



KANSAS KIN

*A quarterly publication for the members of the Riley County Genealogical Society
February 2016 Vol. 54, No. 1*

THE PHOTO ISSUE

So many photos inside!

Kansas Roots



A story of the five generations of the Mertz family which have called Kaw Valley home



Riley County Genealogical Society

2005 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-3415
Phone: (785) 565-6495

Library Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday, Saturday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

www.rileycgs.com

info@rileycgs.com

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Kansas Kin is a quarterly publication of Riley County Genealogical Society whose purpose is to collect, preserve and share information for researching Kansas family histories.

From the President



Hello Members,

Welcome to the first edition of the Kansas Kin quarterly for 2016. We are a work in progress and hope to make further improvements in our publication. Your suggestions are more than welcome. Much depends on the participation of submissions for publication and we are pleased with the quality of articles authors have submitted to us. I again remind readers with a writer's itch to submit articles on their Kansas kin and communities. Accompanying photos are more than welcome. Again, we are not limited to just those with a Riley County connection. Guidelines are included in this and following editions.

In addition I draw readers' attention to the benefits of membership in the society that include not only receiving this quarterly but also access to our considerable data base through our surname search that connects to many articles and records, many digitized. This data base is expanding as we complete projects. Please check out our website: www.rileycgs.com.

Barry Michie
President, RCGS

Heroes of War

Several Local Servicemen have Received the Medal of Honor

Wann Towers

Do you have a Civil War Union service member who may have received the Medal of Honor? Look it up in an alphabetical list available on line. Nearly half, 1522, of the total medals awarded to date, 3468, were to Civil War participants. Today's requirements are much stricter than when the medal was first conceived. The Medal of Honor is now the highest military award bestowed on members of the United States Armed Forces. During the Civil War it was the *only* one. President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill providing the medal for the Navy on December 21, 1861. Legislation to include the Army was signed July 12, 1862.¹

Capturing an enemy flag, saving regimental flags, or rescuing the commander after his horse was shot carried a high value in the Civil War due to difficult or no communications available during battles at that time. However, many early medals of honor were handed out for "doing their duty as a soldier" and were revoked in 1916 by a board of retired generals.

The following Medal of Honor Awardees have Manhattan, Ogden and Junction City, Kansas connections: John H. Callahan, Civil War - lived in Manhattan, KS; Conrad Schmidt, Civil War - lived in Junction City, KS; George Mallon, WW I - born near Ogden, KS; and Walter D. Ehlers, WW II - born in Junction City, KS.

John Henry Callahan was born January 25, 1845 in Shelby County, Kentucky. He died March 13, 1914 at the age of 69 in Manhattan, Kansas and was buried in Sunset Cemetery.

Medal of Honor Citation:

*Private Callahan was one of fourteen soldiers awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in action against Confederate forces at Fort Blakely, Alabama, on April 9, 1865. Private Callahan was cited for capture of a Confederate flag.*²

John H. was the son of Andrew Callahan and Nancy R Miller Callahan of Spencer, KY. They married November 10, 1840. His father died in



John Henry Callahan
photo from *Find a Grave*

1844 a few months before John was born.³ In the 1850 KY Federal census his widow Nancy was living with her parents Jacob and Mary Miller in Spencer, KY with her two sons Andrew J. Callahan (age 7) and John H. Callahan (age 5). In 1860 John H. Callahan, age 15, was living with his grandfather, Jacob Miller, in Macoupin, IL. John H. joined the 122nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry August 1862 at the young age of seventeen. On April 9, 1865, the same day Lee surrendered to Grant, John H. Callahan performed with honor in the Battle at Fort Blakely, Alabama. Following the Civil War in 1870, John H. married Lucinda [Crum] and returned to Illinois where they had a son, M.S. (Mathias) Callahan. In 1880 John H. and Lucinda lived in Shannon, Pottawatomie County, Kansas. Their children, all born in Illinois, were: Mathias, Ada M., and Josephine. By 1900 John H. and family lived in Manhattan, Kansas. Their children still at home were: Josephine (age 25), Lucy M. (age 19), Charlotte S. (age 19), Andrew L. (age 15), and Ralph W. (age 7).

Lucinda Callahan, John's wife, died of cancer May 5, 1907.⁴ John H. Callahan died March 13, 1914.

