

Kansas.

MITCHELL COUNTY HISTORICAL ESSAYS
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CARIE NATION STRIKES AGAIN!!!

Lee Ludwig

During the early 1900's a series of saloon raids were being led by strong-willed Carrie Nation. Along with her club, the W. C. T. U., and hatchets, Carrie showed her dislikes of open saloons. Several raids were occurring including the one in Beloit, Kansas.

On a hot summer day, Carrie led her group of women down Mill Street, singing "Onward Christian Soldiers", and carrying their hatchets on the west side of Mill Street which stood in the vicinity of what is now the Gem Barber Shop.

The saloon owner and men opposing Carrie Nation were prepared however. They had taken a fire hose, connected it to a hydrant, and were going to turn it on the women FULL FORCE!

But, one of the women in the W. C. T. U. asked (probably forced) her husband to slash the hose with a razor just when the men were going to turn it on. When the women were in front of the saloon, the man holding the hose yelled. "Turn'er on." Mr. Cadden slit the hose and instead of the huge gush of water expected only a tiny trickle ran out of the nozzle.

My Grandmother, cousins and friends, sitting on a balcony-like porch extending from the Beloit House, (a hotel owned by my great-great-gandmother, and situated right next to the saloon) then saw the women, undampened and still singing, march into the saloon.

Soon they hear loud, crashing noises and imagined a scene of complete havoc.

In a little while a small trickle of liquor could be seen running down the side of the street. Ever bottle, plateglass mirror, keg of beer and anything breakable had either been broken or destroyed.

Later Carrie Nation was arrested, but she always had enough money to pay her bail. As for the saloon, it was never reopened due to bankruptcy.

For many days afterward, the repulsive smell of liquor lingered on, as did the glorious memory of Carrie Nation.

AN INDIAN ATTACK

Dana Cox

In Beloit, Kansas, August 12, 1858, Mr. Howie's friends and he had a difficult time. The first hostile Indian attack was made by thirty-five Indians, who came up to Mr. Howie's house for some supplies. Two of them were well-armed. They would hand out the supplies to the others outside. Just then Mrs. Bell shouted, "Soldiers, soldiers!" The Indians ran through the house. On the way they took two Bell girls. They were Esther and Ellen.

They took the girls three days journey out on the prairie and left them there to stay without water and food. Finally, three people came along. One of them was a minister. They took the girls to their home just as their mother, Mrs. Bell died.

Suffering most heavily from the massacres were the Bell-Bagardus clan, which had three members killed and two kidnapped, but later freed. Bell and family, possibly in March 1866 or 1867, who home-steaded on the Beloit townsite, built a cabin which stood a short distance west and a bit north of the old light and water plant.

Some of the people were living in dugouts and others in covered wagons. They tried to make a fort by building a stone wall in a semi-circle on the edge of a timbered ravine. Asher Creek and Alum Creek, nearby, had been the scenes of the outrages and kills by the Indians a few weeks before.

AN ATTRACTION IN CAWKER CITY, KANSAS

Darcel Stech

If you have never seen the large ball of twine that is on display at Cawker City I'm sure you would like to know about it.

It was all started by Mr. Frank Stoeber who lived on a farm seven miles northeast of town. In 1953 he started rolling pieces of baler twine into a ball never realizing that in about fifteen years it would be the largest ball of twine in the world. About eighty-five friends and neighbors have contributed by saving their twine from bales of hay to make the ball larger as years go by.

In 1961 Kansas celebrated its one hundred years of existence and Cawker City celebrated its nintieth birthday. Mr. Stoeber consented to let the ball of twine be put on display for those occasions and since it created so much interest an agreement was worked out by the "Cawker City Commercial Club" to have it kept on display as a tourist attraction.

Due to the efforts of interested individuals, and the "Commercial Club," it is now displayed on the south side on the main street by the clinic. It is mounted on a fine masonry base, and has a parabolic hood of many colors that protects it from the weather. It was suggested by a tourist to have it lit at night so an electrical system was installed so it now has two spot lights shining on it at night.

At this time the ball weighs 8,576 pounds, contains 1,617,800 feet of twine which is equal to 306.4 miles plus twenty-eight feet. It is twenty-five feet in circumference and ten feet in diameter.

Mr. Stoeber who is now seventy-four years old and has retired and moved to town is still interested in his hobby and keeps rolling twine on the big ball. Each piece that is put on is weighed so the correct feet and pounds can be accounted for.

Since the display is right on the highway many tourists find it interesting and stop to take pictures. Six thousand picture post-cards are now being printed and different business places in town will offer them for sale this summer. The cards will have a picture of the ball of twine and a short story about it.

I feel that we owe a great deal to Mr. Stoeber and the "Commercial Club" for this fine tourist attraction.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST BALL OF TWINE
Enos Diers

The world's largest ball of twine was started in 1953 by Frank Stoeber, my uncle. He lived on a farm almost seven miles north-east of Cawker City, Kansas and was out walking in his field one day when he tripped over some twine string. He decided to collect it to burn but just as he was getting ready to set it afire, he thought to himself, "Why not wind it all into one big ball?"

He started the ball on December 24, 1953. When his neighbors heard about his project they decided to help out by giving him their extra twine string. When the ball got so large he couldn't wind it any more by hand, he had to use his little Ford tractor. He started it inside the barn and when he moved to town in 1961 he could hardly get it out of the barn.

Now twelve years later the ball weighs four ton, has 1,500,000 feet of twine, which would be about 271 miles long. It is eleven feet high. It is now located on the main street of Cawker City between the Co-op Oil Station and the Doctor's office.

Frank is seventy-four years old and still enjoys putting twine on the big ball.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST BALL OF TWINE

Barbara Bowman

The small town of Cawker City, Kansas now has something more to boast about. It has the largest ball of twine in the world.

The ball of twine was started December 24, 1953, by Frank Stoeber on his farm north of Cawker City, Kansas. As he fed bails to his cattle he would burn the twine. One day he just rolled it until he had time to burn it. From rolling that little bit, he got the idea to roll it into a ball. He rolled the twine for three or four years. It was then too big to go through his barn door.

When they moved to town in November of 1960, they brought the ball of twine with them. They brought it in on a trailer. They kept it in their shed until it began attracting attention. The Cawker City Commercial Club built a shelter by the doctors office on main street for it.

Frank Stoeber kept on going down town to add twine to it. As the ball got larger he devised and built a special "reaching" tool so he could reach and wind more easily.

On June 7, 1966, the ball of twine weighed 8,857 pounds and had 1,617,800 feet of twine in it. Three hundred of eight-foot lengths of twine weigh twelve pounds. Frank Stoeber puts these three hundred eight-foot lengths in a paper bag and weighs every length of twine that goes on the ball.

Eighty-six people donated twine for the ball. It is approximately ten and a half to eleven feet high.

Frank Stoeber, who is seventy-five years old, will add more twine to the ball when the weather permits it.

THE HISTORY OF WACONDA SPRINGS

Alice Le Sage

There are many historical places in Mitchell County. One of my favorite places is Wacondas Springs, which I've been to a few times.

It all started in 1806, when Waconda Springs was discovered by Indians. At that time, the Indians called it "Me-Woh Kandaga", or "Great Spirit Spring", or "Fountain of the Great Spirit." Waconda Springs is located on the top of a forty-two foot mound near Cawker City. The way it got its first name was from an old Indian, who was the Great Spirit. The spring was first visited by white men in 1867, and was made a settlement in 1890.

Indians used to believe that the old Indian could heal them with the water from the spring. They would have all their celebrations at Waconda Springs for this Great Spirit. Sometimes they celebrated victory of battle, or mourned losses. All of the Indians always threw a token into the spring for the Great Spirit. Never did the Indians forget to do this every time after they spoke with the Spirit.

In the same story is told another story of how Waconda Springs got its name. I think this is the best-known story about Waconda Springs.

Waconda Springs was named after a beautiful Indian girl, who was the daughter of an Indian Chief.

One day when Waconda went far from her camp she found a wounded warrior. The Indian warrior was lying by the pool now called Waconda Springs. After Waconda washed his wounds and gave him some water to drink, she brought him food. Every time they met, they loved each other more and more. Waconda told her father of their love and he wished them happiness. The chief said they couldn't get married because the warrior was from the tribe they were fighting.

Both tribes heard this and said they would meet in battle on top of the small hill by the pool. When the Indians were fighting, the warrior, whom Waconda loved, was shot in the heart with an arrow. The warrior fell into the pool. Waconda jumped in after him. After that day neither one of them was ever seen again.

Ever since then, different people have tried to reach the bottom of the spring. They all have failed.

Now Waconda Springs is being torn down for the construction of the Waconda Dam, near Glen Elder.

But the legend of Waconda Springs will live on for many years to come.

HISTORY OF SCOTTSVILLE SCHOOL 1878-1889

Kay Le Sage

The first school in Scottsville was built in 1878. It was for the three month term. The first person who taught was Ida Houston. It was a two-story school-house. Later it was used for a drug store by Tom Coffey. It stood until a fire came on December 29, 1884. In 1879 a summer term of school was taught by Ella Coe. The floors of this school were not made of wood but of dirt.

The present school site in Scottsville was deeded on February 21, 1880 by George W. Werts to District 41 for \$50.00. This brought about a more united effort for education and resulted in the union of several of the smaller schools. As a result of this, bond to the amount of \$1500 were voted and a frame schoolhouse of two stories was built on the present schoolhouse site. This building was sold in 1890 and was used for many years as a barn on the Shook farm northwest of town. Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Manville taught the first term of school in this building, he as principal, and she as a teacher, beginning in September 1880 and continuing until January, 1881.

In the year following a Mr. and Mrs. Cox taught in this school until the spring of 1883. In the fall of 1883, Mr. S. L. from Tipton and Miss Laura Reeder taught the school term which ended in the spring of 1884.

From September, 1884 until March 1885 the teachers were Mr. Wallace and Miss Pearson. The term which started in September, 1885, and ended in January 1886, was taught by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Cox. The following term of school, 1886-1887, was taught by Hattie B. Cox and Eva Blodget. By this time the village of Scottsville and the surrounding country was being settled so that the pupils were rapidly increasing in number.

It was with a larger attendance and a better school that Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Farting began their work with the school for two terms until the spring of 1889.

WILD, WOOLY BELOIT OF EARLY DAYS

Dwight Finney

Aaron A. Bell settled the first homestead in what is now Beloit, Kansas. He settled in 1866 deeding part of his property to Timothy Hersey. Bell Street and Hersey Avenue are named after the two men.

In 1870, Hersey built a grist mill and a lumber mill. He built the mills west of the Solomon River bridge.

The lumber mill that Hersey built wasn't very profitable, because the planks warped so badly that they couldn't be used for lumber.

The mill finally settled for cutting fire wood, but wasn't profitable, because most people used ears of corn, the grain and cob for fuel. It was cheaper than coal or wood.

Beloit was organized as a city of third class in August, 1872, by an order of Andrew S. Wilson, judge of the 12th Judicial District, and Timothy Hersey became its first mayor.

In 1870, the population of Mitchell County was 485. In 1875, it had skyrocketed from 485 to 4,885. Beloit had grown enough that it was then counted as a second class city by the proclamation of Governor John P. St. Paul.

Beloit's first name was Willow Springs. Then later it was found out that there was another town in Kansas by the name of Willow Springs. In order to qualify for a post office another name had to be chosen. The name Beloit was chosen after the home town of Timothy Hersey, Beloit, Wisconsin.

The first school in Beloit was called the Bee Hive School. It was located in a business building on the east side of Mill Street. On the front of the school there was painted a picture of a bee hive.

Entertainment such as movies, dances, and radios were not known in Beloit in those days. The most important event at that time was the arrival of the stage coach. It brought mail which was very important to the people. Yes, it is hard to believe that dear old Beloit was ever wild and wooly, but it was.

HOUGHTON'S STOCK FARM

Katherine Houghton

My great-great-grandfather, my great-great-grandmother, my great-grandfather, a great-uncle and his wife left Ohio soon after the close of the Civil War.

Their next home, for a year or two, as they journeyed West, was Minnesota, then, Eastern Kansas where they settled near Hiawatha in Brown County. In the fall of 1870 or 1871, my great-grandfather, Charles P., and his brother, William H., went to Mitchell County where they "took claims" on Salt Creek in the southwest part of the county. They returned to Brown County for the winter, then back to Mitchell County to make their homes.

It wasn't long until my great-grandfather decided he liked the country a few miles farther west better, and he and his parents moved to the location of the present Houghton ranch on Carr Creek. It was just another valley in the Blue Hills country of Mitchell County. They bought parts of this land at that time as it had already been homesteaded. They also homesteaded parts of it. And, later, they bought adjoining tracts.

One tract of land they "proved up on" as a "timber filing". The government requirements were that they "set out" a certain portion of it in trees and take care of the trees until they were well established. They planted mostly Osage Orange hedge. Drought and grasshoppers, many years later, finally killed most of these trees. Remains of the trees, some life, some signs of the work are still visible.

In nearly one-hundred years on this farm, the Houghton family has, of course, seen many changes. From the first owners, we have stories of herding cattle on Indian ponies, pastures without fences, and hunting buffalo. They have seen changes in farming, from walking plows to riding machinery, to tractors and combines and field silage harvesters, from Texas longhorn cattle to well bred, choice beef cattle, from dug-outs to modern homes, from candle light to electricity.

By far, the most of this land is still in native grass pasture. It all, also, still belongs to the Houghton family, now to Clifford and Bernice Houghton.

SCOTTSVILLE

Steven DeBolt

The building of the Central Branch Railroad through Mitchell County in 1878 caused several little towns to spring up. Among the towns was Scottsville. According to the plat in the office of the Register of Deeds, Scottsville occupied a part of section 11, township 6 south, Range 6 west. It was platted on the 16th day of October, 1878. Considerable business was carried on here, as this railroad station was in the center of a large corn-raising territory, and many carloads of corn were shipped each week.

The Methodist Episcopal Church had an organization, presided over by Rev. H. E. Pickle. The membership numbered 83 and nearly 100 Sabbath-School scholars attended regularly each Sunday. A project was to build a church the next year.

C. W. Culp laid out the town of Scottsville in September, 1878, and was the owner of a third interest in this town. He was born in Decatur County, Indiana, April 27, 1843, moved to Adams County, Illinois, in 1844. He enlisted in the United States Army, October 21, 1865, in Company D, 50th volunteer Infantry.

He moved to Mitchell County, Kansas, in March, 1870, and took a homestead of 320 acres where Scottsville now stands. He held the office of County Commissioner from 1871 until 1875 and held the position of chairman of the said board for 3 years. Mr. Culp helped to organize Mitchell County and was first Justice of the Peace elected in this county. He named the townships of Lulu, Bloomfield, and Logan. He was married to Miss Elizabeth A. Wagner. They had five children, Minnie, born September 12, 1866; Sherman, December 29, 1867; Archie W., January 20, 1878, and Bertie, January 13, 1880.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of CAWKER CITY

Nathan Molby

The Baptist Church of Cawker City was organized by a group of men and women living in this area from Iowa. The date of the organization was May 8, 1894. The place where services were first held was at the Liberty School house, five miles north of Cawker. The name of the church then was THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of CHRIST of Jewell County, Kansas.

It is said that the early pastors wouldn't stay long at one church, but there were a few faithful members who would soon find someone to take his place.

Rev. E. L. Huckell began his work as a pastor here in the days of brief pastorates. His time in living here lengthened into one of several years and covered the important period in which the church was preparing the way for the erection of a new church, which is in its present spot. Rev. Huckell and Rev. Blunt were the only two ministers that have served in this church, each for a period of forty years.

When the church was moved into town, the people changed its name to THE FRIST BAPTIST CHURCH of CAWKER.

Following the time that the church was finished, a great revival meeting was held. The revival was known as "THE FRENCH OLIVER MEETING." At these meetings, about 350 people were converted.

The years since 1910 have perhaps not seen quite so much in way of spectacular and thrilling events as did the years before that time, but the latter years have shown more of maturity and permanence.

"The favorite sentiment of this church as it is today is best expressed in the words of the hymn, 'Lead On, O King Eternal'."

COURSEN GROVE

Deborah Adams

The train jerked to a stop. Could this long, hot, and tiresome journey from Pennsylvania really be over? Christopher E. Coursen sat there wondering if it could be his stop. Yes, it was. He hurried from the train. Finally he had reached his destination of Clay Center, Kansas. Now he faced the open prairie where he would start his new life. Mr. Coursen was thirty-five years old and was going to look for new land. He walked from Clay Center, to the Blue Hills, about one hundred miles, looking over the land. Then he walked back to what is now Coursen Grove, located in the southeastern corner of Mitchell county, in 1873. He borrowed a cabin the first year. Upon his return his family, Mary Ann and their two children, Johnny and Liz, joined him. The next spring he built a stone farm house. This is where his other two children, Robert and Nora, were born.

That fall he and some others set up the school. The three Peterson brothers, Andrew, Nelson, and Charles, built a stone building. They obtained the land from Alexander Warfield in 1878 for the amount of ten dollars. The first board of directors were Slater White, director, C. E. Coursen, clerk, and William B. Coles, treasurer. Although it started in 1878, it was not formally organized until 1895. At one time there were sixty-five pupils in the school. This was so many that some had to sit in the windows. Later on, a larger school was built across the road. The first teacher on record was S. H. Woods in 1885. The school house served double duty in the Coursen Grove community because it served as both a school house and a church.

After the school was started the community of Coursen Grove began to grow. It had two general stores and a blacksmith shop.

Mr. Coursen served as postmaster for the few years it was open. It was located in his home. When the store was open it was there, but after closing hours his home was still considered as the post office. For a few years the mail was carried by horse back from Concordia to Lincoln. His house was used as an over night stopping place. Later on they went to Asherville to pick up the mail twice a week.

Now Coursen Grove consists of four homes and a store. The post office was closed quite a few years ago, but the school was closed only last year.

THE STORY OF WACONDA SPRINGS

Phyllis Daugherty

There are several stories told of how Waconda Springs got its name. The story I like best is the one about the Indian maiden, Waconda.

One day Waconda wandered away from the camp. She found a wounded warrior. He was weak from loss of blood and he asked for some water. Waconda brought him water and then cleaned his wounds. After that she slipped off every day and brought him food. During that time they fell in love. This was very bad because they were from enemy tribes and could not marry.

Their two tribes had a battle at the springs. Waconda's lover fell into the spring. She asked the gods to bring him back to her, then she dived into the water and the waters closed over them.

This is how Waconda Springs got its name.

FOUNDER OF SIMPSON KANSAS

Ramona DeBolt

Simpson, Kansas, is the name of a small town on the eastern border of the county. It had a railroad station, and also a water-power grist-mill. The town was formerly called Brittsville, but the name was changed during the year 1882. The town supported a few stores and contained about twenty-five or thirty buildings.

Alfred Simpson, grain dealer, Simpsonville, was born in South Carolina, July 26, 1833. He moved to Tennessee in 1838, thence to Missouri in 1858. Again he moved, this time to Doniphan County, Kansas, in 1870; came to within one mile of the present town of Simpson, and erected a mill 28 x 36 feet, two-and-a-half stories high. In the spring of 1881, Mr. Simpson caused the town of Simpson to be laid out, and the citizens named the town after its founder. The population of the town was about 100. The subject of our sketch has done much toward the upbuilding of the place, as he did own a grainhouse, dry goods store, and hardware store. Other business interests were there also, as the town was supplied with another stock of goods, drug store, and also had a harness shop.

He was married in Jackson County, Missouri, on October 22, 1865, to Miss Rebecca L. Rhoads, and had six children--Josephine, Thomas J., Margaret E., Benjamin, Mable A., and Catherine.

