lot Boundaries	Rail Roads	Public Roads	Churches	School Districts	Cemeteries	Marshes	Streams	Post Offices
---	---	---	---	---	---	⊕	⊕	⊕	---	---	⊕

W. H. EVERTS & CO. PUBLISHERS