"Hero Overlooked No More" from an article in the *Topeka Capital-Journal* from May 27th, 2001 said a long over looked headstone was to be dedicated on Memorial Day marking the grave of John H. Callahan with the Medal of Honor star. John had been buried next to his wife Lucinda but his name was never put on a headstone. Through the efforts of an amateur historian, John Luerding, the error was corrected. In the 2001 article, Jack Callahan said his grandfather settled in Stockdale following the Civil War, operated a ferry on the Big Blue River north of Manhattan, and was a Manhattan police officer before purchasing the St. James Hotel. On May 28th, 2001 many family members, city and state officials, and the public were present to dedicate an official marble headstone, typical of Civil War veterans, with "Medal of Honor" engraved below his name, 87 years after he was buried.

Conrad Schmidt was born February 27, 1830 in Wurttemberg, Germany and died December 26, 1908 at the age of 78. Conrad was buried in the St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ogden, Kansas.

Medal of Honor Citation:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to First Sergeant Conrad Schmidt, United

States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 19 September 1864, while serving with Company K, 2d U.S. Cavalry, in action at Winchester, Virginia. First Sergeant Schmidt went to the assistance of his regimental commander, whose horse had been killed under him in a charge, mounted the officer behind him, under a heavy fire from the enemy, and returned him to his command.⁵



John Callahan's wife's 1907 stone and the new 2001 Civil War marker in Sunset Cemetery
Photo by Wann Towers

Conrad arrived at the Port of New York, December 26th, 1854 on the steamer "Washington", listed as a 24-year-old farmer.⁶ He lived in Worchester, Massachusetts before enlisting February 5th, 1861 at Leavenworth, Kansas with Company K, Regular Army 2nd Cavalry Regiment. In 1874, Conrad received a pension of \$8.00 a month for being shot in the face.⁷

Conrad Schmidt and Mary Rush were married July 7, 1866 in Junction City, Kansas.⁸ Mary was the daughter of Francis and Anna Bohm Rush, who had emigrated with their seven children from Prussia. The Rush family arrived at Ft.

Riley in 1854 and settled in the Milford area.⁹

In the 1875 KS State Census Conrad (age 43) was a farmer in Davis County (Geary), Kansas. Members of his household were: Mary his wife (age 27), and children: John (age 8), Jacob (age 5), Mary (age 3), Frank (age 2), and Lilly (age 1 mo.). Two more children were born to the couple, Michael in 1878 and Rosa in 1879. Conrad's

wife, Mary Rush Schmidt, died in 1882 at age 35. In 1905 Conrad (age 73) was living on Ft. Riley post with Mike Schmidt (age 28) and L.A. Schmidt (age 30). Conrad was buried along with his children Margaret, who died at 9 months, and Frank, who died at 3 years, in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ogden, KS.

Conrad's daughter, Mary Schmidt, married Mr. Devine. Lillian Schmidt, single, worked in the Soldier's Orphan Home in Atchison, Kansas in 1910. Michael Schmidt married Rose Ellen Heffron and Rose Schmidt married John D. Baldwin.



Conrad Schmidt

Photo from Find a Grave

George Henry Mallon was born near Ogden, Kansas June 15th, 1877. He died August 2nd, 1934 in White Cloud, MN and was buried in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN.

Medal of Honor Citation: Captain, U.S. Army 132d Infantry, 33d Division. Place and date: In the Bois-de-Forges, France, 26 September 1918.

Becoming separated from the balance of his company because of a fog, Capt. Mallon, with 9 soldiers, pushed forward and attacked 9 active hostile machineguns, capturing all of them without the loss of a man...he led his men in attacking a battery of four 155-millimeter howitzers... In this encounter Capt. Mallon personally attacked 1 of the enemy with his fists. Later, when the party came upon 2 more machineguns, this officer sent men to the flanks while he rushed forward directly in the face of the fire and silenced the guns...The exceptional gallantry and determination displayed by Capt. Mallon resulted in the capture of 100 prisoners, 11 machineguns, four 155-millimeter howitzers and 1



George Henry Mallon

Photo from *Find a Grave*



Walter David Ehlers

Photo from *Find a Grave*

antiaircraft gun.