STEAMBOAT ON THE SOLOMON

John Vetter

It was in 1903 that Noah H. Cline conceived the idea of building a steamboat on the Solomon river as an added attraction to Chautauqua. Tent Chautauquas were traveling groups of entertainers that moved from town to town giving programs of lectures, concerts, and recitals to the people of rural areas. It was at the city park in Beloit that the Chautauqua was held. People came from great distances for this occasion. Tents for families were set up and they brought bedding, furniture, food, etc., so they lived comfortably for the ten days and all enjoyed the outing. Each year Chautauqua was held during the first part of August. Season tickets were sold to defray expenses.

Mr. Cline and his brother, George, decided to build a boat for the pleasure of the Chautauqua people and the people of Beloit. The boat, named "The Western Call", was built on the south bank of the Solomon river southwest of the present dam. The boat would accommodate fifty or more people. It made trips around the river bend to the south side of Chautauqua Park. (This is the space west of the swimming pool now.) The boat was powered by steam so the firemen had to get there early to shovel coal into the firebox. There had to be enough steam to turn the paddles. The paddles were located on the rear of the boat. The boat was filled to capacity each Sunday and other afternoons of Chautauqua. The whistle was not allowed to blow during the church services as it might distract the people attending church.

Each Sunday a small number of Manifold band members would occupy a place on the top deck and play a few numbers before the boat was scheduled to start. When there were enough passengers a loud blast from the boat's whistle said, "All Aboard". The band would play several selections on the way to the south landing where the passengers were taken on for the return trip.

It was a real novelty and after two successful seasons a man from Delphos wanted to buy it for a recreation park he was promoting in the vicinity of Delphos. In 1906 it seemed almost impossible to get the boat to Delphos because there were small dams and obstacles on the river. Without telling his scheme, Mr. Cline said he would guarantee to deliver the boat but could not say exactly when. As soon as there was enough rainfall to raise the river to flood stage he took the boat east over the dam. He then quickly anchored it until the water went down enough to let the boat go under the bridge. The same procedure was used all the way to Delphos. So, "The Western Call" left Beloit for an unknow destiny.

SIMPSON, KANSAS . . . THE BIGGEST LITTLE TOWN
in the SOLOMON VALLEY

Sara Severance

Simpson, the "biggest little town in Kansas" has one of the most colorful, interesting and least publicized histories of any town in Mitchell County. I'm going to try and do something about that!

It all started in 1871 when G. Beaver (then a mill owner at Downs) decided to venture forth down the Solomon River. There he spotted a site for a mill. He procured financial aid from Mr. Shanks and Mr. Simpson, and succeeded in building a mill. At first the mill could grind only corn, but later it was remodeled to grind wheat.

Thus Brittsville was started.

Since the mill was a business venture, Mr. Simpson realized that a store was needed, so Brittsville's first store was established.

With this, the town began to grow.

By 1879, Brittsville was a prosperous little village with a store (owned now by Lud and John Parrish,) a blacksmith shop, a post office, and a stage line. The stage line ran from Solomon City to Dodge City.

When railroads came to Kansas-between 1879 and 1880's-Brittsville moved across the river to where the present Simpson now stands. In 1881, Mr. Alfred Simpson deeded part of the land on which the town was built to the city. As a result, the name was changed from Brittsville to Simpson.

In 1881, petitioners started formal education in Simpson with the words "We, the undersigned householders . . ." and went on to explain that they wanted to get a new school district as soon as possible, and wanted it before cold weather. They did not get it that year, but finally got it in 1916. From that day onward, until the school closed in 1966, 481 seniors passed through the doors of the red brick building. Of these, 37 have departed this life.

Now Simpson is dwindling away. The high school has closed and the population is getting smaller. But the history of the "biggest little town in Kansas" lives on.

A MITCHELL COUNTY PIONEER

Carol Tolbert

On the day of March 27, 1874, a child was born by the name of Climena Jordan who was to become one of Mitchell County's oldest residents. Her father was Nathan B. Jordan. Her mother was Belinda McClure. She was born in Center Township, 15 miles southwest of Beloit in a log house with only one room and no floor. Just before she was born a sheet was stretched across the top of the room to keep dirt from sifting in on baby Climena. After she was born, her mother would sprinkle water on the dirt floor because the fleas were so bad at that time.

After awhile her cousin came to live with them because of the death of her parents. They attended church at Elmira. The only way they had to get there was to walk.

When Climena was two years old they moved to where my family and I live now, 14 miles southwest of Beloit. At that time it was a log cabin. Then after awhile they built the house that stands there now.

Climena's mother and father came from the state of Maine but never met until they both were at Nebraska. An interesting fact is that they were at the same towns so many times but never met. Her mother was from Cornville, Maine and her father was from Lewiston, Maine. Her parents came to Kansas in a covered wagon. At that time it was grasshopper season and they were so bad that they ate everything in sight.

She attended school at Center first. Then she went to Elmira. After that she went to high school for 5 months. She attended Normal School for 8 weeks. Then she received her teaching certificate. She taught first at Long Crossing School. All they had in the treasury at that time was enough to pay her \$25.00 a month for four months. She thought that was quite a large amount of money.

In 1894, she was married to John Park, who was also a school teacher. They started house-keeping just west of Solomon Rapids. They had two sons, Evan and Elwood.

Mrs. Park and her two sons live on their farm in Center township. Although she has lived almost a century she still has a remarkable memory, still has a wonderful sense of humor and does her own work. She is lovingly known by all her neighbors and friends as Aunt Kie and is dearly loved by them all.

EARLY DAYS OF THE ELMIRA CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

--as related by Climena Park
to Beth Miller

The Elmira Evangelical United Brethren Church was dedicated in 1878 around Christmas time. This was an important occasion. Bishop Wright, father of Orville and Wilbur, gave the dedication sermon. Bishop Wright has been quoted as saying "Man was not meant to fly or God would have given him wings." At this time Climena and her brother Charles were three and four.

Charles and Climena would often walk or run a half a mile to meet Uncle Abner Jordan to ride with him to Sunday School. Uncle Abner was about the only one who had a spring wagon at that time, so it was quite a thrill.

The attendance was sometimes over two hundred. Some of the members of the choir were, Olive McKee, Bert McKee, Charles McKee, etc. The organist was Lula McKee and the song leader was Sam Douglas.

Children's Day in June was always a big day. Preparation for this special day meant scrubbing the floor and decorating the church. Each window was decorated with wild flowers such as Indian Feather (purple), violets, common daisies (blue and white) etc. A sheet was put up behind the pulpit with asparagus greens and roses pinned on it that were raised by Mrs. Green. Children's Day was an all day affair. Each family brought their own picnic dinner and ate out under the Box Elder trees. There was a good sized grove east of the church. The Children's Day program was after dinner.

The same minister that preached at the Elmira Church also preached to the E. U. B. Church in Beloit. The building is now boarded up and is used for wheat storage. It is located seven miles south of Beloit and six and a half west. This little weather worn building still carries many happy and most meaningful memories of years gone by.

TOWN OF CAWKER CITY**Bruce Lynn Schoen**

The idea of founding a town was conceived by E.H. Cawker, J. P. Rice, R. G. F. Kshinka of Milwaukee, and John F. Huckle of Pennsylvania

Mr. Rice, Mr. Kshinka, and Mr. Huckle came up the Solomon Valley and selected the site for their prospective town in February 1870.

The men took the numbers of the land as near as they could. Returning by way of the Land Office, they filed for a plot of land one mile square.

In April, the men began operations and found that their papers described a land site north and east of what they had selected. Their plot had been taken by settlers.

The first building erected was built by Mr. Cawker.

Mr. Huckle built a a house and returned to Pennsylvania and brought a colony of emigrants from his home state. Mr. Rice put up the first stone building. The town soon had a Steam Saw Mill.

The town was named in honor of E. Harrison Cawker and was recorded July 15, 1871.

In June 1871, Cawker opened the first school with 15 pupils!

Cawker in the year of 1872 set up its first newspaper office. The paper was named "The Sentinel".

On June 2, 1874, the first city election was held.

In 1885, a native stone library was completed.

Cawker now has a population of approximately 700.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN BELOIT

Gary Tripp

In the spring of 1871, Rev. James Phillips was sent to Beloit to organize a Methodist church. The first services were held in a little shanty on the west side of the 200 block on South Mill Street. It was a very crude structure with cracks between each board. In the latter part of 1871, services were held in an upstairs room of the recently completed Williams store buildings. Just as the calendars were about to turn to a new year church services were held in the Court House, where, in the Court room, the first church choir was organized.

A schoolhouse was built just south of the present day high school and Methodist services were held there in 1872. In 1874 during the pastorate of Rev. W. J. Mitchell a stone building was started on the southeast corner of Third and Hersey. The courage of these Kansas pioneers is brought out by the fact that this building was erected during the grasshopper raid when it was barely possible for them to clothe their families. The church was completed in 1875 by hard-working volunteers. This building is now occupied by the Christian Science Church.

In the first year the membership of the church had climbed from 137 to 196. Rev. Mitchell, 1874-1876 was paid a salary of \$560 per year. The Rev. James Lawrence, 1876-1879, received \$500 per year.

Rev. I. McDowell 1891-1895 sold the old stone church to the United Brethren Church and purchased the lots across the street on the northeast corner of Third Street and Hersey Avenue. At the close of Rev. McDowell's pastorate, services were being held in the church basement as the upstairs were not completed yet. On March 6, 1898, under the pastorate of Rev. L. O. Housel, the church was dedicated debt-free with an evaluation of \$10,000.

In the spring of 1897, the 15th annual session of the old Northwest Kansas Conference was held again in Beloit. Its first visit to the Beloit Methodist Church was in 1882, when the Conference was first organized.

Until 1885, the church was without a parsonage. Three lots were purchased for \$1600 and a building erected. Because the parsonage was so far from the church the property was sold for the original price, and parsonage lots on Campbell Avenue were bought in 1905. There a two-story modern house was erected at the cost of \$3500 with the Rev. H. J. Lorenz and family being the first occupants.

In 1912, the church membership was a proud 374. Also, the pastor's salary had reached \$1400 per year.

The church and basement were enlarged during the pastorate of Rev. Attree Smith, 1911-1917, at the cost of \$5000.

On September 26, 1918 the Beloit High School burned. Classes were held in the church until January 17, 1920, when the roof was destroyed by fire. The next year it was rebuilt at the cost of \$18,000. A year later \$6000, with insurance money, pledged by the people, removed all indebtedness.

In 1920-1921, during the rebuilding, \$16,665, was contributed by the church to their goal of \$24,588, for Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. Five boys from the church died for their country during World War I.

In 1921, after 50 years of Beloit Methodism, a jubilee celebration was held with Rev. H. M. Templin as pastor.

On Christmas Day 1935, the church received a Hammond organ, hymnals, and pulpit furniture as a gift from J. F. Robinson his sister and Mr. Sutton.

Remodeling continued during the pastorate of Rev. W. F. Little. 1941-1945, when the dark wood was painted ivory, the pews were refinished and floors carpeted. Soon after World War II, new pulpit furniture was purchased and dedicated to six boys from the church who lost their lives in military service.

In 1956, under leadership of Rev. L. F. Roburen, it was decided a new building would be constructed. On September 18, 1957, in the service of Rev. Leonard Clark, the location voted upon was on the northwest corner of Eighth and Bell. The property was purchased for \$12,000. An auction was held on August 6, 1959, where the present buildings on the property were sold for \$2,110.64.

The low bid for construction costs was offered March 31, 1960, of \$215,574, excluding pews, furniture, tile carpeting, and built-in equipment. The total cost then came to approximately \$280,000.

April 24, 1960, ground breaking services were held. Only 8 months later, on December 18, 1960, the cornerstone was laid.

First services in the new church were February 12, 1961, with a record attendance of 666, with 444 occupying the church school classes.

The first to be baptised in the new building were Leroy Reed Harvey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Harvey, and Michael Don Noah, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Noah, on March 15, 1961. The first marriage ceremony was held March 26, 1961, when Charles G. Jordan and Evelyn A. Blair were joined in holy matrimony.

The church membership now soars in the 900's with an average attendance of 330. The pastor's salary now stands at \$7,200.

A new parsonage was begun December 1963 during the pastorate of Rev. Elmer L. Broods, 1961---. He and his wife moved in late May when a formal opening was held. The parsonage was dedicated January 23, 1966 debt-free at the sum of \$35,000.

WACONDA SPRINGS

Marilyn Badsteen

Waconda, which means great spirit, is the name of the supposedly healing water pool. The name and legend is backed by Waconda, a beautiful Indian maiden.

One day while Waconda was wandering, unafraid, from the camp her ear caught the sound of a cry for help. As she followed the noise she came upon an injured Indian brave who was very, very weak from the loss of blood.

Waconda quickly got some water from the spring and fed it to his lips. She also bathed and bound his wounds.

He wondered why she was so kind to her tribes enemy. She told him that the wars were not her affair.

The two soon fell in love and wished to be married. The Indian brave offered robes and jewels to Wacondas father, but he forbade the marriage since they were not of the same tribe.

Time passed and soon there was a bloody war between the tribes. Waconda was at all times watching her lover. All at once an arrow pierced her sweetheart in the back. He fell into the Great Springs.

Waconda ran out on the battle field, over to the water and dived in after her loved one.

The warriors backed away and stopped fighting with fear.

Waconda and the Indian brave were never seen again.

Indians of many tribes came to bring the sick and wounded to drink of the Spring's mineral water.

Many that were just passing by held ceremonials to worship "the Great Healing Power."

Mr. Kisner believes that the Indians stopped coming in the early 1880's because they lost faith and interests in the powers when white men started exploits.

The first permanent habitation was a sod house built in 1870 by a man named Pfeiter. Later on Burnham started bottling the water and selling it.

A few years after Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bingesser bought the springs, it became famous.

Those who have not seen the Great Waconda Springs, or those who do not plan to visit soon will not be able to marvel at its beauty or taste its mineral water, for Waconda Springs will meet its doom when the Glen Elder Dam of the Missouri River flood-control project floods the land around it.

EARLY HISTORY IN AND AROUND GLEN ELDER

Jerry Porter

The first settlers in Mitchell County were Joseph Decker, who early in 1866 filed on the quarter section one half mile north of Glen Elder. Before winter the Indians drove away his cattle and chased him from the county.

The first permanent settlers in Glen Elder were J. Neeves and Milton Spencer in 1886. They built the first mill dam in the county. Boards for the first frame houses in the vicinity were sawed at this mill. In 1872, Charles Davis bought an interest in the mill and added a grinding department. He helped lay out West Hampton.

After Neeves and Spencer came D. A. Anderson and a man named Ball. They located their claims in 1869. Soon afterward Truman Allen settled on the quarter vacated by Decker, where he was joined by D. C. Everson and his seventeen year old bride. After these came Willis Luckey and Alfred Clover who took adjoining claims.

There was little grain for horses and some of the early settlers traded their horses for oxen who could live and work on grass. These early settlers found an abundance of wild grapes, plums, gooseberries, black currants, chokecherries, and mountain cherries.

Before the mill was built at Glen Elder, Minneapolis was the nearest mill. It was a three day trip to go and return with corn to be ground.

For coffee the pioneer woman growed meal and sorghum in the winter and the children gathered Yankee tea which grew on the prairie in the summer. The pioneer woman suffered from loneliness and fear and wanted most for medical care as there was no doctor here in 1870 and 1871.

The Indians stole livestock and killed the people so everyone carried a gun and they went in bodies of two or more persons. The State furnished the settlers with Spencer repeating rifles but they had to provide their own ammunition. It was hard to afford ammunition because money was scarce.

At one time the Indians made a rapid extending from Waconda to Minneapolis killing and destorying everything in the valley. The last raid was in 1879 when one man was killed just below the dam. A tribe of Indians wintered at the mouth of the Limestone Creek, where there was a good protection and they could easily get food and water. It is said that as high as four thousand Indians had wintered there. Waconda was the Indians worshipping place. There were Indian huts and dugouts along the bluff.

A Dr. Rose was killed during the raid between Waconda and Minneapolis and was buried on the hill. Afterwards Milton Brokaw plowed up the remains and these were put in the Glen Elder Cemetery.

In 1867 a Government trail was put along the river and up over the hill. It could not be put through the creek on account of the bluff. A trail went by the Peaselee house where the only well west of Beloit was located. In 1875, there were three wells between Beloit and Glen Elder: one at the Peaselee farm where people camped at noon or night; one at the Ward farm and the other in Beloit.

After Luckey and Clover came the Stinson Brothers who built the first store known as the Panzy Bitters building. It was surrounded by a heavy stockade which served as a refuge for settlers.

Near this stockade was another early store owned by H. F. Vallette. It was made of sod and it sold tobacco, dry goods, ammunition and a few canned products.

West Hampton was located north of the Limestone Creek. The railroad was built in 1879 and the Post Office was established near the railroad. The old townsite was abandoned and that part of town on the north side of the creek moved over to the other side so that the town was now all together.

West Hampton was changed to Glen Elder because it was in a glen and surrounded by box elder trees.

On May 9th of 1870, a party of Cheyenne and Arapahoes came down Oak Creek and attacked a party of prospectors. They found them too well armed and went on to the Limestone. There they surprised Scot Guffy, Solomon Triser, John Geer, Mr. Keyon and a lad named Ditz Huffman who were planting sod corn on the south side of the river. Their guns had been left in the dugout on the north side of the river. Guffy and the boy escaped; the others were killed. They escaped by running down the river and hiding in the underbrush.

The remaining settlers sought shelter in the heavy timber or stockade. The Indians made a great effort but could not capture D. C. Everson's team of mules. Everson and his wife prevented them. The Indians were later seen wearing the dead men's clothing.

The dead settlers were buried the following day. One was killed by a tomahawk, one by a revolver shot and one was found with seven arrows sticking in his body.

Other settlers came in soon after the massacre and as their number increased the number of raids decreased.

The first hotel was built by the Stinson Brothers. It was called "The Log Cabin Home". The food was bread, beans, and sorghum molasses.

A woman whose name was Miss French was the first school teacher and the school room was a dugout in the bluff west of the town. This was said to be in 1871. In 1872 the first school building was built on the hill northwest of the mill. Fifteen or twenty pupils attended school that winter and their teacher, Mr. Fisher, was paid by subscription of the pupils as there were no taxes.

Glen Elder was incorporated as a third class city on November 20, 1879 and the number inhabitants was 275 at that time.

On August 1, 1874, the sunlight was darkened by a huge swarm of grasshoppers. By 2 o'clock they could be heard chomping like hogs in the corn fields. They left only the bare corn stalks and even ate the onions into the ground. Many families sold out for what they could get and left the country.

The bridge was built across the Solomon River south of Glen Elder in 1885. This bridge was later moved to Lincoln Park and another was built in its place.

In 1910 new sidewalks replaced the old board ones, and soon there were many other improvements.

Glen Elder will grow and prosper further.

EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES IN ALEX W. WILLIAM'S LIFE

KATHY NOAH

Alex W. Williams is my great uncle Alex. He was born April 13, 1868, in Nashville, Tennessee. His father, Benjamin Franklin Williams, served under General Grant during the Civil War. He was a stone mason by trade and helped build the State Capitol Building, in Nashville, Tennessee. He farmed in Tennessee and Kansas.

Uncle Alex's father and Jake Edwards came to Kansas from Tennessee by covered wagon. They were on the road for thirty days. They left September 21, 1871, and arrived October 21, 1871.

Benjamin Franklin Williams had eleven children and eighty-six cents when he arrived in Cloud County. The Dalrample brothers, Albert, and Sam, let Uncle Alex, his father, mother, brothers, and sisters live their first winter in Kansas in a corn crib. In the spring of 1872, they moved to Logan Township, Mitchell County, Kansas. They bought for ten dollars and a gun, East $\frac{1}{2}$ of North East $\frac{1}{4}$ Section seventeen-Township eight-Range six, the government patent of Martin Fullers farm and homesteaded the farm. It is now known as the Dan Huffman farm, six and one half miles southwest of Asherville.

The first crops they put in were seeds, brought from Tennessee. The ground was prepared by hand; ten to twelve acres of wheat was sowed by hand and cut with a cradle which is like a sythe. They shelled the wheat and mashed the wheat by hand. Harrowing of the ground was done by dragging heavy poles over the ground. Sod corn was also planted by hand, chopping holes in the sod and dropping corn seeds in by hand. (Hand planters and walking plows came later.)

They raised gardens of potatoes, beets, and vine beans. Their only meat was rabbits, prairie chickens, and fish. The older children picked weed greens, dandelions, sourdock, and lamb quarters for food.

Their salt came from salt water. They let the water evaporate leaving the salt for their use.

Their water came from creeks near their home. They filtered the water through coarse rocks, fine sand, and burned blue shale. The water then became clear. To purify the water, they boiled the water.

Their first home was a two room dug out with a baled Johnson grass roof. The Johnson grass was baled, flat braided, and bundles were tied by hand. Johnson grass is coarse and wiry. When laid in a

certain way it was water repellent. The dug-out had a dirt floor and rock walls. Their furniture was made of wood. Their bed mattresses were grass or corn husks. The food was cooked in a stone alcove much like a fire place which also furnished their heat. Your face and your arms would burn while your back was cold. Each person had his own plate, cup, and spoon. This was about the only china that they had at first.

On the quiet, warm, very still forenoon of March 14, 1878, the neighbors were burning dead grass, Russian thistles, and debris among the fence. They thought the fire had gone out. After lunch, an hour or so, a strong wind blew up from the southwest. The dust in the air made it appear cloudy. The wind fanned some live sparks into a flame and scattered them making a prairie fire. Due to the wind and dust, they didn't know the fire was on them until it was only one-hundred fifty to two-hundred feet from the house. They grabbed only their coats and ran for the creek and waded across. The fire burned their house, barn, corn pile, and everything they owned except for the clothes they had on. The fire burned as fast as horses could run.

After that, they built a two room house above the ground. The homestead law required a room to have one window and one door in it. If there was a family, two rooms were required by law. In 1885, Uncle Alex, with his folks, moved west of Beloit to another farm.

As a young man, Uncle Alex worked in the lead mines around Webb City part time and also helped with the farm work. In 1893 the family moved south of Beloit on Roosevelt Avenue.

The town of Beloit was called Willow Springs until 1870. Asherville is the oldest town in the county. Simpson was called Brittville and located one mile south of its present site, down on the river. When the railroad came through in 1877, the town was moved up by the railroad tracks and called Simpson. The nearest station on the railroad was Waterville, in the southwest part of Marshall County.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF TIM HERSEY

Cynthia Krone

The prominent life of Timothy F. Hersey, founder and the first Mayor of Beloit, began when he was born in the State of Maine in August, 1828. He left his New England home at about 10 years of age; he moved with his parents, Ira and Omittee Hersey, to Northern Illinois, and a few years later to Beloit, Wisconsin, settling on the Fox River.

As a young man he went to Jo Daviess County, Illinois, where he was married January 18, 1852, to Eliza E. Johnson; they lived there until 1857. From there he came directly to the then so-called desert plains of Kansas, settling first at Abilene in 1857. His wife and two small children followed him the next year.

Hersey commenced as a farmer, but in 1858 became a government contractor, furnishing hay, fuel and grain for government fortification. During the Civil War, he was appointed Indian trader. While prospecting for tin ore in 1859, he was captured by Pawnee Indians and held for three days. The same year Cheyennes chased him fifteen miles in an attempt to cut him off from his encampment and kept him under constant fire. He was wounded eight times by arrows. The Indians also stampeded his stock and burned his hay stacks.

He arrived at Willow Springs, which later became known as Beloit, in 1869. There Hersey purchased part of Asron Bell's land. He started getting out timber to dam the river and build a mill in 1869. Despite the heavy floods, he put his saw mill in operation in September, 1870, and his grist mill the following season. The mill employed 25 or 30 hands; the saw mill proved less successful than the grist mill since the cottonwoods cut into lumber had a tendency to warp.

Mr. Hersey changed what was called at that time Willow Springs to Beloit, which is a French word, after Beloit, Wisconsin. He built a large hotel which is known as the Hersey House. The hotel was controlled by W. H. Mitchell. The original Hersey Home, though changed in its outward appearance, is still in existence and is located on the corner of South and River Streets.

Tim Hersey was chosen Beloit's first mayor, a position he was proud to hold. A bit of shrewd politics was carried out at this time by Mr. Hersey, who owned a large part of Beloit townsite. In order to secure the selection of Beloit as the county seat, he personally in 1870-1871, at a cost of \$1,000 built and paid for the first courthouse. It was a story and one-half building of native stone. No doubt it had its effect on securing the county seat for Beloit.

From Beloit he moved westward along the Solomon River to the Waconda proper. He pushed forward to Wyoming and Montana, where he worked a while in the mill business again and finally to handling and raising horses and ponies. Not being happy with this life, he once again returned to the frontier.

In the late 1800's he went to the West coast where in 1890 was nominated for Democratic senator, but lost because of the large Republican party.

As appeared in an article written by W. H. Mitchell and published in the Beloit Gazette on July 20, 1905, Vol. 33, No. 18 about his obituary, here are some of the thoughts about him:

'His hand was always open as his heart. Many times in the early days the only hope of the new homesteads was in the generous heart of Tim Hersey. No man, when in trouble in those days, went away empty handed after appealing to him for help.

In the early days he was the very life of the Solomon Valley. His striking, impressive face wore a continual smile. When he left you, the sun seemed to shine less brightly.

He finally gave up the hope of ever amassing a fortune and joined his family in Castle Rock, Washington, where he died of pneumonia. He was nearly 78 years of age. He left behind to mourn his death, a wife and six children.

We who live along the great Solomon Valley have reason to remember with gratitude the name of grand old Tim Hersey.

STILL PIONEERING IN 1870'S

Ann Ludwig

Where and when was the first settlement established in Mitchell County? The first post office? The first Church?

These and similar questions may often be the topics of discussion of "old timers" in this vicinity.

Many "firsts" are listed in a book owned by Julius "Jude" Gaston of Glen Elder.

The book's map of Mitchell County in 1878 reveals we had but seventeen townships, instead of the present twenty.

Changes can be denoted in the county's cities since that time. Tipton is listed on the early day map as Pittsburg. The city of Hunter was not in existence.

In the book, the biennial report credits Andrew Pearson with the first settlement in Mitchell County. He located in Logan Twp. in 1868. First settler in Beloit City was by T. F. Hersey in March, 1870.

First marriage ceremony recorded in Mitchell County took place in 1868 in Asherville Twp. and joined W. McConnell and Nancy Marshall. The first wedding in the city of Beloit was performed December 9, 1870, uniting O. P. Pooler and Mary M. Bell.

Followers of the Baptist faith built the first church in Mitchell County, it being erected in Blue Hill Twp. in 1873. The following year, 1874, Beloit saw its first church rise, built by the Methodists.

Mitchell County, even in its infancy, didn't neglect the formal education of its young. First schools appeared in the county in 1872 and in 1873 a school was erected in Beloit. Schools built in 1872 were: Dist. 18 on West Asher Creek in Lulu Twp.; Labon Creek Dist. 16 in Bloomfield Twp.; Dist. 72 in Center Twp.; Dist. 11, Solomon Rapids Twp.

However, teaching could hardly be considered a very lucrative profession in pioneer Mitchell County. Average monthly salary of male teachers in 1878 was \$26.72, for female teachers \$19.

Beloit's first 'business' was attributed to T. F. Hersey, founder of the city. He started a milling industry here. Asherville Twp's first 'business', a grocery, was run by John Rees.

The first business venture in Blue Hills Twp. was a grocery operated by Albert Paddock.

The Solomon River was the backbone of the county's industrial empire in 1878. A map of the county shows nine water-powered mills, grist flour and saw--dotting the banks of the river.

Distinction of the first post office in the county goes to Asherville, which had one established in 1869 with John Rees as the postmaster.

The first postmaster for Beloit City, according to the biennial report, was Harry Lyon, and the post office here opened in 1870.

Agricultural statistics in Gaston's book show Mitchell County ranked only 46th among all 70 counties in the state in 1872 in wheat production. In 1878, Mitchell County had risen to 17th place in Kansas.

While Honest Abe never made it this far west, his trade mark was in evidence in Mitchell County. The biennial report lists 2,132 rods of rail fences here in 1878. There were 3,323 rods of board fences, 2,432 of stone, and 7,994 of wire.

Personal property in Mitchell County was assessed at \$372,184 in 1878 with the assessed valuation of all property being \$1, 136,268.

A step in the right direction, through not a success, might best describe Beloit's and Mitchell County's first newspaper. IT AS CALLED THE MIRROR, its first edition being printed April 5, 1871. A. B. Cornell was the proprietor. It was issued irregularly for several months, then suspended.

Information compiled from my Great Grandmother Hogan's scrapbook. Mrs. Ida Hogan, Beloit, Kansas

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"AUNT KIE" AND HER NINETY-THREE YEARS

Raelene Walker

It all begin in the grasshopper year on March 27, 1874. In a one room log cabin southwest of Beloit was when and where Climena Augustus Jordan Park began her life in Mitchell County. She is the oldest of her five brothers and sisters.

To the young and old she is known as "Aunt Kie"--which is the nick-name she gave to herself, since she could not say Climena when she was a little girl.

Aunt Kie began school in the country when she was five. She attended high school in the old BHS school building, which later burned. She also attended "Grelette Quaker Academy" by Glen Elder. This was where the dam site is now. Her professor was J. W. Marshall. She boarded at the school, since in those days it was far from home. She later attended "normal" which is a preparation for teaching. Then she received her certificate to teach and began teaching at the age of seventeen. Her first term was at "Long Crossing", southwest of Beloit. She had thirteen pupils and was paid \$25.00 per month. This school building was part dug-out, with two windows on each side and a dirt roof. It had wide boards for the floor. They had a box supper to get money to buy "reading-cycle" books (which were badly needed) and curtains for the windows. Mr. Anthony McKee (a neighbor who turned out to be a bank robber), hired Aunt Kie for her first term. She told him she was without experience. He said, "how do you expect to get experience if you do not start?" One time when she went to Mr. McKee's to get her voucher signed, she met "Belle Star"--a woman outlaw. She was in hiding at the McKee home. Aunt Kie did not know this, nor did she know when she left. She later had the McKee children in her school. She taught one term at Hayes school, then another at Long Crossing.

On April 15, 1894 Aunt Kie and John P. Park were wed. She then taught another term at Long Crossing. She recalls of one pupil being older than she. To get to her school she drove a single horse cart, mostly across country, as roads were poor.

After she was married, her first home was in a house near Solomon Rapids. This house is still standing. She lived there because her husband taught school between Glen Elder and Cawker City. This school house is also still standing. In a short time they moved to a place near where she now lives--this house was made of stone and clay, when it rained the clay used to run down the walls and come inside. It was otherwise well built. Later she moved where she now lives--ten miles south and five and one-half west of Beloit.

Aunt Kie said: "I quit teaching others and began a school at home." She has three grown children whose names all begin with E.

In 1888 only the tops of the peach trees showed from a three day blizzard. Temperatures got down to thirty degrees below zero.

One of the sad moments in her life was when one of her brothers died. They were playing on a haystack and he asked her to pull him down. She did and he injured his back. He couldn't walk for about a year and later died.

A happy event Aunt Kie remembers is when a neighbor, Mr. Jenkins went to a place where clothing was being given to people in the grasshopper area. The man brought back a pretty red dress and stockings which she wore for her best.

She recalls of having seen an antelope near her house.

She also tells of the time she was riding a horse with her pretty riding skirt on. The horse became frightened by a dog. Aunt Kie finally got off and let the horse run. At the time she was on her way to the Buel Post Office, which was about a mile from where she now lives. She has a card with the Buel postmark. The post office was run by Green's. She tells of Farley's General Merchandise store near the post office.

Aunt Kie has a candle maker of metal which her Mother used to make the candles they used for lights in their home.

Another common thing of her young days was for her Mother to put out the light and have the children keep quiet so the Indians would not find them. Fortunately they were never bothered.

Aunt Kie seems very young and everyone loves her. She knows children and elder ones by their first names and keeps up on today's events. She is using some of her spare time piecing a quilt for her newly married granddaughter.

I think she is still teaching, as I learned a lot from her in getting this history.

HISTORY OF THE GRAND THEATRE, BELOIT, KANSAS
1913 - 1964

Bobby Petterson

"It is rumored today that plans are on foot and just about completed for the erection of a new and thoroughly modern, fire-proof opera house in Beloit. While the matter is not quite ready for publication of the details yet, the chances look brighter than they ever have for the erection of this much needed improvement." This article appeared in the March 18, 1914 issue of the Beloit Gazette.

So begins the colorful history of the Grand Theatre, presently remembered as the Beloit Theatre by many of the younger generation.

The deed to the ground on which the theatre stood, until it was torn down in 1964, was dated October 27, 1913. The deed was from Mr. I. W. Gaylord et al, to Mr. W. S. Gabel, for the amount of \$4,000.00. The deed was recorded November 1, 1913, in Book 36, Page 113 at the Register of Deeds office, Mitchell County Court House, Beloit, Kansas. The Register of Deeds at that time was Mr. J. W. McGhee.

On March 25, 1914, a contract was awarded to Mr. Jacob Madston, stone mason, for the erection of the new opera house, as theatres were called in those days. The Building was 48 x 142 feet in size, and according to a statement in the Beloit Gazette, "would be one of the neatest and most attractive play houses in this part of the state."

Mr. Gabel said the building would be made as nearly fire-proof as possible. Further description said that the main structure would be of stone with an arched brick front and a 12 foot lobby extending across the entire front. The floor would be of cement, constructed on a five foot incline. The stage would be level with the back of the room and would include ample space for a large orchestra.

The plans were prepared by Mr. Frank A. Slack, a local architect, who is now deceased. Another statement issued by the Beloit Gazette said, "It will call for not only a safe, pleasing and convenient interior arrangement, but for an equally attractive exterior as well." How excited the people of Beloit must have been!

The Gazette also reported that the building would have a seating capacity of 750 and would be built high enough so that a gallery could be added later if the patronage warranted it. This would increase the total seating capacity to 1,000. Mr. Gabel and the contractor reported that they hoped the building would be ready for occupancy by July.

A Mr. Ed Burgan of Concordia, Kansas, leased the house for a term of five years. His plans included running up-to-date shows and 'vaudeville.'

The Gazette further reported that when the building was completed and furnished that it would represent an investment of about \$15,000. (Quite a large amount for those days). They further stated that "the people of Beloit, who have been desirous of a more up-to-date opera house, would not fail to appreciate it."

On Wednesday, July 29, 1914, it was reported in the Beloit Gazette that "the Grand Theatre, Beloit's new playhouse, would be opened in about a week." Mr. W. S. Gabel, owner, said the building would be turned over to Mr. Burgan that same Saturday night. Painters and decorators were busy on the interior and hoped to be through before the week was out. Scenery for the theatre was painted at Downs. Mr. Burgan reported he would open with a picture (name of show not given), and would show pictures until cool weather came.

Evidently the opera house was successful in Beloit, because no big stories, other than regular ads, appeared in the Gazette until October 15, 1924.

Headlines on this article report that the Grand Theatre added two new "Powers 6-B" machines. "On Monday of this week the Grand Theatre Management ordered two of the well-known "Powers 6-B" moving picture machines. They were shipped by express and arrived safely in Beloit. A special mechanic, name unknown, was on hand the same day to install the new machines. They were installed the same day, tried out, and are now already to make the initial showing tonight of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The management reported that "the big idea of these things is to cause better, steadier light; to make the machines run at exactly the same speed, regardless as to the un-even light current and to cause the pictures to be clear, to stand out on the screen in pronounced contrasts."

On March 23, 1927, an advertisement in the Beloit Gazette showed some coming attractions at the Grand. These were: "The Scarlet Letter," "Tin Hats," "The Flesh and the Devil," and "The Fire Brigade"

Not only were pictures shown at the theatre, it was also reported that the people of Beloit were treated to a performance by a professional dance instructor. The May 18, 1927, issue of the Gazette says that people going to the theatre that night or the next night would have the added pleasure of seeing Miss Emma M. Seibert, a professional dancing instructor from the Horner Institute of Kansas City, Missouri, who would perform toe, asthetic and oriental dances. It is also interesting to note that there was no added charge. The feature showing at the theatre at that time was "Mr. Wu," starring Lon Chaney. Ads about this was "the Chinese picture causing considerable newspaper copy for the past few weeks."

Each year Beloit celebrated an event then known as "The Chautaugau." This was about the same thing as a county fair is today. A write-up in the Gazette August 3, 1927 about the Grand Theatre, stated that the Saturday night crowd was larger than expected on hand at the theatre, which was quite a surprise, according to Mr. Gabel. He further stated that the Grand always did a pretty good business during Chautaugau, because of the large crowds that were in town for that event, and who also wanted to see a good picture while in Beloit.

We take for granted now seeing a talking motion picture, but talking pictures were a long time coming and created lots of excitement the world over. The starting of talking pictures are a part of the history of the whole country.

Big headlines in the January 16, 1929 issue of the Beloit Gazette stated: "To Be Shipped January 21-Grand Theatre Patrons Will Not Have To Wait Long For Talkies." Mr. Gabel, owner, reported to the public that he had received notice that the Grand's "Talkie" machine would be shipped on January 21, and that the men who would install the machine would leave New York City on the same day for Beloit. No estimate was made as to just how long it would take to install the machine, but said that he expected the men and the machine to reach Beloit the latter part of the next week. This statement was made in the January 16 issue, so to travel from New York in those days, it evidently took about two weeks. (Probably now about two hours).

The paper stated that the theatre would probably have to have a "dark night or two" while the final work of installing the machine was accomplished, but they were not sure if this would be necessary. Mr. Gabel was quoted as saying, "We'll just have to wait until that bird gets here before we can say anything about that!"

He further commented that the Grand had already attracted a goodly number of talkie pictures, and in addition, had brought quite a number of Vaudeville acts, novelites and comedies-all in talking pictures, feature length, each night. He went on to say that whenever films were shown that were still silent, the managers always tried to have some talking Vaudeville and comedy additions besides the regular program. This was done so that people coming from a distance would not be disappointed if there was not a talkie showing.

On March 6 of that same year, the Beloit Gazette reports that "the first 100% talking picture to be shown in Beloit is 'The Terror', which will appear at the Grand on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There are no reading parts or music in the picture, but there are a lot of shrieks, yells, moans and wierd sounds-it's that kind of a picture."

Further description of the picture itself says "This is one of 'the bat' type pictures; mysterious events and circumstances surrounding a murder case." There are still lots of pictures like that shown today. This was a double feature, the second being a comedy, and Mr.

Gabel said he had seen it that morning and it was a "knock out".

More details in the history of the Grand Theatre show that in early 1929 the Grand Theatre was sold to the Glen W. Dickinson Theatres, Inc. of Kansas City. They represented a chain of about 25 theatres in Kansas and Missouri.

In a letter to the Gazette office, Mr. Dickinson informed the Gazette that they would close down the Grand Theatre for one month, starting July 1. During that time he said the theatre would undergo remodeling, re-decorating and installation of Western Electric sound equipment. Mr. Dickinson also wrote that the theatre would re-open August 1. "It is our intention to be an asset to your town and community, and we will do everything within our power to help make Beloit a better town."

A further report on the new owner stated that Mr. Dickinson operated theatres in Manhattan, Lawrence, Junction City, Independence, Parsons, Kansas, and in Independence, Missouri, Chillicothe, Missouri and other places. He was said to be rated in theatre circles as a very successful movie theatre operator.

Some of Mr. Dickinson's plans of re-modeling included the erection of a marquis and a big electric sign in the front of the theatre. The Western Sound equipment mentioned earlier was classed as the best sound equipment made; and was the same as they used in Salina, Kansas. The new manager of the theatre was not named at that time.