George H. Mallon's father, Robert Curry Mallon, was born February 24th, 1839 in County Tyrone, Ireland. His mother Emma Louise Stephens was born August 1st, 1851 in New York City. Robert C. Mallon came to Kansas in 1857, where he was a farmer in the Ogden area. The Mallon extended family was among the earliest pioneers to the Riley County area.

George H. served in the Spanish-American War and spent three years in the Philippines where he was cited for bravery. George H. Mallon married Effie B. Campbell. They lived in Kansas City before WWI. He was an automatic sprinkler fitter. Effie was born in 1888, died in 1970 and was buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery Ogden, KS. George and Effie had a daughter, Maggie, who died young, and two adopted sons, George H. and Robert C. Mallon.¹⁰ George's occupation, according to the 1920 Federal Minnesota census, was Business Agent in the Builders Trade and in the 1930 Federal census his occupation was Commissioner in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN. In the household were George H. 52, Effie G. 41, George H. 10 and Robert C. 5.

Walter David Ehlers was born May 7th, 1921 in Junction City, Kansas and died at age 92, February 20th, 2014 in Buena Park, California.

Medal of Honor citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 9-10 June 1944,

near Goville, France...Without waiting for an order, S/Sgt. Ehlers, far ahead of his men, led his squad against a strongly defended enemy strong point, personally killing 4

of an enemy patrol who attacked him enroute. Then crawling forward under withering machinegun fire, he pounced upon the guncrew and put it out of action. Turning his attention to 2 mortars protected by the crossfire of 2 machineguns, S/Sgt. Ehlers led his men through this hail of bullets to kill or put to flight the enemy of the mortar section, killing 3 men himself...

Growing up, Walt and his older brother Roland worked on their uncle's Kansas farm. They joined the Army together in November 1940 and fought side by side in the North Africa and Sicily campaigns. They trained in England for the Allied invasion of northern France as well. Prior to the invasion, Walt was promoted to Staff Sergeant and transferred to Company L, while his brother Roland remained in Company K, both in the 18 Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. Walt learned in July his brother had been killed on D-Day. Walt was promoted to 2nd Lt. and served in the European Theater until the end of the war. A three-page first person account by Walter Ehlers of his D-Day experience included in the book *Cord Ehlers in America 1853* by Rufus Arndt Ehlers may be found in Riley County Genealogical Society Library.

As a civilian, Walt worked as a counselor for the Veterans Administration in California where he met his future wife, Dorothy Decker. They were married in 1956. Walter Ehlers was buried in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California.¹¹ His wife Dorothy, son Walter Jr., daughters Cath-

erine Metcalf and Tracy Kilpatrick, and sisters Leona Porter, Marjorie Gustin, and Gloria Salberg were surviving at the time of Walter Ehlers death.¹²

Walter Ehlers' Great Grandfather, Cord Ehlers, was born in Bremervorde, Hanover, Germany on June 2nd, 1827. He immigrated in 1853 to Benton County, Missouri, where he and his wife Anna raised their family. Cord served in the US Civil War. Cord's son, Claus Ehlers, born in 1861 in Missouri, moved to Geary County, Kansas. Claus and Mary Ehlers were the parents of John A. Ehlers, born September 21st, 1889. John A. Ehlers married Marie O'Neill and had six children: Roland, Claus F., Walter David, Leona, Marjorie M. and Gloria M.

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11. "2LT Walter David 'Walt' Ehlers." *Find a Grave*. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?GRid=125370706&page=gr>.
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Author Information

Wann Towers was born in Manhattan, KS. She earned a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Kansas State University and a Certificate of Physical Therapy from the University of Kansas. Wann has been a member of RCGS for over twenty years.

Kansas

Five Generations of the

The KAW River Valley has been home to five generations of the Mertz family. Sherman Mertz was born in Des Moines County, Iowa, in 1865. He was the first Mertz to come to Kansas. His father, Bernard, was born in Baden, Germany, in 1835. In 1851, At the age of 16 Bernard left Germany with his father, Opal, and family members to live in America. They settled in Burlington, Iowa. Sherman Mertz left Iowa at the age of 22 arriving in Kansas in 1888.