The Gazette wrote a nice article about Mr. Gabel and his son, stating: "In their retirement from the moving picture business in Beloit, W. S. and W. J. Gabel leave behind them ten years of faithful and conscientious service to their theatre and to the community as a whole. They took over the theatre from Ed Burgan in the summer of 1919 and have since operated it. During the ten years the Grand was in charge of the Gabel's, Beloit has become widely known for the high class of shows brought to this city. For years, the Gabels could have brought cheap pictures and could have operated their theatre with a light overhead, but that was not their style. They took a pride in getting new and the better classes of pictures, even though the extra cost caused them many times to lose money just to give Beloit the best obtainable pictures."

Later in August of the year 1929, the new Dickinson Theatre formally opened its doors to the theatre-going public. The feature showing at that time was "Mother's Boy", Starring Morton Downey, in an all talking picture.

Headlines in the Gazette reported: "The Dickinson Theatre Has Splendid Talking Picture Program For the Debut Performance." It said that two capacity audiences filled the theatre and that the crowds admired the elaborate decoration. Mr. H. C. Cole, then President of the Chamber of Commerce gave a speech to welcome the Dickinson's to Beloit.

The Western Electric sound system was declared to be the very best on the market and that everything could be heard plainly.

In 1940, Mr. T. G. Morrisett, the manager at that time, announced that effective at once, the "Mill Street movie house would become known as the Beloit Theatre." There was a new name contest held, and Miss Viola Laguna of Neva's Beauty Shop won the contest. Several people suggested the same name, but since she was the first, she was declared the winner and was awarded a pass good for three months.

Just a little bit of extra information is added here and is just a small part of the theatre's history. Starting in 1947 and continuing into 1950, my mother, Mrs. Bob Petterson, the Marilyn Craig, has told me that she worked at the Beloit theatre during that time as an usher. Lots of girls worked there as ushers for several years. She also re-seat people. Uniforms, when she worked there, were bright blue satin slacks and white satin blouses. Shortly after 1950, ushers were no longer used. The manager of the theatre at that time was Mr. Gill. She also likes to remind me that she was paid just 25 cents an hour, and that this was considered pretty good pay.

From this time on, several owners were in charge of the Beloit Theatre, among them the H. J. Griffith Realty Company. The last owner of the Theatre was Mr. Wendell Peck, currently of Beloit, who closed the Theatre in 1964. The building was then sold to the Beloit Building and Loan Association of Beloit, and shortly after that, the Building was torn down. Another member of my family is mentioned here, because the building was torn down by the Petterson Brothers Construction firm, of which my Dad is part-owner.

So ends the story about the theatre called the Grand, Dickinson and Beloit.

After going through lots of papers at the Gazette office and getting dates and other information from Mrs. Harold Hill, daughter of Mr. Gabel. I tried to get the most interesting information I could about the theatre. I think the theatre sure has to be considered a vital part of the history of Beloit and Mitchell County.

VICTOR, A KANSAS GHOST TOWN

Kim Kimerer

Victor on Saturday night in the early 20th century there was no place to tie your team! Victor, the biggest little town in this area was located 17 miles south of Beloit, 7 west, and a quarter of a mile north. At one time the town was centered around a store with a bank, a creamery, school, restaurant, telephone system, a lodge hall, and a blacksmith's shop. There were also four doctors there at various times and a cheese factory that was used only a few times. There was also a city well with sweet, clear water nearby.

In 1885 a store was built and begun by Al Paddock. The building is a rectangular shape, located on the west side of the road. It is a frame building and the inside was boxed in with wooden crates. The large basement, with three stairways, held supplies brought in from Beloit and Vesper. They sold everything from celluloid collars to ladies high button shoes. This was an old fashioned general store selling food from big crates and barrels. To this day some old fashioned barrels may be seen around the store building. Second to run the store was William Hill. A Mr. Orsborne ran the store at one time later selling to Pearl and Roy VanPelt. VanPelt stocked some plates for wall decoration. After dusting one plate for ten years he asked a customer what he'd give for it; they finally settled on 50¢ for it. In later years this VanPelt was visiting in California and noticed this plate on the wall of a friend's house. The friend said he had been offered \$150.00 for it from an antique dealer and he refused to part with it. The plate was imported from Germany and bore a rare design.

About 1895 Andy Range came to Victor to run the store. He lived in the quarters in back of the store. The store was prosperous during this time so Range stayed there for a long time. In 1912 and following years Ray Swinton worked as a clerk in the store. The people of this time didn't buy their groceries as we do today; they traded eggs and homemade butter for many staples. The eggs were mostly packed in buckets with grain, layered around them to keep them from breaking on their bumpy ride to town. Mr. Swinton told about storing butter in the basement until it could be disposed of. He also recalled when they had a wagon load of eggs on hand he would load them up and go to Beloit to trade them for commodities. This trip would take from sun up to sun down, as the road then, was just a trail.

Carl Woody came to Victor from Salina. He bought full interest

in 1925 from VanPelt, who then lived in Hutchison. Woody operated the store for 34 years. Harold Jaeger worked with Woody for a time and then went to Bethany. During World War I at its peak the store did about \$55,000 business. The Salina Journal dated February 13, 1955 carried the story and pictures of the auction of the stock in the store. There were pictures of Mr. Woody trying on collars from his old stock, plus pictures of other people that lived around there. Mr. Will Wick was associated with the store in Victor. The records also show that Henry Wick worked in the store there. The Wick Bros. eventually went to New Hunter to run a general store which was a prominent part of the new town there. There was also another store in Victor for a short time located across the road. A man named Kibbey ran it for two or three years.

The bank was a very small building attached to the store on the northeast corner. The windows and door still remain barred from the olden days. Inside still stands a small cupboard with shelves across one side. The bank business was established in about 1916 by Ed Merger who came from Beloit. The bank was used much as one is today with checking accounts, loans, and deposits. The bank moved to Hunter when the railroad came to that town.

A small frame building southwest of the Victor city well was the creamery. George Geiser started the business and separated the milk there. He bought milk from all who had it and then delivered it to Beloit in big cans. George Geiser was married in 1907 and brought his wife to Victor to live where they worked in the business he had established three years before. The Geisers remained there for five or six years following their marriage. George VanPelt lived in a house just west of the cream station.

The Cheese factory was a stone arched building north of the creamery across the road. It made cheese for only a very short time, and then was abandoned. Later, a blacksmith by the name of Charles Oslaven put his shop there. He worked there for only one or two seasons before moving on.

In the earliest part of this period Adam Taulhaber had a blacksmith's shop at his farm. John Wiese was one of the first blacksmiths in Victor. Wiese's shop was the biggest one around with the exception of Beloit. This shop was in a two-story frame building located north of the crossroads. In that time, the forge was run by foot pedal and hand bellows. John Wiese had the first turning lathe and actylene welding torch in Mitchell County. This machinery was brought to Beloit by train and frieghted to Victor by team and wagon. Wiese became widely known for his work and was so busy that a Mr. Hildebrand from Beloit was brought out to shoe horses. Finally, Wiese traded his blacksmiths shop to John Weins for some farm land. He later migrated to Canada where his descendants still farm. The next blacksmiths

in Victor were Bert Tiltan, a man named Burnwell, and Walt Miller. Foots Sigle ran the Blacksmiths shop until the early 1950's. Sometime during this early period the blacksmiths shop was torn down and a new one was erected, which still stands deserted.

Doctor Lawrence was the first doctor in Victor in the late 1800's. Dr. Lawrence had his office in his house which was a little east. He also served as a dentist for folks. W. R. Kimerer recalls once having a toothache and going to Dr. Lawrence. Dr. Lawrence pulled the wrong tooth and he had to go back and get the right one pulled. In about 1900 a young man just out of medical school named Dr. Egerton came to Victor. Dr. Egerton was there until about 1910 becoming something of a tradition with Victor folks. A Doctor Hope had just graduated from Kansas Medical School at Washburn University when he came to Victor to practice medicine in 1909. He took over most of the office work when he came here. His office was in the old Buening house. The first baby he delivered was a baby girl to Pfaff's who lived between Victor and Lincoln. He went with a team and buggy to attend Mrs. Pfaff. In the winter of 1919 Dr. Hope went over drifts up to 30 feet high to bring Stan Swinton into the world. During Dr. Hope's years in the community he became well-known for his friendliness and interest in everyone. Many of the children he brought into the world he treated like his own. One reason "Doc" Hope moved away is because he became interested in the new town of Hunter and had opportunities to obtain property near there. Times were changing and people had to, too. Dr. Hope finally moved there when the railroad came to Hunter, in about 1917. He remained in Hunter where his interest in sports and politics and a steady practice gave him and his family a full life until he passed away February 6, 1958. There was also a Dr. Clark in Victor a few years after Dr. Hope left. His office was across the road. Also there was a Dr. Cranshaw over by Round Springs which is about one and a half miles east of Victor.

The school was about a mile south of the store on the west side of the road. It was a small framework building built on a stone foundation with open rafters. The desks were old styled and seated two people. The teacher usually boarded across the road at Buennings. The teacher usually left the kids by themselves over noon hour while she went to lunch. Some of the kids were from 20 to 25 years old and would easily think up some mischief. Ernestine Poelma was an excellent penman and she gave the kids writing lessons at night. Mrs. Gene Loban was a teacher in 1895 with 29 pupils in her school. Minnie Deturler was a teacher at Victor from 1898 to 1899. She had 25 to 30 students. Charles Pehrson was a teacher in 1900 having approximately 25 students. Ina Cranshaw VanPelt taught school at Victor at sometime. Agnes Pfaff also taught school at Victor. At this time they had a school board whose members were W. H. Buening,

A. Range, and J. W. Farrand. The Buennings had five boys named Richard, Lorenz, Eddie, Henry, and Alvin who attended school during various terms. For a short time they held Sunday School in the school house.

A restaurant called the Buck Horn Tavern did a great deal of business for a short time. It was north of the store and east of the city well. Roy Dunckley and Herb Kadel ran the tavern together.

The mail came by team from Beloit and changed horses at Victor going back to Beloit again the same day. There are no records of how this mail was sorted but later there was a post office south of where "Doc" Hope had his office. A Mr. Sherbundy carried the mail giving service every day. Later a Mr. Irish carried the mail to his customers every day. Eventually the post office was moved over by the store. In the early 1950's the Star Route from Beloit was extended to New Hunter and the mail service at Victor was discontinued. The U. S. Post Office was retained in Victor until 1941. Without the mail service Victor slowly faded away and business decreased.

The Telephone system there, was a real boon to the farmers in the area. It was an old type telephone system established in 1900 by Frankie Ewing. The central office was located about a quarter of a mile east of Victor on the north side of the road. Wire and posts were freighted out from Beloit to build the lines. Katy and Ada Pfaff worked as part-time operators. Later the central office was moved up north of the store in the building where the tavern had been. Ethyl Swinton was the switch board operator then.

There was much interest in Victor's ball team. They first practiced a mile east of Victor north of the Faulhaber Grove. The first man to run the ball team was a man named Leake who is now buried at Round Springs Cemetery. One fellow recalls that a one-legged man ran the ball team for a time. When C. C. and Charlie Kimerer played baseball with Victor, Will Shutt was manager. Victor was very well-known for this baseball team. When Chris and Ed Nash, Stevens, Hyman, and others played they had a game every Sunday. Dr. Hope and Dr. Egerton were both interested in the ball team and helped with many different needs. In later years the team practiced in a pasture across from the store.

The people organized a lodge in the old school building. The Woodman Lodge had over eighty members at one time. Women formed the Royal Neighbors Lodge of which Grace Kimerer was an active member. The Woodman Lodge had enough backing to build a lodge hall. The building was south of the store and was used for other affairs, including square dances. The Bluebird Club

received its charter in 1917. Mrs. Ray Swinton, a charter member remembers early meetings. Minnie McAlexander was a member of the Bluebirds until her death. Mrs. George Horning and Mrs. Hope were active in Bluebirds along with others.

Picnics in the Faulhaber Grove were a highlight of activities in Victor. The Scofields who lived a mile south and three-fourths west of Victor enjoyed the picnics. The George Kidneys, Laura and Maude and the Chrittens never failed to appear. The Fentons and the Kimerers were always first for the horse races and baseball games. Jake and Leslie Farrand and the George Hornings who lived a mile south and a half mile west of Victor in a part-dugout house did their trading in the town. Adam Beeler who lived a mile and $3/4$ west of Victor always was there to watch the activities. The Kadels, Holoways, and the Swintons were familiar names in Victor in early days. Some of them are still neighbors to the old town. The folks who could, always went to the Saturday night square dances. They would do some trading and visit with their neighbors. Victor was a prosperous town in its time. Except for a little place called Yorktown three miles south and one half west which was just a small store and a blacksmiths shop, Victor was the only town around with these businesses.

SCOTTSVILLE

David Stillwell

In 1874 settlers started a town now known as Scottsville. The town was named after Thomas Scott who built the first depot.

Lew Rardin opened Scottsville's first blacksmith shop in 1891.

My great-grandmother, Mrs. Lenora Davis, operated one of the first post-offices, before the railroad came through. My great-grandfather, Frank Stillwell, owned a restaurant and meat market in 1896. My grandfather's uncle, Frank McCauley, was a barber at that time. Later he opened Scottsville's first jewelry store.

There were many businesses around that time: A livery barn, lumber yard, two general stores, hardware store, drug store, and 40-room hotel.

In 1905 the telephone made its way into the lives of the people around Scottsville and was known as the Home Telephone Co. W. Bolwers was Scottsville's first telephone operator.

Many banks were started here in Scottsville over the years. There was the Bank of Scottsville and Farmers State, to name two. The last bank closed in 1943. Scottsville has never had another bank.

Scottsville has had several newspapers. The Scottsville Advance was printed in 1907. Three years later the building was destroyed by fire. The Tri-County News was printed in 1896 and the Scottsville News in 1928.

On Jan. 4, 1910, a fire destroyed the east side of Main Street taking the post-office, Ratiff Furniture store, drug store, implement store, butcher shop, and cafe. Damage amounted to \$7,500. Several years later another fire destroyed most of the west side of the street. Old timers say it was started from a gas stove in Keller's Cafe.

In 1893 Scottsville had four churches. Later, in 1923, the Baptist and Methodist combined and called themselves Presbyterians.

Scottsville's first school started in 1874, was a dugout. The teacher was paid only \$12.00 per month. The high school was closed in 1949 and all that is left now is the grade school.

George Cleve Collins has made many first's around Scottsville. He owned the first motorcycle and airplane in 1929, the second in the county, and only one at Scottsville. He lives one-half mile south of our family home.

My grandfather, Neola Stillwell, should also be written into Scottsville history. In 1954 he drilled Scottsville's first oil well east of town. He also has built the largest fall-out-shelter in all of Mitchell County. Grandfather is also an amateur radio operator and talks to people all over the United States. We're very proud of him.

At present, Scottsville has sixty-six residents, one Co-op service station, a post office, three elevators, The Hobby Corner, and a one-teacher school with 20 pupils. Our teacher is Mrs. Bodenhamer.

Many people over the years have lived in Scottsville. It may be small now in size, but large in the hearts of everyone who's lived here.

FACTS OF EARLY MITCHELL COUNTY

Sherri Eberle

The county was first surveyed and completed on August 23, 1858, and again on September 6, 1862.

Governor Crawford appointed Don Peaslee as clerk to take the census in 1869, in order to organize the county. The county was organized in 1870 and the first election was held on November 8, 1870. Don Peaslee was elected the first County Attorney.

The first Board of County Commissioners met in Beloit, October 4, 1870.

It was then declared the County Seat Town.

The first county seal was ordered on December 12, 1871.

The grasshopper invasion was in the summer of 1874. Farmers were left with no gardens, crops, or feed for livestock. The County provided help and later aid was sent from the East.

The end of the open range came to Mitchell County on February 20, 1875.

On February 11, 1880, the County leased a farm to be used as a County Poor Farm.

On September 21, 1885, the Commissioners met to consider erecting a new Court House and Jail. Mitchell County has had two Court Houses.

On April 14, 1893, LaGrippe, Pneumonia, and Scarlet Fever prevailed extensively with the greatest having occurred from Pneumonia. There were 58 deaths reported from all cases. There were 49 births. This is the first time in the history of the county that the number of deaths reported exceeded the number of births.

The County Printing was left to the People's Sentinel of Glen Elder, and the Western Call of Beloit. They were the two lowest bidders.

The Board purchased the George R. Green farm in Turkey Creek Township for the Mitchell County Poor Farm on January 11, 1896. They appointed Michael Hartman as Manager of the Poor Farm at a salary of \$900 per year.

On October 10, 1896, the County Health Officer advised the boiling of water for drinking purposes. In 1897 there was a lot of Typhoid and Malaria Fever due to the long drought and unwholesome water.

The Board appointed in 1898 M. Borst of Glen Elder as Medical Doctor at the County Poor Farm for the coming year.

The County Commissioners met for the first time in the new Court House on January 6, 1902.

The first Fair was held at Beloit on September 16, 1902.

On December 28, 1902, there was an epidemic of Small Pox. The Health Officers made it compulsory in Mitchell County Schools that all teachers and pupils be vaccinated.

It was at this time that R. M. Pickler was appointed County Physician.

These are facts from 1858 to 1920.

Mitchell County was named in honor of William D. Mitchell who entered the Union Army as a Private in Company K. Second Kansas Cavalry; was promoted to Captain in the Second Kentucky Cavalry and killed March 10, 1865, at Monroe's Cross Roads, North Carolina.

BELOIT

Susan Wagner

Beloit was a permanent organization of the country in 1870. It was selected as the county seat, a vote of two to one. Beloit had a vote of 143, Solomon Rapids 43, and Glen Elder 36.

Beloit was first settled by A. A. Bell in 1868. For some time it was known as Willow Creek. Later T. F. Hersey purchased the mill-site from Mr. Bell and began getting out timber for a dam.

The first township election was held April 4, 1871. That same year T. F. Hersey and a few others decided on a school building. It was built on the lot where Mr. Robert's furniture store stood. Rev. O. H. Fletcher was the first teacher of the school.

During the summer in 1871, many meetings were held by the Baptists in places not usually devoted to divine worship. For instance, Rev. George Balcom stepped into one of the saloons on Mill Street and, taking a violin from one of the players, got behind the bar and played and sang. Elder Balcom located a claim in the west part of the county where he resided until his death in 1880.

In the winter of 1873, an iron bridge was built across the Solomon River, within the city limits, at the expense of \$10,000.

The Mayors of Beloit have been T. F. Hersey, G. W. Elliott, Alexander Chambell, E. Valentine, W. S. Vreeland, and John S. Rogers.

On March 10, 1879, Gov. John P. St. John proclaimed Beloit a city of the second class.

In 1872, the school district in which this town is situated, was the second district formed in the county. In 1878, this building was found to be too small to accommodate the scholars, so a \$3,000 addition was built. Five hundred and forty two (542) pupils were enrolled in this district, and nine months school held annually. The expenses per year were \$3,752.70. It was one of the largest and best schools in the county.

The school board was composed of, W. H. Mitchell, President; Samuel Thanhouser, Treasure, J. H. Roberts, George T. Finnell, and H. J. Rogers.

A. A. Bell became postmaster July 1, 1870. He held the office several months with Joel Miley.

Beloit had two, large, three-story buildings. The Avenue House was built in 1875 by Frank McGraph and H. Bramwell, on the corner of Main Street and Hersey Avenue. It was a stone building, three stories high. There was a well-finished basement and it was the roomiest house in the county.

Now Beloit is a modern city, with large buildings and has new transportation. The population of Beloit is 3,837 and is still growing.

THE MITCHELL COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Byron Cook

On the morning of April 4, 1901, the town of Beloit, Kansas was buzzing with excitement. This was a great day because the cornerstone of the courthouse was to be laid. Bands were marching to the site where the new building was to be erected. Now I want to tell a little about the place where the courthouse stands.

The courthouse is on block four of the old Beloit township. There has been a great array of things on this block. At one time it was a buffalo wallow in the middle of the prairie. Years later the block contained Brunswicks Hotel, old wooden buildings used as hospitals and schools and a blacksmiths shop. There were also vacant lots with tall grass and weeds that were marsy and damp and a good hide out for frogs.

One night the hotel was destroyed by fire. Before the fire was extinguished this site was suggested for the citys new courthouse. Later the whole block was purchased piece by piece for five thousand dollars.

Mitchell County's first courthouse was located at the corner of Court Street and Hersey Avenue, where the Standard Oil Station and Don Noah's office is now located. It was built by Timothy Hersey our first mayor. It was a two story building occupied from 1871 till about 1893-4. The building became so weak the walls had to be propped up to keep them from falling down. The building became to dangerous for habitation and was moved downtown.

The court house was finished in October 1901. It had been built by contractors Messers, Cuthbert, and Sargent of Topeka. The building was built of Williamsburg Stone and Strong City Stone. The building was 75 ft. 8 in. by 95 ft. 8 in. and its tower rises to 111 feet. The building rises two stories above the basement. The jail and jailers quarters are in the basement. The jail has now been moved east of the courthouse on block 4. The building cost just over \$38,000.

Today we can always depend on the clock to tell us the time of day. It was installed four years later, It was purchased by a local jeweler. It was a Seth Thomas spring wound clock but was later changed to electricity. Three of the faces of the clock are made of the original glass but the west face is wood because of an accident in the early 1950's. Today the courthouse is a place of beauty and it signifies the importance of Beloit to Mitchell County. It is a place to be proud of and to respect.

THE SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Kristine Ludwig

As you come into the city of Beloit from any direction, you can see the twin flying buttresses of the Catholic Church, which has stood for about 65 years and will provide many more years of enjoyment for the people of Beloit.

Father Heitz's arrival in Beloit in 1889 started the expansion program. The church property worth \$10,000, a debt of \$1,000, and a congregation that was willing to do a lot of hard work, started on the church about three years after his arrival. The foundation of the new church was laid about the year of 1900. The farmers quarried and hauled stone from their farms with wagons and horses. The masons hand-dressed the 9,000 tons of native rock, which came from farms of the congregation. My grandfather, Joe Ludwig, was one of the farmers who came to help, and also furnished some of the stone from his farm.

Medieval Romanesque style with Gothic and Lombard features describes this facsimile of a convent church in Europe. It is believed to be the first church in the United States featuring flying buttresses and an entire stone ceiling. The main altar is of Italian and African marble. Two Italian brothers, Gonnipo and Raggi Palamido, spent two years doing the decorating of the walls. It has been estimated that St. John's Church, as it stands completed, could not be duplicated for less than one million dollars. Before the main altar was finished, my grandfather and grandmother, Joe and Rose Ludwig were the first couple to be married in the new church at the side altar.

In 1940 Father Butzer, the new pastor, found it necessary to repair the roof, as it was endangering the precious painting of the church walls. Father Butzer proceeded to slate the roof at a cost of \$25,000. He redecorated the church interior, laid a tile floor, purchased oak pews and sanctuary furniture.

In the year of 1953, Ed Eresch, Josie Eresch, and Mrs. J. C. Eresch gave in memory of their parents, the Peter Ereschs, and their two deceased brothers, Carl and George, four Peal Bells. The bells were brought from Aarle-Hixter, Holland to be placed in the tower of the church. The largest bell weighs 3,500 pounds and is called the Tenor Bell. As all bells are given names as are children; the largest bell was engraved, St. Peter for their father; the small bell weighs 1,000 pounds and was engraved, St. Josphine for their mother; the other two bells are given the names of St. Carl and St. George for the two deceased brothers. A great enjoyment has been had from these bells for all of the Beloit townspeople.

The Parish has added a grade school and a high school since, but the church is still the point of interest which draws people from great distances to see the still beautiful walls, which were built many years ago.

THE WACONDA STORY

Craig Casey.

In the heart of America, in North Central Kansas, lies a miniature circular salty sea, with the taste of ocean water and smell of east Boston, when on the eastward side.

The spring is one of the many mysteries to the red man who believed it once was a miniature volcano. Others say the "sea forgot the little spring when it with drew from the plains". But, there are no fossils or other signs of marine life in the sedimentary rock which makes up the mound.

The first white man to visit this historic spot was Sir William Johnson in the spring of 1767.

There are many interesting facts concerning Waconda. It is believed to be the largest salt water spring in the world, and the only spring on the top of a mound in the world. A deep sea diver explored the cone in the spring of 1908.

Ripley's "Believe It or Not", in 1936 featured Waconda Springs, 600 miles from the sea, has salt water that rises and falls exactly as the ocean.

July 4, 1908, was a gala day at Waconda Spring, Hundreds of people enjoyed a program, a baseball game, and picnic. But, the exciting moment of the day came; when, a deep sea diver sank to the watery depths to explore the secret mysteries of the mound. He reported no bottom to the pool; but, from the ledges of rock each time as he came to the waters surface, he brought up such articles as; human bones, parts of tomahawks, pottery, arrow heads, and beads.

Legend of Waconda Springs:

Waconda, so the legend goes, was a beautiful Indian princess. While wandering along the Solomon River near the Springs, she came up on an injured warrior. She brought him a drink from the springs and used its water to bathe his wounds.

Although this warrior was from an enemy tribe, he and Waconda fell in love then and there and had frequent clandestine meetings in the months that followed.

During a council of the two tribes to decide whether Waconda and the young brave should be allowed to marry, feeling was high. Instead of smoking the peace pipe, a challenge of war was made and accepted.

The battle finally centered upon the little mound whose old pool reflected the cloud-flecked blue of the sky and the fearfully painted bodies of the warriors.

Waconda's lover was killed and tumbled into the pool. Waconda, watching in horror, gave a despairing cry; then flinging her arms aloft and calling upon her gods to give back her lover; she plunged after him. The pool was deep and closed over them.

In awe, the legend has it, fighting warriors drew away and silently went to their camps. In memory of this event they called the pool "Waconda" Spring of the Great Spirit.

BELOIT'S FIRST EDITOR AND LAWYER

Betsy Ross

In more recent years, stories of newspaper history in the county have stated that Mr. A. B. Cornell was editor of the first paper in Beloit, "The Mitchell County Mirror". This was the first newspaper published in what was known as the old Sixth Congressional District.

No one story included all the known facts about this man and his paper. From an original copy of the first issue of "The Mirror" and other sources, we can learn more about this pioneer.

The "1903 Mitchell County Atlas" states that Mr. Cornell was "The first lawyer to locate in Beloit..... who located here in 1871, did but little practice having started the first newspaper in Beloit." Later the same year, three other lawyers located here - Horace Cooper, D. C. Kepler and Don A. Peaslee.

The first "Mirror" printed on Wednesday, April 5, 1871, states; "In February, A. B. Cornell from Maryville, Mo., bought a third interest in the town of Beloit together with other property contiguous, and is now publishing "The Mitchell County Mirror", a paper devoted to the interest of the people of the Solomon Valley.

"Mr. Cornell is a western man fully up to the times, who after giving the Valley a thorough examination, selected this point as being naturally possessed of greater inducements than any other."

Elsewhere in the issue, Cornell gives credit to Mr. T. F. Hersey, co-founder and first mayor of Beloit, for lending him a room in which to set up his type. The real printing of the paper was done out-of-doors since only the foundation of his printing office was completed on the first issue date. In the issue, he boasted of having the largest pressroom in Kansas but complained that the wind played havoc with the sheets. He stated that he would defer another issue until March 19th, after he moved his office.

"The Beloit Gazette:, successor of "The Mirror, tells in its March 16, 1932, issue that Mr. Cornell published the paper through the winter at irregular intervals - just when he had enough material and set it into type.

Like so many adventurous pioneers, Cornell and his family did not stay here long. According to the same "Gazette", the Cornells moved late in the year to Russel. He came here a year after Mitchell

county was organized (1870) and went to Russell county just before its organization in 1872 - perhaps he wanted to record more "firsts". For this county of Mitchell, he is credited with "first editor, first paper, and first lawyer".

THE EARLY HISTORY OF GLEN ELDER

Rodey Jones

Joseph Decker was the first settler in Mitchell County: he filed in 1866 on a quarter section which lies one half mile north of Glen Elder. He cleared a garden spot and built a dugout but was later driven away by Indians.

J. Neeves and Milton Spencer were the first permanent settlers in Glen Elder. In 1868 they located at the mouth of Limestone Creek and it was they who built the first dam in the county and erected a saw mill. The first frame houses in this area were built of native lumber sawed at this mill.

A description of the Solomon Valley written in July of 1871 and viewed from the bluffs northeast of Glen Elder reads: "...recent rains had caused trees, grass, and other vegetation to take on a beautiful green...that year the blue stem grass was as high as a man's head and the corn made forty bushed an acre..."

In 1872 Charles Davis bought an interest in the mill; he added to it a grinding department and helped lay our West Hampton which is now Glen Elder.

After Neeves and Spencer came W. D. Anderson and man called Ball, who made their claims Oct. 20, 1869. Afterwards Truman Allen settled on the land where Decker had been run off. He was joined by D. C. Everson and his seventeen year old bride. Then came Willis Luckey and Alfred Clover who settled on farms nearby.

The Indians murdered the settlers so everyone had to carry a gun. The State gave them rifles but they had to furnish their own ammunition which was very hard to do as money was very scarce.

The Indians made a raid from Waconda to Minneapolis during which they killed a Dr. Rose. His remains were buried on the hill above town. In years later Milton Brokaw plowed up the bones which were again buried in the Glen Elder Cemetery.

In 1867 a Government trail was put along the river and up over the hill. A Government trail went past the Peaslee house where the only well west of Beloit was located. By 1875 there were only three wells between Glen Elder and Beloit.

After Luckey and Clover there came the Stinson brothers who built a log store known as the Panzy Bitters. They surrounded it with a heavy stockade. It was located on the north side of Limestone Creek away from the river about one half mile, the place afterwards was called Glen Elder. Near the stockade another store was built; it was owned by H. F. Vallette. The store was made of sod and used as a dry goods, grocery and drug store. The main things sold there were tobacco, dry goods, ammunition, and some canned goods.

West Hampton was located north of Limestone Creek and after the railroad was built in 1879 and the Post Office was established near the railroad, that part of the town on the north side of the creek moved over to the other side. So the town was now all together. Mrs. Stinson, one of the early settlers, with a little help named the town Glen Elder because it was located in a sort of a glen and there were many box elder trees.

On the ninth of May, 1870, a party of Arapahoes and Cheyennes came down Oak Creek and attacked a party of prospectors, the prospectors were Lew Best, John Hatcher, John Lager and others. But finding them too well armed, the Indians passed east to the Limestone and surprised the settlers at Glen Elder. Scott Guffy, Solomon Treiser, John Geer, Mr. Kenyon and a lad named Ditz Huffman were planting sod corn on the south side of the river. When about half way across the river they were confronted by a large band of Indians who began firing arrows. Kenyon, Geer and Treiser were killed, the other two escaped by running down the river and hiding in the underbrush. The remaining settlers sought shelter in the heavy timber or stockade. The Indians made a great effort to capture D. C. Everson's team of mules. With the men inside the stockade were two ladies, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Everson with her two little girls who were the only children in the country. The Indians were seen wearing the clothes of the dead men at the river. They had been to the men's dugout and one of them had on Scott Guffy's fine black suit.

On the following day the dead settlers were buried in front of their dugouts. One was killed by a tomahawk and was found lying on a sand bar, another was shot with a revolver and another was killed with arrows, seven of which were sticking in his body. As the number of settlers increased the danger from Indian raids lessened.

Dr. Everson built a log cabin 12 by 14 feet, then the Stinson brothers built The Log Cabin Home which was really the first hotel in the country. The food was mostly bread, beans, sorghum molasses and pepper sauce.

In August of 1874 the grasshoppers came and they ate everything. Relatives from the East and also the churches helped the settlers.

The first school was taught by Miss French in a dugout. The first school house was built on the hill of plain boards and was not very large. In 1884 Glen Elder had four churches, Christian, Methodist, Seven Day Adventist, and Free Methodist.

In 1885 a bridge was built across the river south of Glen Elder. This bridge was later replaced by the present one.

Glen Elder was platted in 1871 and incorporated as a city of the third class on November 20, 1879. The population at that time was listed as 275 persons.

And Glen Elder has been growing ever since.

THE HISTORY OF SS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

Doris Brock

The first time a Catholic priest came to Cawker City was in 1875. When Father Weikmann of Hanover, Kansas, made his occasional visits to the area, the hotelkeeper here offered him hospitality.

Cawker City was a gathering place for cowboys and through them word got around the Mass would be offered at Waconda, on Sunday, in the schoolhouse there. Waconda is about two miles south of Cawker. The people were hungry for religion and all nationalities gathered there to praise God.

In September of 1875, sixteen men from Pittsburg, a nearby German colony, arrived on horseback to sing a High Mass. Pittsburg is now called Tipton.

In the summer of 1879, the Catholic Church of Cawker City was organized by Father Clemens Newman. A frame Church was erected and also nearby a parsonage. The congregation then numbered 225 souls.

Some of the old settlers who pioneered the community were: James Dougherty, John Winkel, Jacob Rothschild, George Lutz, Matther Gengler, and Peter Pirotte.

On June 5, 1884, the parish paid Matt Gengler \$80.00 for two acres of land to be used as a cemetery.

According to the annual report the parish took in from April 1, to December 31, 1884, a total of \$285.42 and spent \$524.94.

Pew holders at this time included: James Hughes, George Biust, Pollard Clark, Stephan Hoban, Matt Gincback, Matt Gengler, Richard Daugherty, Ed Markley, Frank Brock, Tom McGee, and others.

In 1915, Father Louis Wahlmeier purchased the former public school building in Cawker for use as a parochial school.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia sent five sisters to open and conduct the school. Sister Mary Carmel, Mary Romanus, Mary De Pazzi, Mary Martin and Mary Dalorosa were the first to occupy the mission.

In 1946-47, Father Paul Meitl purchased and remodeled a new convent for use by the sisters.

In 1923, Father Wahlmeier purchased a new set of Stations of the Cross as a memorial to the deceased members of the parish.

In 1924, it became necessary to make an addition to the north part of the church. The addition included a vestibule, a second floor gallery, and a bellfry. This addition was because of the growth of the parish.

During the closing months of the First World War, Father Wahlmeier completed a new two-story brick rectory just west of the old stone church.

In 1954, again under the leadership of Father Meitl, a new four class-room school building was erected.

Father Wahlmeier served the longest of any priest in Cawker. He served for 31 years--from 1913 to 1944. He is the parish's only resident pastor.

November 1960, Father Henry J. Kieffer is the present pastor.

On August 7, 1962, the contract was signed for the construction of a 300 capacity church. On May 28, 1963, the great bell was lifted from its place in the bellfry and gently lowered to the ground. Demolition of the old church had begun. The church of Sts. Peter & Paul was 77 years old.

The new church was completed and dedicated in March, 1964. A tornado struck the church and school in June 1964. The tornado took off part of the roof of the new church and damaged the school. Both of these structures have been repaired and are in full use again.

With the grace of God, the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul will continue to grow and prosper.

THE HISTORY OF THE BELOIT METHODIST CHURCH

Wynn Rosebaugh

Reverend Phillips served the Methodist Church here for three years, holding the small services in an old small house on the west side of the 200 block on Mill. Later that year it was moved to Williams store building. The services were held in the room above it. In 1871 when the Court House was built, the church services were held in the court room.

In 1872 a schoolhouse was built just south of our present day high school. Reverend W. J. Mitchell became minister in 1874; that year a new church on the corner of Third and Hersey was built. The determination of those pioneers built the church during the grasshopper raid in 1873. The church was completed in 1875, and was built by the helping hands of the townspeople. The church today is owned by the Christian Science Church and serves as a monument to the early Methodists.

The salary of Reverend Mitchell was started at \$650-\$700 per year. The first year Reverend Mitchell received \$480 and he received \$650 for his second year.

The membership climbed from 137 the first year to 196, the second year. The minister following Mitchell was the Reverend J. Lawrence. He only served the church three years; he got the estimated salary of \$500 per year.

In the first year of its meeting the Beloit Methodist Church was on a circuit with six other churches. The six churches on the circuit broke down to three in 1874-1879 during the one year term of Reverend J. H. Lockwood.

During the four years of Reverend I. McDowell the church was sold to the United Brethern Church. With this money the Methodist Church bought the lot across the street where now stands the Lorraine Apartments. In 1895, McDowell's final year, the church's interior was finished. The basement was being raised for church and Sunday school. Under the terms of Bishop Cranston and Reverend Housel, the church was dedicated, and debt free.

In the spring of 1897, the fifteenth annual Northwest Kansas Conference was once again held in Beloit. Mrs. T. W. Hale was superintendent of the Sunday School from 1899-1902. Much of this material for the history came from two volumes she wrote for a Beloit newspaper. One was written in 1912, the other in 1921.

The church did not have a parsonage for the minister until 1885. Then that year three lots were bought from J. S. Goodwin, for \$1600 and a parsonage was erected. Since the first parsonage was so far from the church, it was sold for \$1600 to E. R. Bonfield. Then a new two-story house was built on Campbell Ave. The Reverend H. J. Lorenze, in 1905, and family were the first to live in the \$3500 parsonage. The Ralph Corman family now occupy that house.

By the year 1912 the church had reached a membership of 374 full members. Also that year the salary went up to \$1400.

During the pastorate term of Reverend Attree Smith, 1911-1917, the church was enlarged by going south and squaring the corner to the southwest at the tremendous cost of \$5000.

Then on September 26, 1918, the Beloit High School burned. The Beloit Methodist Church was the first to offer their Sunday school rooms for classes. School was held there until 1920 when the roof burned and only the frame and basement was saved. The next year the church was rebuilt for \$1800. During this time, the church and Sunday school was still held. Not a year after the fire the congregation met in the parlor for a banquet. Within twenty-seven minutes the members had donated \$6000 which, with the insurance money, wiped out all of their debts.

During 1920-21 the year of rebuilding, the church contributed \$16,665 to a fund called the Centenary Fund and reached their goal of \$24,588 for Kansas Wesleyan University. During WWI five boys lost their lives from our church.

With much accomplishment in 1921 and until 50 ongoing years in Methodism in Beloit, the members thought it was fitting that they should have a Jubilee Program. Mrs. T. W. Hale was in charge of the planning and Reverend H. M. Templin was the pastor. It was a glorious occasion with the following program continuing throughout most of the day:

JUBILEE PROGRAM (In Part)

- 9:45 - Sunday School
- 10:30 - Love Feast, Reverend J. L. King, presiding.
- 11:00 - Sermon Hour - Reverend J. L. King, presiding.
Anthem, "Hail Emmanuel", Earl Kendall, Director
Jubilee Sermon, Reverend Ecklund,
Dedication, Dr. Frank E. Madden, Supt., presiding.
- 12:00 - Basket Dinner in Church Parlor.

- 2:30 - Reminiscence Service, Reverend J. L. King, presiding.
 Old Time chorus with G. H. Gody in charge.
 Memorial Roll Call
 Historical Sketch, Mrs. T. W. Hale
 Remembering the Former Days, Reminiscence by
 several members.
- 7:30 - Epworth League
- 8:00 - Evening Worship
 Historical Sketch Concluded, Mrs. T. W. Hale
 Messages from Former Pastors
 Numbers by Jubilee Chorus
 Solo, "Our Deliverer", Bryon F. Cooke

On December 25, 1935, the church received a Hammond organ, hymnals and pulpit furniture as a memorial gift by J. F. Robinson and sister, and Mr. Sutton.

The contract for a new Methodist Church was presented March 31, 1960, for about \$215,574. The pews, furniture, tile, carpeting, and built-in equipment was not included in the contract cost, therefore, making the total cost approximately \$280,000.

The ground-breaking services for the new Methodist Church were held April 24, 1960, and the cornerstone laying ceremony took place directly after the church services on the morning of December 18, 1960, conducted by Reverend Leonard Clark.