KANSAS MERTZ CLAN

After living and working as a humble farm hand in Kansas for several years, Sherman Mertz settled in Wabaunsee



Sherman and Mary Mertz

County in 1898 and eventually became the state's second largest sheep feeder and one of the most successful and substantial citizens of the area. It was the

custom of Prof. Rufus Cox, head of the sheep department of Kansas State College, to take a group of students each year to study lamb feeding methods on Mertz's farm.

His home in Wabaunsee Township was modern. It was supplied with furnace, hot water, bathing facilities, an individual light and sewer plant and practically everything that characterized an up-to-date city home in the early 1900s. Sherman was known as a hardworking and "public spirited citizen." He believed that life was a never ending education and experience was the best teacher. Mertz also enjoyed his residence. He stated once in *The Kansas Agriculturist* in February, 1907—"I believe in making the farm home as attractive as possible.... We (farmers) deserve to have as many comforts in life as anyone else." Sherman and his wife, Mary Belle (Thierer) Mertz, had six children, one of which was Harold Augustus Mertz.

In 1924, Harold Augustus Mertz married Edna Hutchinson and moved from his parents' home in Wabaunsee to a farmstead purchased by his father a couple miles west in Riley County. This is approximately nine miles east of

Roots

Mertz Family Call Kaw Valley Home

Mary Mertz

Manhattan where the story of the three residences currently owned by Mertz families on Highway 18/Zeandale Road begins.

The houses are within a couple of miles from the community of Zeandale. One of the very first settlers to the region, Mr. J.H. Pillsbury, is attributed as the one who named the township. Zeandale is loosely translated "corn valley." This is an appropriate name as the land lies between Deep Creek and the Kansas River and has been productive cropland since the first white settlers arrived from Ohio in 1854.

The farm house that Harold and Edna resided in was a typical modest two story residence. The interior has been extensively remodeled throughout the years. Harold was one of the first farmers in the valley to develop irrigation systems for his crops. As far as records show, the first owner of the land was A.T. McCormick, who arrived as part of the initial wave of folks from Ohio in 1855. Harold Augustus and Edna Mertz had three children – Harold Dale*, Betty (Campbell), and Jake.

As should be with each generation, the three kids inherited Harold A.'s land. Eldest son, Harold Dale, stayed to farm it while living with his parents and continuing to expand the acreage and the cattle and sheep operations. When Harold Dale took over management of the farm, he gave the name River Creek Farms to the business. At one point, River Creek Farms fed out 3-4,000 sheep. Utilizing the railroad, which had a station in Zeandale in the 1950-60s, the Mertz men would move the sheep down the high-

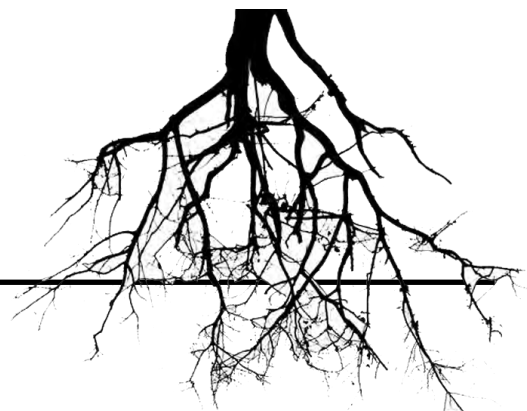
way on foot about two miles from the box-cars to the farm's sheep barn. Harold was a recognized figure within the sheep feeding industry on a national level.

With their first infant, Joe, held tightly in their arms, Harold and wife Jeanne (Kueny) were loaded onto a small rowboat outside their home and rowed to higher ground during the great flood of 1951. Jeanne, a town girl from Oskaloosa, has never forgotten the fear of that experience.

Harold Dale and Jeanne had six children - Joe, Tom, Bob, Jane, and Jon. A baby named Cynthia died at birth.

Oldest son, Joe Mertz, is now 64 and is living in the farm house with wife Kim (Newell). They raised four children in their home: Asher, Lincoln, Malia, and Abram, who are all married and are starting to have babies of their own. Kim handles all the farm records, including payroll, accounting, and insurance. Joe heads up RCF's cattle operation. The beef cattle are Simmental and Sim-Angus. A RCF Bull Sale is held annually and buyers from all over the country and even internationally bid on the bulls because of their superior genetic traits.