On February 12, 1961, all members attended church for the first time in the new church. On that memorable Sunday, 444 attended Sunday school, and 666 came to the church service.

There was much hard work in building the new church and many important decisions were made by Leonard A. Clark. Many of the prayers of faithful members from Reverend James Phillips in 1871, clear up to Reverend Robert (Bob) Haines in 1966 have come true. The 96th anniversary of Methodism in Beloit, stands as a living testimony to the faithfulness of many people.

Now as follows are the pastors from the very first to the present:

James Phillips-----	1871-1874
W. J. Mitchell-----	1874-1876
James Lawrence-----	1876-1879
J. H. Lockwood-----	1879-1880
J. M. Davidson-----	1880
S. W. Roberts-----	1880-1883
C. L. Shackelford-----	1883-1884
J. H. Lockwood-----	1884-1886
E. P. Michener-----	1886-1888
J. L. King-----	1888-1891
I. McDowell-----	1891-1894
L. O. Housel-----	1895-1898
W. H. Sweet-----	1898-1902
F. D. Baker-----	1902-1909

H. J. Lorenze -----	1909-1911
Attree Smith -----	1911-1918
G. W. Martin -----	1918-1919
H. M. Templin -----	1920-1921
A. L. Carlton -----	1922-1926
H. E. Little -----	1927
L. R. Hondrio -----	1927-1933
R. L. Plott -----	1933-1938
J. W. Carrier -----	1938-1940
W. F. Little -----	1940-1947
Claude Scheuerman -----	1947-1952
L. F. Toburen -----	1952-1956
Leonard A. Clark -----	1956-1961
Elmer Brooks -----	1961-1966
Robert Haines -----	1966

Under the pastorate under Elmer Brooks, another great milestone in Beloit Methodism was reached on May 31, 1964 when the E. U. B. and Methodist Churches united. A new parsonage was completed in 1964. Both the church and parsonage were completely paid for in 1964.

Now this brings you up to date on the Beloit Methodist Church and brings my essay to a close.

SAMUEL PEARSON'S HOMESTEAD

Linda Pearson

I live on a farm homesteaded by my great--grandfather, Samuel P. Pearson. It is located eight miles south and southwest of Asherville, in the Logan Township.

After staking off one-hundred sixty acres, he went to Concordia, Kansas to file at the land office. He filed for his homestead claim on July 5, 1872. It was one of the first homesteads in that area.

When Samuel first started farming, there was prairie grass every where. He had to "break the sod." Which was done with one or two horses and a walking plow.

After three years of farming, he married Emma Vance on November 6, 1875. Both Emma and Samuel were born in Sweden. They lived in a rock house, at first, but soon, they built another with three rooms. Later, it was built up to ten rooms.

Samuel and Emma Pearson bought another quarter of a section. Although it was later sold.

Their crops were wheat, corn, oats, alfalfa, and kaffir-corn. Their livestock consisted of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, chickens, and ducks.

Their crops either made food for them or for their livestock. The wheat and corn were milled at Simpson.

At the milk house, they sometimes milked as many as twenty cows. With the milk, they seperated the cream and made butter. They sold the cream and butter they did not use at Simpson.

In the milk house, the jars of milk and cream were set in a long trough of water. This cold water came from the well. When it got near the top of the trough, it ran in the stock tanks.

They did not have much to make fences with so they planted hedges. The hedge balls were soaked in water all winter long.

Samuel and Emma planted an orchard at the south of the house. It had apples, peaches, and cherries. On the north side of the house was a plum thicket. In the spring, when they had so many cherries, Samuel would go arround to the neighbors and sell cherries.

In the garden, they had tomatoes, peas, beans, rhubarb, potatoes, tame gooseberries, and grape vines. The food from the garden helped to supply most of the family's food. Samuel and Emma's children were Laura, Etta, Esther, Francis, Herman, Alice, and Roy.

On March 1, 1915, Alice Pearson was married to Ray Seely. They lived on that farm one and one-half years. Their children were Dorothy, Harold, and Virginia. Samuel and Emma Pearson had moved to town.

Roy Pearson and Irene Huffman were married on June 14, 1916. They lived on the farm then. Their children were Carl and Delmar.

Things remained about the same while Roy and Irene lived there. Although the orchard and plum thicket soon died out. There, they planted wheat.

In 1928, they hired a combine to cut their wheat. Before, they had always used a header or a binder. In 1929, they bought their own combine. It was the first they had ever had.

On April 8, 1934, they bought the second rubber--tired tractor in the county. Before, the tractors had all had metal wheels. In the spring of 1938, Roy and Irene planted a shelter belt.

In August, of 1941, Roy and Irene Pearson bought eighty acres of land. It was just north of the house. They planted about the same crops as Samuel Pearson did. Their livestock was cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, and chickens.

Carl Pearson married Catherine Damer'n on October 18, 1942. Their children were Carol, Dennis, and Linda. In the spring of 1943, Roy had to quit farming because he was sick. Carl and Catherine Person moved on the farm.

In 1945, Carl and Catherine planted a shelter belt north of the house. It was made up of cedar trees. Their crops were wheat, corn, oats, milo, alfalfa, cane, and sorgo. Wheat was the main cash crop.

On March 18, 1949, the R.E.A. turned on the electric current. In the following month an electric water system was installed.

In 1949, a trench silo was made. Before, the cattle had always eaten dry feed such as corn fodder, alfalfa hay, and sorgo bundles.

On February 11, 1954, Carl Pearson was awarded the "Mitchell County Bankers Association Award for Conservation."

Between 1955 and 1957 there was a drought. The cattle had to be taken to the Flint Hills. This was the only way they could get food. In the spring of 1961, three hundred additional cedar trees and Austrian pine trees were planted.

In 1966, a new quansit was built. It was fifty feet by seventy feet with a cement floor. The Carl Pearson family is still living there.

This homestead has served three generations of Pearson's, and I hope it will serve many, more.

THE SOLOMON RIVER STORY

Rick Vetter

Can you think of anything that has played a more important part in the history of Mitchell County, than the Solomon River.

The Solomon River flows into the county from the northwest corner and passes through it in an easterly direction, bearing enough south to leave the county at about the center of its east line. The river is quite a rapid stream in this county, and has furnished many mill privileges along its course in earlier days. Its tributaries are long well-timbered streams commencing in the northwest. Oak Creek, comes first then Granite, the Limestone, Brown's Creek, Mulberry, Plum and the Asher Creek on the north side of the river, while on the south the streams are not quite so long but are all well-timbered. In regular order, from west to east comes the South Fork, Carr Creek, Hard Scrabble, Walnut Creek. Turkey Creek, Indian Creek, Labon Creek, Marshall Creek, and Forth Creek. Through the south part of the county runs Salt Creek, with its many large tributories, making Mitchell one of the best watered counties in the state.

The Solomon River was formerly named "Nipahela" meaning "Water-on-a-Hill," in the language of the Kanza Indians. It got this name from Waconda Springs which was located 100 yards from the banks of the Solomon, three miles east of Cawker City. The spring sets on a mound of earth thirty foot high with the pool of salt water in the middle. About half way up one side issued salt water, which runs off in a small riverlet into the Solomon River.

The designation also appears occasionally on the older maps or journals as the "Nepaholla River." This name did not stick, and there is some doubt as to the origin of the newer term "Solomon." The first recorded reference to the stream under this name is in the expedition of Captian Zebulon M. Pike, entry date Sept. 23, 1806. He refered to the stream as Solomon's Fork.

Aaron Bell homesteaded the Beloit townsite in the fall of 1866. It was then known by the name of "Willow Springs," because of its location near the springs of cold water that were close to the Solomon River. Many hunters, freighters and prospective settlers moved into the county in 1868 and 1869 and located along the Solomon River to where Solomon Rapids is now located.

In checking back through the files at the courthouse, the earliest settlers they have recorded in their books between Beloit and Solomon Rapids were dated in the 1870's. Some of these, and the land they homesteaded were as follows. Heirs of Richard Smith homesteaded

in the S. W. 1/4 of section 3 in 1875; James Schooly homesteaded in the S. E. 1/4 of section 1 in 1876; E. M. homesteaded in the S. W. section 1 in 1877. It shows in the records that none of these homesteaders stayed very long before selling their ground and moving on.

In the early days of the settlers, game was plentiful along the Solomon River. Buffalo, antelope, elk, deer, wild horses and turkeys browsed along the river on cotton tree shoots and young willows. The banks of the river was alive with beaver, otter, and muskrats. Among seasonal game birds were, geese, ducks, cranes, brants, and swans. Many trappers and French traders settled along the river. The buffalo was the backbone of the Indian civilization that roamed along the Solomon River and valley. The late W. D. Street of Oberlin, speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives in 1897 reported that when he was a member of Company 1, 19th Kansas Volunteers in 1869, he saw a herd of buffaloes about twenty miles wide and sixty miles long. The land was litterally black with them. To the northwest, toward the head of the Limestone Creek for about tveleve or fifteen miles west across that valley to Oak Creek, about the same distance away to the southwest to the forks of the Solomon River, past where Cawker City is now located, southeast toward where Beloit is now located and away across the Solomon River as far as the field glasses would carry the vision, there was a moving black mass of buffaloes, all traveling slowly to the northwest at a rate of about one or two miles an hour. They were coming to drink at the Solomon River and its tributaries. Again in 1872 a great herd of buffalo drank the Solomon dry, and the water in it was twenty-five feet wide and a foot deep at that time. This story was taken from the Kansas City Star, May 28, 1911.

Game wasn't the only thing that was plentiful along the Solomon River. The early settlers soon found out that the Indians were also very plentiful. On August 12, 1866 the first settlers in Mitchell County along the Solomon River were killed. On Brown's Creek they killed Mr. Hewitt and his son 14 years of age. Thirty-five Cheyenne braves were at Willow Springs (now Beloit) where they seized and bore away two little girls of Aaron Bell. In August that year Gen. Alfred Sully was in pursuit of Indians along the Solomon. In May 1869 Dr. Rose constructed a block house at the forks of the Solomon River in Mitchell County. At that time there was a thin line of settlement on the Limestone. The Indians later murdered Dr. Rose and swept away the settlement. Another Indian raid took place on the Solomon in May 1879, settlers at Waconda were fired upon and the Indians succeeded in getting several horses. The stockade which was built on the bank of the Solmon near the mouth of Asher Creek was attacked but the reception being warm, the Indians withdrew; leaving behind the ponies. Also in May 1890, Kenyon, Gearand and Meiser, settlers near the mouth of the Limestone were killed by 25 Cheyennes and Araphoes. In June 1870 a military post was located three miles below Waconda on the Solomon, near the "Great Spirit Spring." It was garrisoned by Battery B 4th U. S. Artillery. Later in the season this battery was relieved by "G" Troop 7th U. S. Cav. In August an outpost was built at the North Solomon Stockade for scouting purposes. Around the 20th of July 1870 the last hostile Indians were seen along the Solomon River. While they were there many settlers were killed or suffered. In one of the reference

books I read, I came across this passage. "As long as the waters of the Solomon River may flow, the settlers of its beautiful valley can never regard the wild Indians who raided here with that sickly sentimentalism which pervades so many of the American people who know nothing of the treachery of Indian character."

The milling interest was perhaps the most important manufacturing industry in the county in early days, and the Solomon River afforded an abundance of water and plenty of fall. Beginning at the east line of the county, and in fact on the county line at the village of Simpson was Simpson's Mill, with two runs of stones and a strong power. This was one of the oldest mills in the county. Five miles west of the line was the stone, built in 1874 by Williams and Finnigan, of Beloit. This mill had a large business, running both day and night. The next mill on the river has grown from one started by F. F. Hershey at Beloit in 1869, further reference to this will be made later. Six miles west of Beloit was another custom mill, known as the Jennison Bros. Mill, it had two runs of burrs and plenty of custom work. At the Glen Elser, Kanll and Nash had a large flouring mill, with three runs of stone, doing a large business. This mill was built in 1871 by Neva and Spencer and was one of the most valuable establishments of the kind in this part of the state. Three miles south of Cawker City, F. F. Hershey located his homestead, and commenced building a mill in 1872, in company with Hon. John Curyin. They labored under many difficulties on account of frequent floods, but in 1873 the dam was completed. On the west line of the county the Jackson Bros., had a large milling property built in 1875. F. F. Hershey erected the first mill in Beloit, it stood where the Co-op mill now stands. He purchased the land from Aaron Bell who homesteaded it in the fall of 1866. Indian hostiles prevented his developing water power as he originally intended before selling to Hersey. Hersey after buying the mill site from Bell, commenced getting out timber for the dam, needed to provide water power. He had two very heavy floods on the Solomon to contend with but the saw mill was successfully in operation the following Sept. 1870. The machinery of the large mill was run entirely by water power from the Solomon River. This building replacing the original mill, was a little further up the river bank as a safty precaution against high water.

As water power began to deteriorate at the mill site due to debris clogging and sedimentation of the river channels and the mill flume, Beloit Co-op mill converted first to steam, then diesel, then electric power. In 1931 water power was abandoned entirely. The Solomon River played its part in Mitchell county's industry for several years.

As we read back in history we find that the Solomon River also played its part in religion. In Sept. 1870, Elder George Balcom, a Babist minister preached the first sermon in the county at the stockade of the North Solomon. His audience consisted of four listeners. This remarkable man died at his homestead near Cawker City.

In the past we find that the Solomon River was destructive as well as beneficial. Historical floods occurred on the river in 1902, 1935, 1941, 1950, 1957, 1958, and 1960. The greatest flood on record on the Solomon River occurred in July 1951. This flood resulted in a stage height of 391 feet and a peak discharge of 125,000 second feet at Beloit.

In 1903 the mill in Beloit was threatened by the high water of the Solomon. In 1950 the rampaging river took the bridge 1 mile south of Solomon Rapids. The river reached its crest at 33.34 feet at Beloit. In 1941 the high mark was 35.38, and the water plant fell victim to the Solomon River. Damage to the flour diesel engines and generators in the plant was estimated at \$10,000.

The Solomon River valley had experienced many damaging floods and the great flood of July 1951 emphasized the critical need for flood control in the Solomon Valley. The flood of 1951 inflicted nearly \$17 million damage in the valley. The need for completion of Waconda Lake was very vital and apparent.

Waconda Lake will lay in west of Glen Elder along the Solomon River to the west of Cawker City. This Glen Elder dam will control the Solomon River, but it will also cover with water the farms that our early day settlers claimed and have been in some families for years. It will also wipe out Waconda Springs which was mentioned earlier.

The city of Beloit obtains all municipal water supplies from surface flows in the Solomon River. In the past, the city has experienced difficulties in securing completely adequate supplies and, at times, has found it necessary to restrict the use of water by residents. The need for a dependable source of supply has been so effectively demonstrated that city officials have requested the use of municipal water supply as one of the purposes of the Glen Elder Dam.

I'm sure the Solomon River will long be remembered for the part it played in the history of Mitchell County.

MITCHELL COUNTY
HISTORY OF BELOIT
1868-1879

Toni DeBolt

The town-site of Beloit was first settled by A.A. Bell in 1868, and for some time was known as Willow Springs. Mr. Bell anticipated then the improvement of the water power at this point, also that the natural commanding location would in time be improved for a town.

Owing to the continued hostilities of the Indians, nothing permanent was done until 1869, when T. F. Hersey purchased the mill-site of Mr. Bell, and commenced getting out timbers for a dam. Notwithstanding two heavy floods, Mr. Hersey had the sawmill in operation the following September, 1879, and completed the grist-mill the next season.

The first townships election was held April 4, 1871, and the following ticket elected: Wm. Bickle, Trustee; E. M. R. Blanchard, Clerk; D. E. Sedgely, Treasurer; Jeremiah Baldwin and J. W. Elliot, Justices; John Hyde, Road Overseer; Vinton Whitehurst and Magnus Munsen, Constables.

In April, 1871, through the enterprise of Hon. T. F. Hersey and a few others, a school building was erected. Rev. O. N. Fletcher took charge as first teacher of the first school of Beloit.

Mr. Fletcher also held religious meetings in the neighborhood, and was mainly instrumental in organizing the Baptist Church, which all Baptists should be proud of.

During the summer on 1871, many meetings were held by the Baptists. They held them in places not usually devoted to divine worship. For instance, Rev. George Balcom stopped into one of the early saloons that was on Mill Street, and taking the violin from a player, stepped behind the bar, and played and sang one of his favorite songs. After he did, he got out a text, and for nearly an hour, held his audience in close attention.

In the winter of 1873, an iron bridge was built across the Solomon, within the city limits, at an expense of \$10,000 Dollars, for which the bonds of the township was given. (It has now been torn down, and a new one built.)

The town of Beloit, was platted on March 26, 1872, and the original description, as found in the recorder's office, covers all of Section 9, and the south half of the southeast quarter, and the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 7, and Range 7 west.

The town grew very rapidly, and in July, 1872 was incorporated as a city of the third class. An election was held, and the following city officers elected: T. F. Hersey, Mayor; W. C. Ingram, M. R. Mudge, H. H. Lyon, Joseph Baughman, and J. R. Vaughn, Councilmen.

On the tenth of March, 1879, Governor John P. St. John, proclaimed Beloit, a city of the second class.

Beloit is one of my favorite cities. I think Beloit is just wonderful. It has lots of gay people, nice buildings, and plenty of doctors and nurses. I'm glad Beloit is a city of the second class. I'm also glad it's the county seat of Mitchell County. Everyone should be glad Beloit is a grand city. (These are a few of my own words.)

LINCOLN PARK

Waldo Newquist

Lincoln Park is located three miles west of Cawker City, Kansas. It was formerly known as Belk's Grove, because William and Margaret Belk homesteaded it. In the year of 1882 Colonel W. C. Whitney leased thirty acres of the land on Oak Creek and called it Lincoln Park in honor of President Lincoln. It was founded for a public rest.

The Lincoln Park Chautauqua Association was organized in 1896. A Chautauqua is a great summer school made up of all people who love advancement and improvements. The programs were music and speech, art classes, domestic science, Bible study, physical culture, ladies tailoring, reed and raffia work, kindergarten, athletics, and vocal music were taught.

Some of the more noted speakers were William Jennings Bryan in 1901, Booker T. Washington in 1906, Margaret Hill McCarter in 1905 and governors and senators from many states.

In 1901 a well was sunk to supply drinking water for the many people who came and camped in tents for the two or three week sessions. This was a very necessary improvement. Previously water was hauled from town.

The people came by horse and buggy and by train. At one time there were as many as 400 teams of horses in the park. Town merchants set up stores so people could buy their own supplies.

In 1902 Charles Hawkins wrote the State Representative W. A. Reeder, who wrote to President Roosevelt and asked him to speak at a Lincoln Park Chautauqua. The President couldn't because all the dates were full. In 1902 a gasoline engine was brought to Lincoln Park and made a thorough test of the wells.

In the year of 1903 William Belk sold thirty acres of land at \$100 an acre and the Association made many permanent improvements.

In 1904 they put a suspension bridge across the creek and built permanent buildings. The year 1908 brought the big improvement of electric lighting.

Each year progress was made in improving programs and adding conveniences. The record attendance was about 7,000 people a day.

Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter who wrote the book THE PRICE OF THE PRAIRIE and THE PEACE OF THE SOLOMON VALLEY was a faithful speaker at the sessions.

The last Lincoln Park Chautauqua was in 1912. This was the end of thirteen years of Chautauquas. Then the Chautauqua Association went bankrupt. Mr. G. W. Dockstader bought the land September 10, 1913, for a sum of \$2,050 which he gave to the Protestant Churches of Mitchell and surrounding counties.

It was later a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp and during World War II it was used as a Prisoner of War Camp. Its last purpose was a Y.M.C.A. Camp. In the near future it will be claimed by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Glen Elder Dam.