According to the *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas, 1881*, Abner Allen arrived in the Zeandale area in the spring of 1856. Zeandale was originally part of Davis County, but was afterward transferred to Wabaunsee's



Harold Mertz with sons Joe, Tom, and Bob and their feeder lambs.



Current Farmstead House of Joe and Kim

Richardson County where it remained until 1871, when it became a part of Riley County. Allen was a horticulturist who worked with the Kansas College of Ag to research seeds. *The Plat Book* picture shows his apple orchard surrounding the house.



Original Abner Allen House

Photo from the *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas, 1881*

In 1965 Harold Dale and Jeanne purchased two homes with farmland. The Abner Allen House as noted above along with the Samuel Pratt home. At the time these residences were owned by A.L and Ida McGehee. The farm ground surrounding these Mertz homes is still referred as the McGehee Fields. While the Samuel Pratt house has always been a family home, the Abner Allen house was used as a rental or for farm workers for decades before Bob and Mary purchased it in 1993.

The Allen home is a tri-level structure with two distinct sections. Currently, Bob and Mary Mertz own the home. During the Flood of '93, three feet of water drifted through the lower level of the house for several weeks. Ironically, they stayed in the lovely refinished basement of Ida McGehee (owner the house before the Mertz purchase). She invited both Joe and Bob's families to stay in her home in Manhattan near City Park. The six young children of the families thought they were on one of the best vacations ever. Bob is in charge of the grain operation for RCF, which now encompasses 3,600 acres, and Mary keeps harvest records and coordinates agri-tourism events.

The first district school was taught by a Miss Mattie Keyes, from 1859 to 1862, in a small limestone building on the farm of Mr. Allen. This structure still stands and is used for storage. We do wonder if it would qualify for Historical Preservation and might pursue that someday.

Today, the house retains the original character despite the many expansions and remodels. Bob and Mary raised two



Abner Allen House during the flood of 1993

children in this home – Lisa and David. Like their four farm cousins down the road, they also received degrees from KSU.



Stone Shed and First District School House

"Last year, the two story portion of our home was made into the Abner Allen Guest House," Mary said. "We have had travelers from all over the country choose to stay in our home because of the farm location and charm of antique-laden rooms with just the right amount of modern conveniences."



Abner Allen House today, now Owned by Bob and Mary Mertz.

HAROLD DALE AND JEANNE MERTZ PURCHASE THE SAMUEL G. PRATT HOME AND BARN

Samuel G. Pratt acquired the land upon which he built his impressive limestone home and barn in 1867 by transfer of



Original Samuel G. Pratt home

Military Bounty Land Deed. Samuel G. Pratt and his wife Margaret were later divorced in 1898. Samuel would have been 72 years old at that point. The divorce was granted upon Margaret's claim of "extreme cruelty" and she was awarded the Abner Allen house, two cows and one calf, her horse, buggy, and harness, and 2/3 of the corn as it stood in the field on land decreed to plaintiff.

The Pratt barn, built in 1876, was used to board horses. There are still stenciled numbers visible on the walls of what would have been stalls. The large open archways in each of the east and west walls allowed wagons to drive through while dispersing hay to the animals. A stone in the middle of the east archway has the initials S.G.P and the year 1876 carved into it.

Harold Dale and Jeanne have resided in the Pratt House since 1965. They purchased it from A.L. and Ida McGehee, who, as previously mentioned, moved to Manhattan in their later years. Several improvements and additions have been made to the residence – starting with the second story added to the east wing of the house. The porch and balcony were remodeled and a new wing extends to the north behind the western section.

In recent years, after storing prairie hay and equipment for half a century, the barn was cleaned out and an event called Feast of the Fields was held to celebrate agricul-



The Pratt barn today



The Samuel G. Pratt House today, owned by Harold and Jeanne Mertz.

ture, specifically Kansas food and farms.

In late August 2010, the first dinner took place with Scott Benjamin, 4 Olives Restaurant, as the chef. For five years afterwards, in June and then again in October, tables have been set up harvest style, covered with white linen, china and silverware adorning the place settings, musician playing classical instrumentals, and guests mingling with wine and hors d'oeuvres while waiting to be served a chef prepared four-course meal.



The Pratt barn during the Feast of the Fields

In May, 2011, Joe and Kim's youngest son, Abram, and his spouse-to-be, Dani Devlin, held their wedding ceremony within the barn.

To recap the lineage: there was Opal Mertz, who had Bernard, who had Sherman, who had Harold Augustus, who had Harold Dale, who had Joe and Bob – current owners and managers of River Creek Farms. Bob and Joe's children represent the fifth generation of the Mertz family to grow up farming here in Kansas. Only one of the six pursued a college degree in agriculture.

Resources:

M.E. Bird, *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas* (Chicago: The Bird & Mickle Map Co., 1881), <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/224007>.

Mertz Family collections

Notes:

*Since the submission of this article, Harold Dale Mertz has passed away (November 29, 2015). This is dedicated in his memory.

All photos are from the Mertz family collection unless specified otherwise.

Author information

Mary (DeBartolo) Mertz was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She met her husband, Bob, while working as an Office Manager at the Beef Industry Council of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. After marrying in Chicago, they moved back to Kansas to continue working on the Mertz family farm. They have two adult children, Lisa, who resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, and David, who lives in Seneca, Kansas. Mary has a degree in Business Management and Ethics from the Manhattan Christian College. She enjoys writing about agriculture and farm living.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT: *DON'T WORRY FOLKS. I'M ALRIGHT.*

Barry H. Michie

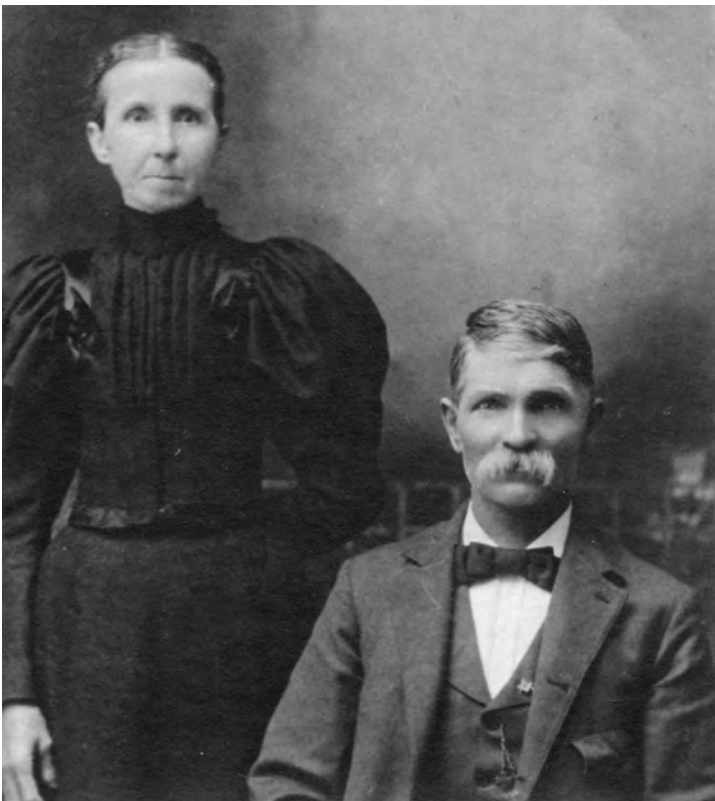
During the American Civil War, letters were prized by both those at home and soldiers in the field. Communication with family was entangled with rumors and misinformation received by both parties. On the home front, the general news of the horrors of war combined with the uncertainty of where and what a soldier may be experiencing compounded worry about their welfare and often lack of news directly from them. The civil war was a wrenching experience for families as well as the nation.

David Christian Troup (1841-1906) served in an Iowa regiment and lived in Linn, Washington County, Kansas, from the late 1870's until his death in 1906. Three of his letters home to his sister and mother survive, part of a large cache of letters his sister, Rachel Elizabeth Troup Boyer Harmer (1836-1919)* saved and were passed down through the family. These letters reflect several things: a soldier reassuring home folks that he is well, not to worry, apologies for not writing more often, some humorous asides and very general observations about comfort, hardships and the weather. All included here are transcribed with original spelling.