THE STORY OF A TRAVELING SCHOOLHOUSE

Danny Hobbs

Oh! Where! Oh! Where! has the little schoolhouse gone? The schoolhouse in which many little scampering feet have trod? All the pupils have long gone from it. Some are right here; some are far, far away. What is the name of this now very famous school? The name of the school that has traveled so far from home and is now resting on the grounds of the famous Ghost Town at Knotts Berry Farm near Buena Park, California? Why! It's the Iowa Schoolhouse of District 83 of Mitchell County, Kansas.

Being too young to remember this now famous schoolhouse, my mother has told me so much about it, since she, herself, took part in many of their activities. Her teacher, Miss Lula Wiser, was the sister of Miss Lillian Wiser who taught at District 83 the last remaining years. Many times they got together and participated in reliving many activities together.

The little schoolhouse was located nine miles south and three west of Beloit. The little rural school was closed after the spring term in 1947. It took a long journey all the way to California, it's final resting place. Even the stone steps that led to the entry way of the school were taken. The public auction of the schoolhouse was May 22, 1951. The new owner is Mr. Herman Kendall. Some seventy years ago in 1879 it was built for \$45; and seventy-two years later, it sold for \$253.50. The purchase price included: the sturdy 12 by 24 foot frame structure, its furnishings of old books, maps, and desks, the flagpole, swing, and ferris wheel in the yard. Warren Hixenbaugh, once a student at Dist. 83, dismantled the schoolhouse for shipment west. It was taken apart in sections, shipped by truck to California, and was reerected.

But the story of Dist. 83 really begins way back in 1877. Two years before the schoolhouse was built in April 27, 1877, at A. Thompson's, an organization meeting took place, for the proposed school Dist. 83.

The following men were elected officer's of the District:
 Director - James W. Cowman
 Treasurer - William Kettler
 Clerk - Anson S. Cooke

It was voted to have three months school in the present school year to commence April 30, 1877. It was decided by ballot that the school site would be located on the N. E. corner of Section 35,

Township 8, Range 8 west. In 1877 the board had considered building a schoolhouse 12' by 18' with a dirt roof but it was voted down. Actual construction started before a final decision was made as to the exact specifications of the building. The record showed that on September 26, 1879, the board moved and seconded to build the building 18' by 24' with a 10 foot studding. The Board also bought the whole material for the building and supervised its construction. On the first day of October in 1879 the Board decided to meet to haul stone and build the foundation for the schoolhouse. The board met again October 2nd and set down specifications for the building. This was the starting of the building which was the school called District 83.

The first teacher was Mrs. Almira Hale. Her salary was \$20 a month. In 1901 to 1902 Jennie M. Macy was the teacher, and some of her pupils were: Minnie Shutts, Minnie Geiser, John Cooke, Edd Sprenger, and many more. Seventeen altogether that year. The teachers who have taught at District 83 numbers about fifty in all and over a thousand students attended this school. The school was in force over 68 years. The last three years from 1944 to 1947, Miss Lillian Wisner was the teacher.

The pupils the last three years were: Donald Hewitt, Geraldine Hewitt, Elva Tice, Larry Hewitt, Wayne Hewitt, Betty McCune, Alice McCune, and Jerry Broadbent. Some of these students still live in Mitchell County, and in the Beloit area. The teacher, Miss Lillian Wisner, lives just a half mile from me. My mother, who was Beverly Broadbent at the time, was at the Last Day of School Program. Miss Wisner had invited the District 90 students and her sister, Miss Lula Wisner, for the big and last occasion that would take place in the school. They had a big dinner and the school board had made homemade ice cream for all. They had a program that everybody enjoyed immensely. There were three eighth grade graduates that would enter into high school the next fall. They were my mother: Beverly Broadbent, Geraldine Hewitt, and Elva Tice.

The Miss Nina Duden, former Downs resident, is employed by the Knotts to greet the visitors and also is the teacher.

The schoolhouse now as it stands on the grounds at the Ghost Town at Knotts Berry Farm has been painted a rustie red. Kansas sunflowers are in front of the building and a bell and bell tower have been added. Otherwise it looks just like it did back in Mitchell County, Kansas, with the dust storms and blizzards since 1879.

The opening day at Knotts Berry Farm was Sunday, September 21, 1952 and Miss Duden played teacher for that day. There was a special register for all pupils and teachers of the old school, and another register for Mitchell County guests. Mrs. Alice Geiser is still a good friend of Miss Duden's and they have corresponded through the years about the school. Miss Duden has written that many people from the school have come and seen the school. Also, they still see their names carved on the desks where they sat as pupils. In one week's time over 10,000 people went through the school.

The Little Red Schoolhouse as it is known now, is still 119
sometimes called the "Iowa School," District 83, even in its new
home. I am sure if this famous little building of the Kansas prairie
could say anything, it would say, "Come in and sit awhile and talk
of old times".

WACONDA STORY

Reba Banks

In north central Kansas there lies a small round salty sea. To the Indian this spring was a great mystery and the Great Spirit dwelt there.

The Indians believed that the water was healing and also held religious ceremonies near it. At the time of the Louisiana Purchase, there were four Indian tribes; Pawnee, Osages, Comanches, and Kansas, who claimed this tract of land. About 1830 there were 8 other tribes located or hunting on this territory. To the Plains Indians the spring was sacred because of its "medical water."

The first white man to visit and leave a record there was Zebulon Pike. He visited different tribes of Indians and met a new tribe, the Pawnee, near Minneapolis. A Spanish flag was flying in this new land, Louisiana Purchase. Pike demanded that the Spanish flag be torn down. There on September 29, 1806 he raised the American flag for the first time over that territory, which is now Kansas.

As late as 1833 the Pawnee claimed the land between the Platte and Kansas Rivers. Therefore, the great Salt Spring passed from their ownership.

As the white man settled on this land, the Indians were pushed westward. Twenty-eight tribes were assigned to, or laid claim to tracts of land which later was Kansas territory. This move westward caused trouble between redskins, white men, and Indian tribes. The Plains Indian was always at war.

Issac McCoy, a Baptist missionary to the Indians, started his work in Indiana and Michigan in 1817.

McCoy took the Indian problem to heart for he feared they soon would be wiped out by tribal wars. He wrote to the President and even went to beg him for a reservation for each tribe. So the government set aside an eara in the heart of America.

McCoy accompanied Indians to their new territory to look over the land. On one of these expeditions he came to the Salt Spring. Here he saw elk, deer, badger, antelope, coyote, wild turkey, and buffalo. He also saw large Indian camps. Indians had been killing buffalo and drying meat to keep for their winter food. Therefore there were many buffalo skulls at these camps.

Ten years later McCoy came back and preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Indians.

The Pawnee, Kansas and other tribes threw some small articles of value into the Salt Spring.

The last to claim the Salt Spring was the Kansas tribe as they migrated westward.

Among different tribes anything beyond their understanding was "a wakonda." The great forces of nature were wakondas. The sun was "the wakonda," and the name Waconda given to the Salt Spring by the Kansas tribe still remains today.

In 1825 and again in 1846, the Kansas Indians sold large tracts of land to the United States. Much of this land they had never hunted over. It was also doubtful whether they even claimed some of the land they sold. The Kansas Indian tribe was divested of their hereditary soil. Now, the Great Salt Spring belongs to the United States Government.

On January 29, 1861, Kansas became a state. Twenty-three months later, with the passage of the Homestead Act, Kansas was open for settlement. In 1868 the United States troops built a block house right at the fork of the north and south branch of the Solomon River. It was south of where Cawker City is now located, and two miles west of Waconda Spring.

The government began to send semi-scientific and hunting parties to examine soil, plants, fossils, and animal life to report to the government.

In one such party W. E. Webb, of Topeka, was a scribe, and was sent west up Smoky and Saline Valleys, and returned down the Solomon in 1869.

They had planned to stay at the blockhouse, but it had been abandoned by the cavalry and was in the use of an old man Dr. Rose. He was living here thinking that when civilization came back, he might possess it as a farm.

When the hunters arrived, the barricade was deserted and the door was locked from the inside. The party went down to make camp by the Salt Spring and found Dr. Rose's body. He had been a victim of an Indian massacre. The redskins had swept the settlement off the creek below, the evening before.

The hunters stayed at the Salt Spring all the next day for it was the Sabbath. The priest held a very religious service at this sacred shrine.

Dr. Rose's body was buried on the big hill above Glen Elder.

The Cheyennes and Araphahoes were important tribes and roamed from the Black Hills to the Arkansas River. February 18, 1861, they sold all their land to the United States, by a treaty, and went to a reservation assigned to them on the outside limits of Kansas.

But this paper did not settle the problem. They still had attacks and would circle a trading post to capture it. If this failed, they would disappear across the plains.

A party of Araphahoes and Cheyennes attacked a party of four Cawker City men, on Oak Creek, near the county line on the morning of May 9, 1870.

These men, Lee Best, John Hatcher, R. G. F. Kshinka and John Seger, were well armed and kept the Indians away for four hours. When the Indians decided they couldn't capture these men they rode away toward Limestone Creek.

After dinner Scott Guffy, Solomon Geiser, John Geer, Mr. Kenyon and Ditz Huffman, a sixteen year old boy, were planting sod corn on a bluff around Glen Elder. They had just started when two Indians started toward them on their horses at breakneck speed. The men started to run, since they had left their guns in the dug-out. Scott Guffy and Ditz Huffman were the only two left alive. Later, they found Geer had been killed by a blow from a tomahawk, Kenyon was shot with a revolver and Maiser was found with 7 arrows in his body. Also, they had been scalped.

On July 6, 1870, Charles De Rudio obtained a receiver's receipt at the land office in Junction City. The Indian place of worship, the Waconda Spring, was possessed as private property.

Mitchell County was named after Captain William Mitchell, a Kansan who was killed in the Civil War. Beloit was Mitchell's county seat.

Even though the Salt Spring was private property, this didn't bother the Indians desire to hold ceremonies there.

Mr. Clark lived on a farm about 1 1/2 miles south-east of West Hampton. His companion was a large dog named Cuff. Cuff went with his master everywhere. He ate, slept and shared the same bill of fare.

One day Mr. Clark saddled his pony, and he and Cuff went to a spot where Mr. Clark had seen a camp-fire. They met an Indian agent and a few redskins going to West Hampton to purchase food.

He finally came to the spot and found around sixty Indians in a camp. They saw the Indians dancing and chanting around a bon-fire. There on a pole that was supported by two tripods, was a huge animal being cooked for their supper. Mr. Clark went back home and prepared his supper. He went out to call Cuff, but Cuff didn't answer. He got on his horse and went looking for him. He was by the river and

saw a huge animal being cooked. Near-by on the ground was Cuff's beautiful coat.

Since 1870, Waconda Spring has been owned by several individuals. Once it was owned by the Cawker City Mineral Company.

A sanitarium was established by Dr. G. F. Abrahams.

July 4, 1908, a deep sea diver dived into the salty pool. He found no bottom to the pool, but he did bring up things like; human bones, butts of guns, pottery, arrow heads, beads, and parts of tomahawks.

Even as smart as man is today, he can't explain these findings in the Great Salt Spring.

The Legend of the Troubled Waters

Many years ago an Indian Chief's daughter fell in love with one of the chief's braves. Every night on the side of the spring they met to whisper words of love.

The redskins came from all directions to hold ceremonies beside the spring. If the wind was blowing and this made the water ripple, this was a very bad sign to the redskins not to go to battle because sorrow was ahead. If it was still, this would tell them that the Gods said all was well.

The waters were very troubled when the Chief received word that his hunting grounds had been invaded. He and his braves went to stop the advance of the enemy. After the return of the Chief and his braves, it was found that the love of this princess was killed.

The princess, of course, was broken hearted; and the only thing she could think to do was to beg the Great Waconda to take her to her lover.

One evening she went to the spring, there was no moon, and she could not find the Gods. The sky was dark, the waters were very troubled, and so was the princess. In her despair, she threw herself into the watery depths. The thunder came in a streak of lightening and broke off great boulders of the cliff. A small spring was formed here.

No more was her soul troubled for she had been reunited with her lover.

HOBBY CORNER MUSEUM

Pauline Ellert

Perhaps the best way to tell why this museum was started, can be told in Mr. Cox's own words: "The reason for having this little museum is the fact that I have always had a desire to save my boyhood toys and gifts. I treasured them as being worth while as I played with them, and cherished them. The desire to preserve the things that I had as a child, and the desire for more old items such as these I have accumulated has grown. I get a real satisfaction from my collection."

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cox obtained the old Bank building in Scottsville in 1956 to store the items they had accumulated and had formerly stored in "the attic." Hobby Corner Museum was opened to the public in 1957. Since then, two more buildings have been added to store and display this collection, which includes many items. As one writer put it, "You name it and they have it."

Some of the toys include a mechanical cricket, a set of "boxes" beautifully decorated with children's pictures, which fit into each other much like some of our "educational" toys today, and some toy trains. He has preserved some of his children's little cars and trucks, and a very unique deck of cards manufactured in Germany, said to have been used in old English Pubs.

Other toys which they have include wooden wheel roller skates used in the early 1900's; ice skates with a wooden base that screwed on to the shoes; a steel wheeled tricycle that belonged to Louise Vance and was donated by Mrs. Mark Babb; a girl's bike which belonged to Olive Flemmer, with wooden wheels and fenders; a bike bought by Mr. Cox's brother in 1889 with money he had earned himself. The bike was wrecked when it was run over by a car, and was discarded. Later Mr. Cox hung it up in a building on the farm, which indicated his desire to preserve memories. This bike now holds a prominent place in the museum. Mr. Cox also displays two dolls which belonged to Charley and Mabel Nay, dating back to the 1890's. The dolls are dressed in their original clothes.

Mr. and Mrs. Cox own many dishes, only a few which I will mention. They own a cream pitcher made in Bonn, Germany in 1786; a caster set of beautiful silver-plate, belonging to Oliver Bourbon's mother; a glass water pitcher that was a wedding gift of Mrs. Frank Kadel's; an embossed tea caddy that was a wedding gift of Bessie Neifert Odle in 1895; and a set of "Blue Flow" dishes that were bought at the Hyde sister's sale and believed to be 90 to 100 years old. They have callender plates that are souvenirs of the early 1900's; wine glass sets; cups and

saucer sets; mustache cups; some glass and carnival glass; ironstone ware, and many other types of dishes, each beautiful, and many of them priceless.

In the corner of the museum stands a mannekin dressed in a wine-colored taffeta wedding dress, worn by Rose Williams when she married Jack Moore of Randall, in 1885. Preserved in the museum is the complete wedding outfit of Alice Geiser who was married in 1907. It is of dainty white china silk, and with the outfit are the white kid slippers. The collection includes all the items worn by the bride.

A tiny corset, believed to have been worn by Anna Held, one of the Ziegfeld Folly dancing girls, was sent by Mrs. Lizzie Schungel. At the museum is a beautiful beaded cape, dating back to the late 1890's. A pair of child's shoes worn by Mrs. Michael Hartman in Kentucky in the 1880's is also on display. There is no "right or left" to these shoes. Both are made the same. They also have a pair of horse-hide boots worn by A. G. Mead, father of Mrs. C. R. Hubbard. Even in the 1880's, people insured what they considered of value. At the museum can be seen a man's silk top hat and carrying case, registered and insured by the Hartford Insurance Co. in 1879.

In the museum, a large "shoo-fly", a very unique item, can be seen. It is made of peacock feathers and measures around 3 feet in length, used to chase flies off of the food during the meal. It was brought from Kentucky and dates back to 1885 or earlier.

Mr. and Mrs. Cox own many pieces of furniture. A few of them are: A solid walnut secretary, made by Carl Cox's great uncle, Joe Cox, at least 140 years ago. The wood came from walnut trees grown by Joe Cox in Indiana. There is a rocking chair purchased by Nellie Hartman in the early 1900's; an organ stool that is 110 years old; two organs--one a Carpenter with a tag on the back dating it at 1901, and the legend "Guaranteed 8 years." It has 10 stops and 6 octaves; the other organ is an Estey organ, it has 3 stops and 5 octaves. Both organs have beautiful tones.

Other furnishing the Cox's own include: an old iron stove, dated 1884, which burned wood or coal; a flax spinning wheel and a cord winder that counted the yards of yarn as they were spun, reminding us of the days of homespun cloth; an elegant baby carriage with fringed canopy bought in 1858 by J. W. Copeland, founder of the city of Glasco; a larger reed carriage, bought in 1891 by John Bewers of Scottsville; a Howe sewing machine, invented and manufactured by Elias Howe, Patent in 1848; a baby cradle bought for Ora Pagett when he was born in 1884; an American sewing machine on which my great-grandmother, Mrs. Catherine Arnoldy, of Tipton, sewed her wedding dress; and many Grandfather clocks, some run by pendulum, some by weights, and one by spring winding.

Two hand-made coverlets, made about 1850, one by Mr. Cox's grandmother and the other by Ed Logan's grandmother are preserved at the museum. The wool was carded, made into yarn, and the coverlets hand woven by these women.

Mementoes from some of our wars are the following: Carl Cox's uniform, gas mask, canteens, a Purple Heart won by Mr. Cox, small "grape" cannon ball, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. Several handfuls of these were put into the cannon instead of one large one; a German dress helmet bearing the inscription "Julius Jansen, Strasburg, 1914; and several types of German knives, all of which were used during World War I.

Civil War items include three post cards written by Mrs. M. M. McIntosh's grandfather to his wife while he was in the army; a Civil War cannon and machine gun belonging to the American Legion Post in Beloit.

During World War II, Mr. and Mrs. Cox compiled a scrapbook containing clippings and items of the Mitchell County men and women serving their country during the war. This book increases in value and interest as generations and years pass by.

Several old type coffins with a glass window in the lid, and a wooden door that slid over the glass are in the museum. These came from Glen Elder. On top of one of the caskets are memorial wreaths, made of tin leaves and porcelain flowers. These were purchased by the Konzem family to be placed on the graves of my great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Kozem of Tipton. My grandmother, Mrs. Anna Konzem placed them on the grave of her husband's parents each year on November 2, All Souls Day. These are believed to be over 70 years old.

From the Avenue Hotel were obtained the brass hand fire bell and an ice crusher, crude, but very effective.

Relics from the fire department in Beloit are an old set of harness, for the fire horse; an old horse cart harness, worn by the firemen to help carry the fire hose; and a fireman's hatchet.

Farmers would enjoy the display of old farm equipment: a "walky" plow used by V. R. Schmidt; a 1903 gang plow used by Mr. Cox's father; a Minneapolis Moline one-bottom plow; an old "stock-cutter" made by the late Boyd Canfield of the Macyville community.

Reminiscent of the "do-it-yourself" days are a broom-press, cider press, large barrel shurn, lard press, and the wooden bowl and paddle used by Mrs. Alice Geiser, a grindstone to sharpen knives, and a commercial pleater used by a lady in Glasco.

From the "old country store" such items are found as a tobacco cutter used to cut off a plug of tobacco for a customer; a big cheese cutter; and a coffee grinder. It used to be against the law for the merchant to touch the cigars he sold so there was devised a "cigar case" by which the merchant opened the door in the front of the case with a lever in the back. In this way the customer could get his own cigar.

A black-smith's bellows and a big machine to "shrink" the wagon

tires are reminders of days gone by. A "fro" used to cut shingles donated by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Martin of Wichita, and a "tin-bender" are more items that show the ingenuity of our pioneers.

The switch board used by the Scottsville Telephone Exchange and the old crank type motion picture machine used at Jamestown are in the museum.

Many other hand tools of every kind are there to view and bring back memories to the oldsters and stir the imaginations of the younger generation.

There is a display of old "vehicle lights" from the candlepowered lights used on the old surries to the oil powered and later battery powered lights. They have the lights from the Ford car used by Ed Pauling to carry mail out of Beloit.

The Wells Fargo Express stamps bearing the names of the stations Ames and Scottsville can be seen.

Some personal items of Mr. Cox are his watch that he got for his 8th grade graduation, and a watch that he carried all during World War I. Another watch that can be seen is a key-wind pocket watch from Mrs. W. D. Barlow.

They have many pairs of spectacles. One of them is a pair of English spectacles with expandable arms worn by the great-great-grandmother of Douglas and Cleta Dougherty.