These letters are revealing not because of what he did write, but rather what he did not: that his regiment was in the thick of some of the bloodiest battles of the war in the Western Theater and then across into Georgia. Like many battle veterans of any war, his letters demonstrate a reluctance to talk about what he was going through as he experienced and participated in carnage and destruction. The approach here is analogous to Sherlock Holmes in *The Adventure of Silver Blaze*, in which the important clue is the dog that did not bark. The "non-bark" is found in his regiment's battle history.

OVERALL LIFE STORY AND PLACE IN THE FAMILY

David Christian Troup was born 19 March 1841, the sixth of eight known children, on the frontier near Lisbon, Linn County, Iowa. His father was Christian Troup (1793-1850), a United Brethren preacher, missionary and farmer. His family was among the first five in the Lisbon area after that territory opened after the Black Hawk War of 1832. His father was born in Maryland, married his mother, Sarah Miller (1806-1878), in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, and together they worked their way westward from Pennsylvania to Indiana, then to Iowa, where they arrived in 1837. David's vanity biography describes, in typical hy-



David Christian and Mary Brown Troup

Photo from Ancestry.com

perbolic detail, the family's early experience in Iowa: hardy pioneers with rude shelter standing up to howling wolves, prowling panthers and Indians, and daily privations. This is followed by a brief outline of his Civil War service and then later life after coming to Washington County, Kansas.¹

David lost his father in 1850 when he was eight. In the 1860 census, David was living as a young man near Richmond, English River Township, Washington County, Iowa, about 55 miles south of his natal home and family in Linn County. While living in the house of a well-to-do farmer, David attended school. It was here he first established roots: he was a resident of Richmond upon enlistment in an Iowa infantry regiment and that is where he returned after the war to married Mary Ann Brown (1843-1919) on 22 August 1867. Mary's family was from Ohio and had come to the area by the 1856 Iowa State Census, where the family could be found in English River Township. David remained in Washington County, Iowa, until August 1877, when he joined other family members in Linn, Kansas, who had come from Linn County, Iowa. This included his mother Sarah, who was living with his sister Rachel and other extended family.

CIVIL WAR SERVICE

The civil war marked the end of David's youth and undoubtedly his innocence as well. In addition to the three letters, one story has been passed down through the family. Aside from marching, his unit traveled by steamboat and by rail. According to the story, he was once reported as a deserter. Supposedly, his regiment was traveling by train when he got off to get some water and the train pulled out without him. It took him some days for David to catch up with his unit after this.

David had just turned twenty when, as a resident of Richmond, Iowa, he enlisted 15 July 1861 in Company H, 7th Iowa infantry. He served throughout the war until his unit was demobilized. He mustered out as a corporal 12 July 1865 in Louisville, Kentucky. His vanity biography records he survived the war without a scratch but suffered a disability from measles he contracted while in service.¹ He was one of the lucky ones as his regiment, with a total roster of 1,552 for that period, had close to a 50% casualty rate of deaths in battle, disease and wounded.²

The 7th Iowa became part of the Union Army of Tennessee. It fought in the Western theater of the war, first going down the Mississippi River to Missouri, then Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, South and North Carolina. The major engagements include the battles of Belmont, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, March to the Sea, and the last battle of the war at Bentonville, North Carolina. After the surrender his

unit marched to Richmond, Virginia, and then Washington, D.C. where it participated in the Grand Review of the Armies in Washington, D.C., 23-24 May 1865. His unit then went to Louisville, Kentucky, where it was demobilized and transport provided to return members back to Iowa.

Battle of Belmont, Missouri: 7 November 1861 The battle of Belmont, Missouri was David's first battle. His company was one of the eight companies of the 7th to participate and although a Union victory his regiment was badly mauled. For the eight companies of the 7th, the day started with 410 men and ended with 237 killed, wounded or missing according to the battle report of their regimental commander.²

Battles of Fort Henry, Tennessee: 6 February, 1862 and Fort Donelson, Tennessee: 11-16 February 1862 After the mauling at Belmont, David's unit regrouped in St. Louis and added more recruits. The next two battles were occasioned by miserable winter weather which the regiment had to endure without adequate clothing or shelter. With the Confederates' surrender, both the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers came under Union control.^{2,3,4}

Shiloh, Tennessee: 6-7 April 1862 The second bloody test of the 7th Iowa came at Shiloh where the carnage stunned the nation and presaged the later mass slaughter of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. The first day of battle did not go well for the Union. David was in the thick of it. The 7th with three other Iowa regiments held the center of the Union line at a place where the bullets flew so thick it was nicknamed "The Hornet's Nest". They withstood four Confederate assaults for six hours and slowed the Confederate advance that otherwise would have been a total Union rout. The Union forces regrouped at Pittsburgh Landing and with reinforcements the tide turned on the second day. The 7th charged and captured a Confederate battery. Total casualties on both sides were almost 28,000, about 55% Union.