In contrast to the automatic washers of today is the big "Thor" washing machine which was in the basement of the Jean Fullerton house when it was purchased by Mrs. Flossie File.

Two collections housed by the museum are the campaign button collection which is Mrs. Cox's project, and a most valuable car emblem collection, with such names as Flint, Jewett, Star, Dodge, Erskine, Auburn and fifty or more others.

The "written word" is well preserved in the Hobby Corner Museum. A Kansas History book belonging to Anna Black's father is one old book in their possession. They have a complete set of McDuffery's Readers, purchased at the Dave Anderson sale and having in them the names of Lillian Mancha and Lillian Finley. Other old books are in an 1828 dictionary that belonged to Ed Logan that defines "lunch" as "a handful of food." They have the child's story book "Sunshine at Home" that belonged to Minette Hoffmeister--copywrite 1883, and a scrap book compiled by Clayton Shotwell. This scrap book has colored pictures of fruits, flowers, birds etc. These pictures all are of beautiful glass, many cut from seed catalogs, picture post cards and such. Colored pictures were a rarity in his day, and much more beautiful than those in magazine and catalogs today. Another book which is very interesting is a Methodist Hymnal which originally belonged to the grandmother of

Ed Logan and Mrs. Nettie Hartman. There was no music in the book and the print was very tiny. Also in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Cox is a Norwegian Bible, dated 1689 and brought to this country in 1886. The type used to print this book was made of wood. The paper was invented in Holland in the 1600's and does not turn brown. It was given by John Swenson. Another Bible came to them in the following way. One Sunday afternoon, a Bohemian boy about 12, Merlin Trzicky, was looking at a Bible in the museum and asked if they had a Bohemian Bible, which they did not. He offered them his which they were happy to accept, and they received it in the mail three days later.

Old newspapers are also preserved at the museum. An old copy of the "Western Call" listed such advertisers as Annan's Kiniry and Sons, New York Store, and Geo. Goudy Groceries where you could buy eggs for 7¢ a dozen, coffee for 15¢ a pound, a gallon can of apples for 20¢, and 22 pounds of dried apples for \$1.00. The "Tri-County News," published at Scottsville, March 14, 1890 listed some of the prominent men of that time with such names as Francis Culp, C. W. Culp, Max Haskill, W. T. Daniels, Nathan Abernathy and many others. Two full columns on page one listed the business firms in Scottsville at that time and had three or four lines of print about each. A news item from the "poor farm" gave the cost per person per meal at 2¢. A 1907 calendar and a 1903 Sears Roebuck catalog are more interesting items.

The Hobby Corner Museum at Scottsville, Kansas preserves the memories and history for young and old. I hope this museum stays in existence for many years, and it can, with our help and interest. They have thousands of items of interest and historical importance. As I stated on the first page, "You name it and they probably have it."

THE HISTORY OF ASHERVILLE GRADE SCHOOL

Susan Seely

The people of Asherville have always considered education important. It is no wonder that one of the first schools in Mitchell county was at Asherville.

The first grade school at Asherville, Kansas was a two-story frame house. It was built in 1893, on John Rees's farm.

On February 5, 1895, the school house was destroyed by fire. The building was valued at \$2,000. The equipment and books were valued at \$166.50. This was a substantial loss for the community in 1895.

It was voted on to build a new school house which was built on John Rees's farm in March 1895. It was farther north than the other one. The school house was a two-story frame house. There was a hall on the south side. The stairs were on the south part of the building. There were two rooms on each floor.

In 1895, the Asherville High School building was built, also. The high school was a red brick two-story building. There was a tiny auditorium in the middle of the second floor. The stairs were along the south end and the west side of the building.

A school wagon took the children to school. They started using it in 1918. The wagon was used for many years. This was the first time the District provided transportation for the students.

In 1918, the Community Hall was built. The floor was dug deeper so that basketball could be played in it. There was a door in the gym that connected the gym to the high school. There was a balcony along the south side of the gym. It was taken out in the early sixties.

In April of 1921, it was decided to build a school barn to stable the horses that the students rode to school.

In April 1922, the students decided they wanted a tennis court and a basketball court. These were built.

On April 11, 1924, a telephone was installed in the grade school. The rent for the first year was \$1.95.

In 1932, the grade school was moved into the high school. In 1938, the grade school was torn down. The remains can still be found in the shelterbelt north of the Asherville Grade School.

The present beautiful present school house was built in 1939-40 it was a WPA project. It is a two-story native limestone school house. There are approximately 5 rooms on each floor. The classrooms, restrooms, library and music room are on the top floor. The kitchen, lunch room, supply room, and furnace room are on the bottom floor.

The Asherville Grade School was the first in the county to buy film strips and show them on modern screens. It was one of the first in the county to have a hot lunch program. It was the first grade school to have a central library with books cataloged in the Dewey Decimal System.

Both the Community Hall and the high school were deeded over to the grade school in the late fifties.

The high school was closed in 1944. It was torn down in 1958. The place where it stood was made into a parking lot. The cement sidewalks were put in at the same time. The addition to the gym on the south side was added at the same time.

In 1966 Ashervill Grade School became part of Unified School District 273. In a few years Asherville Grade School will probably close, but that is what they call progress.

A DUSTBOWL IN MITCHELL COUNTY

Rebecca Zachary

Just look at all of this dust!! That might have been the exclamation of a Mitchell County housewife during the "dirty thirties". During the nineteen-thirties, Kansas was so dirty and dusty it was called "the dustbowl".

Think of driving down the road, in the day-time, with your lights on! That was a common thing during the dust storms. Even in the houses lights were on twenty-four hours a day. What an electricity bill they must have had!

When driving on the roads or highways the drivers had to stick their heads out of the windows so they could tell where to turn. They also had to watch the curbs because the drivers could not see from inside the car. Also it was hard on car motors.

At different times during the thirties more than one inch of fine dirt could be swept off the floors. It was impossible to keep the dirt out. It sifted through window panes, under doors, and through every crack it could find. The windows were covered with cloths in order to keep out some of the dirt.

Before meals all the dishes had to be dusted so they would be clean enough to use.

All foods in the rural sections were put in cupboards or covered with cloths. If water had to be brought in with a bucket from a well or cistern, the bucket had to be covered with a dish cloth, to keep out most of the dirt. During the dust storms, or "black blizzards" as they were called, wheat and other crops could not be grown. These dust storms were usually caused by lack of rain and also because many pastures had been plowed up so they could be planted to crops.

The worst year of the dust storms was nineteen thirty-four through nineteen thirty-five. During that year, at times, it looked as black as midnight outside, during the daytime.

Some of the dirt was blown in from other states. Some of it came from Oklahoma, Texas, Eastern Colorado, and Western Kansas.

Even after the storms were over walls, furniture, dishes cupboards, and entire house holds had to be scrubbed. All the washing had to be washed because during the storms nothing would stay clean. Imagine washing a white sheet and then hanging it on the line, in three minutes it would be as black as coal.

I hope we never have such horrible dust storms again. Don't you?

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HISTORY OF PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY
(A Memorium of W. B. Tolley)

Nancy Konzem

Headstones do tell tales! There is much history woven into old cemeteries all over the country. Three miles west and one-half mile south of Beloit in Mitchell County, Turkey Creek Township, there lies a small pioneer cemetery known as Pleasant Valley Cemetery, better known to those around it as Tolley Cemetery. Stated on the registered deed at the Mitchell County Court House, the exact location of this quaint resting place reads: "beginning at the South West corner of the North half of the South West Quarter of Section No. Twelve (12) in township 7 south of Range 8 west thence North 210 feet on the Section line thence East 210 feet thence South 210 feet thence West 210 feet to the place of beginning." This Indenture was made on this 23rd day of October in the year of our Lord 1880, between William B. Tolley and Margaret Tolley his wife for a \$1.00 consideration. It was signed by Levi Cooper, the Notary Public and J. F. Floyd at 4:00 P. M.

This small cemetery is nestled in a fertile valley bounded by hills and the winding Solomon River. Where the cemetery was once surrounded by buffalo grass, there lie wheat fields on three sides and a blacktopped county road on the west. The size of the cemetery is no longer that indicated on the Indenture. Due to the road right of way and fence lines, it measures approximately 100 feet by 200 feet; its' solitude insured by native post rocks which support the barbed wire surrounding it. Nostalgic grape vines cover part of the eastern boundary.

Wagons brought the dead and the mourning to the early burials. If the processions came from the east side of the Solomon River, they had to cross the river south of Beloit or at Tolley's Ford. Although a metal bridge was built two miles west of Beloit at Tolley's Ford in 1894 for horse and wagon traffic, mud or snow still often made travel difficult because of the poor roads.

Meandering through this small consecrated retreat one glimpses a decided insight into the past. One finds the resting places of loved ones gone beyond marked by tombstones of native rock, the handwork of able masons of those days. Each marker carries the name of the individual who once lived, dreamed, and loved as strongly as we do today. The two dates found on each stone signify the life span of that same individual and oftentimes an epitaph will be inscribed on the marker as a final message to the loved one.

The small petite stone markers represent the infants and children who often died as victims of food impurities and lack of medical aid of that time.

The oldest marked grave in the cemetery is that of little Amy V., daughter of J. B. and M. B. Myers.

She was born August 12, 1872 and died December 2, 1875 after three short years of life.

Beside her lies her brother James R., son of J. B. and M. B. Myers.

He was born March 15, 1879 and died October 13, 1886 at the age of seven. These are the children of W. B. Tolley's daughter Mary Myers.

The plot is surrounded by a 10-inch wide concrete border measuring 8 feet by 6 feet 3 inches. Their graves are covered by concrete slabs. On the top of James' stone is carved a small fern and snowflake design.

Another grandchild of W. B. Tolley was little Amy Tolley. The Call-Gazette, February 4, 1897, page 3, Volume XXV, Number 68, with S. H. Dodge as editor published the following:

"Amy, aged 2 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tolley, of Turkey Creek, died last Sunday. Rev. Brainerd conducted the funeral Monday, and the little one was buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery."

The inscription on the diamond shaped stone, now fallen, reads:
Amy V. Dau. of W. H. & L. R. Tolley
Born Nov. 28, 1896 Died Jan. 31, 1897

Infants graves are angels footprints.

The plot is surrounded by a concrete border 10 inches wide measuring 5 feet 3 inches by 5 feet 6 inches. There is a small tree in the southeast corner of the plot. Her stone is decorated at the top by a rose and leaves, and at the sides by fans.

Six feet north of Amy's grave are two small unmarked graves that have a rough native stone at the head and the foot 3 feet apart.

One white stone I found just laying in the grass reads C. E. LYNES BABY. The name was apparently crudely scratched in the broken stone.

Another stone has weathered until the inscriptions are nearly illegible. We could make out an "O" and an "S" and below "10 G. B. R." or "10 G. B. K.".

A son-in-law of W. B. Tolley, Eli VanMeter, is buried here also in northwest part of the cemetery. The following was found in the Beloit Call-Gazette March 7, 1918: (one page) Deaths - VanMeter. The death of Eli VanMeter, a well known old resident living on Clinton Street, occurred at his home Saturday evening. Eli VanMeter was born April 11, 1852 at Chariton, Iowa, making him aged at the time of his death 65 years, 10 months, and 20 days. He moved to this part of the state at the age of 19 years, and he was since resided here. He was married February 27, 1876, to Eliza Tolley. Four children were born, all of whom survive Mr. VanMeter and who are as follows: Nancy M. Johnston of Upland, Nebraska; Rosa B. Mathews of Glad Valley, South Dakota; Mary V. Smith of Upland Nebraska, and James VanMeter. The funeral services were held at the home Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Burial was made in Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

At the top of the fallen stone it says, "GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN." Beside him lays:

Nancy Daniels wife of John Daniels died March 16, 1902 aged 60 years, 9 months, and 28 days. At the top of the stone is engraved a star and a curtain, also a hand. At the base of the stone is engraved "At Rest" and the name "DANIELS." Their plot is enclosed by a concrete border measuring $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

North of the Myers children lays Rhoda C. Shirley wife of William Rider born Sept. 30, 1844 died Oct. 13, 1881. This is a large stone, and engraved near the top of the stone are vines and the rising sun.

Directly north of her stone, about half way to the northern boundary, are two small graves marked only by native stones $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart.

Directly east of the drive, in the middle of the cemetery are two sunken graves, along with others not so evident. All of these are unmarked.

South of the drive, about 18 feet inside the cemetery is a large concrete bordered lot measuring 21 feet by 16 feet 4 inches. In the northwest corner is buried Joseph Lincoln LeFever July 15, 1865 - Dec. 26, 1909.

The following appeared in the daily Gazette Times December 28, 1909, Volume III, Number 47, with E. W. Swan as editor:

Killed in a wreck

Brother of Mrs. J. A. Farrar Meets

Death in Kansas City on Sunday last

Mrs. J. A. Farrar received a telegram on Sunday afternoon bearing the sad news that her brother Joseph L. LeFever was killed in a wreck in Kansas City Mo. No further information accompanied the message and the manner in which the unfortunate man met his death was unknown to them at the time. Mr. and Mrs. Farrar left for that place on Sunday evening.

As Mr. LeFever was a fireman on the K. C. and S. railway system the supposition is he was killed in a wreck which took place near there on that day.

The remains will be brought back to Beloit by Mr. and Mrs. Farrar tomorrow morning. The funeral services will be held at the Baptist Church in this city at 1 o'clock p.m., providing the train service is such that it will be possible for them to return with the remains before that time. Services will be in charge of the Rev. L. S. Tarvin after which interment will be made in the Pleasant Valley cemetery three and one-half miles west of Beloit.

The stone is marked with a large "E" with the letters "B. L. & E." on it. The top corners of the stone are decorated with vines. Inscribed on the top is "In Memorium."

South of this is a small stone 6 inches by 7½ inches with the initials H. R. L. on the top.

South of these two is a tall stone inscribed with
Hannah Roberts Wife of Joseph LeFever
died Jan. 14, 1863 aged 59 yrs. 10 m. 25 dys.
On the base of the stone it says,
"Not Lost, Blest Thought But Gone Before
Where We Shall Rest To Part No More."

Just inside the gate and to the south is the Tolley plot. W. B. Tolley is buried here with his four wives and one child. The following appeared in the Beloit Daily Gazette Times October 25, 1909, Volume II, Number 308:

W. M. Tolley Dead
Last Survivor of Mitchell County's
Mexican War Veterans Was
Through Two Wars, Came
Here 37 Years Ago

William Tolley, aged 86 years, one of Mitchell county's earliest settlers, and a veteran of the Mexican and Civil Wars, died yesterday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. B. Myers, near Burdet, Kansas. Death was due to old age resulting in a gradual decline of strength. Word was received here Saturday by his granddaughter, Mrs. Peter McKechnie, that he was failing.

rapidly. This was followed by a message yesterday announcing his death.

Mr. Tolley as a soldier had a remarkable record. He served through both the Mexican War in 1848 and '49 in a Kentucky regiment and later was drafted into a Wisconsin Regiment and served throughout the Civil War. He was the last survivor of Mitchell County's famous quintet of Mexican War veterans. The other four were Obediah Webb, E. R. Owen, A. R. Kirby, and Col. J. H. Summers.

Mr. Tolley survived only a short time his departure from his old home in Mitchell County. Five weeks ago he accompanied the G. B. Myers and W. H. Tolley families to their new home near Burdet, Kansas. The trip was made overland in wagons. The old gentleman stood the trip first rate, but the strange country and strange faces caused him to long for the home town and home country where he was in years past a conspicuous figure and known by everyone as a man of stalwart character. The annual reunion and dinner of the five Mexican veterans grew to be one of the yearly events of interest in Beloit.

Mr. Tolley's life although beset with hardships, by hard work and thrift, accumulated much property, and prior to the division of it, made about two years ago among his four children, he was worth over \$20,000 in real estate alone.

At an early age he was left an orphan, and under direction of the court he was bound out to a blacksmith and worked as an apprentice at the trade until he was 21 years age. The treatment he received was not the pleasantest and once he ran off, but was brought back under direction of the law. After reaching his majority he started to work for himself and early in 1848 joined the army and went to Mexico. After returning to Kentucky, he moved to Wisconsin and in 1861 he again entered the service and saw five years of hard fighting.

Thirty-seven years ago, Mr. Tolley brought his family to Kansas and settled in Mitchell County. He took up a homestead west of town and it remained in his possession until two months ago, when it was sold to Martin Engelbert for \$10,000. The Tolley farm the Tolley Ford, the cemetery and schoolhouse which was named, after Mr. Tolley, will go down in the local history bearing the name of the old veteran.

Mr. Tolley was a member of the United Brethern Church. He was a man of set opinions, had his views on most matters and able to express them in a characteristic way. He was opposed to secret orders and even drew a ban on the old soldiers' organization. Although much persuaded, he never consented to join the G. A. R. Post. Mr. Tolley was a man of remarkable constitution. Only last

winter he felt the need of exercise and with several inches of snow on the ground, he walked from the Myers farm northeast of town, to his son's place a distance of five miles and enjoyed it!

Mr. Tolley is survived by four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The children are Mrs. J. B. Myers, James H. of Reno, Nebraska, Mrs. Lyda VanMeter, north of Beloit, and W. H. Tolley of Burdet.

The body will arrive here tomorrow evening and the funeral probably will be held Wednesday from the United Brethern Church. The interment will be made in Tolley cemetery in the family lot.

The Tolley plot is enclosed by a 10 inch wide concrete border and measures 10 feet by 26 feet. There are six graves in the lot; a small one on the north says Nancy; next is a large stone with engraving on three sides; the west reads:

Mararet Bannen
Wife of W. B. Tolley
Born July 27, 1839
Died Sept. 17, 1882

The north reads:

W. B. Tolley
Born Sept. 8, 1823
Died Oct. 24, 1909

and the east reads:

Nancy Williams
Jan. 31, 1826
Oct. 15, 1873

the south side bears only a simple carving; another small stone reads Margeret; next stands an unmarked stone; a larger stone says Nancy J. Lawrence Wife of W. B. Tolley

the sixth stone which is broken off its' base reads:

Martha A. Tobey
Wife of W. B. Tolley

In the lot stands a star reading G. A. R. 1861-1865. Another article was also found later about Mr. Tolley. It appeared in the Beloit Daily Gazette Times, October 26, 1809, Volume II, Number 309 on Tuesday:

William Tolley Funeral Tomorrow

The body of William Tolley will arrive this evening on the Missouri Pacific train from Concordia. The same will be accompanied by W. H. Tolley, a son and J. B. Myers, a son-in-law. Mrs. Myers will be unable to come on account of illness. As chronicled in last night's Daily, Mr. Tolley died at the home of his daughter near Burdet, Sunday morning. The funeral will be held tomorrow at 9:30 A.M. at the United Brethern Church. Rev. Tarvin will officiate. The pall bearers will be chosen from the old soldiers.

How true this quote many years later from General Douglas McArthur: "Old soldiers do not die, they fade away while their memory lives on."

Records were not kept well in days gone by, but a few obituaries were in the Call-Gazette.

In a letter from Jim Tolley, 950 S. Wichita Street, Wichita 13, Kansas, April 4, 1962, he told of his grandfather having four wives and one child buried by him. He also told of the two Myers children; Amy Tolley and Eli VanMeter. He thought he was one of only four living grandchildren. A recent letter to him came back---address unknown.

The Indenture and only one recorded grave, that of Rhoda C. Shirley, wife of William H. Rider, in 1901, Lot 10, Block 2, is in the courthouse. There is no plot of the cemetery in the courthouse so I made a rough plot in several visits to the cemetery. The upkeep of this cemetery is not provided by tax money so for many years people in the vicinity have taken care of it. Four years ago in 1962 the West Beloit Home Demonstration Unit took it as a community project. They pay Mr. Lawrence Warburton \$15 a year to clean and mow the cemetery.

A few scattered iris are the only decoration for these graves. The Kansas prairie has claimed its own.