Battle of Corinth, Mississippi: 3-4 October 1862 The Battle of Corinth saw the 7th Iowa in the thick of the fight, enduring artillery fire that took a heavy toll but with small arms beat back several Confederate advances. The regiment lost 122 men, the aggregate losses in battle up to that point equaling the number who had originally mustered in Iowa.²

David's first dated letter is from La Grange, Tennessee, to his sister. La Grange was a strategic town with a railroad junction and that changed hands several times during the first part of the war. It was occupied finally by the Union and became a garrison town. La Grange was the jumping off point of a daring cavalry raid by Col. Benjamin H. Grierson behind Confederate lines into Mississippi in April

and May 1863.
Grierson's raid was the basis for the 1959 movie *Horse Soldiers*, starring John Wayne, William Holden, Constance Towers and Althea Gibson.

Lagrange, Tenn
October 5th 1863

Dear Sister I
seat myself to write
a few lines to let
you know that I am
well at present &
sincerely hope when
these few lines
come to hand it will
find you in good
heath & not any-
ways dispirited. Per-
haps you think hard

of me for not writing oftener to you. As I wrote to Mother day before yesterday, & yesterday I received a letter from mother written September the 18th & now I will write you a letter in place of answering the one I got from Mother. Although I presume that a letter that goes home you all get to read it, letters are welcomed at home from the army as letters are welcomed here in the army from friends at home. But Sister I do not want you to think that I have for gotten you or that I am above writing to you. Tell Mother that she is sadly mistaken when she thinks that I am home on a furlough to get married. I do not think that I will marry till my term of service is out. Perhaps I will marry Uncle Sam again for three years more. But I think hardly. We have been under marching orders for the last 10 day. But the order was countermanded. I have been conversing with one of my old associates to day One that I have not seen for two years

We put the time quite fast relating our hard ships that we have went through since we have been in the army. The weather is getting Cool. This nights is getting rather too Cool to be comfortable. I am in pretty good health at present I have had one or two shakes of the ague. But not for some time I think I shaked it off entirely. I have an idea that if a person was to die with the ague & got to hell, that he would be quite comfortable there. Well I will close write soon. Give my best

Respects to all inquiring friends
& Same a large Portion to your Selves
Remaining your Affectionate Brother



Rachel Elizabeth Troup Boyer Harmer sitting with her Granddaughter, Photo from Michie family collection



Mother Sarah Elizabeth Miller Troup
Photographer: D.J. Gue, Lions, Iowa
Photo from Michie family collection

D.C. Troup

PS: when you
direct your letter
to me do in this
manner D.C.
Troup Co H 7th
Iowa Infantry

Put infantry on
the letter

In the latter part
of December,
1863, three-
quarters of
those on duty in
the Iowa 7th re-
enlisted for
three year's
more service
and given a one
month furlough
back to Iowa.²

David's second

letter is undated but written from Richmond, Iowa, to his mother, presumably while home on furlough. There is no mention of the war, but he reassures his mother that, despite her worries, he had not died a cold watery death. He also asks of any news from his brother and sister, who had gone to Humboldt County, California, in the early 1860's.

The letter has a piece missing at the bottom filled in with what makes sense from the context.

Richmond, Washington Co Iowa

Dear Mother I take my pen in hand to inform you that I am well and hope that these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing you wrote to Mr. Harsty that you had no word from me. Since I was home I wrote you a letter and receive no answer from it you wrote that you thought that I was drowned or frozen to death I got home the next day after 8 Sept that money that I spoke of I will send it to you in the next letter When I hear from you I would send it in this one but I to See whether this go through or not I want you to let me know whether you had any word from Sarah and Lewis and if you have write there to direct to I want you to excuse this poor writing for I am in a hast the folks is all gone to meeting ["and I"] want to go to So no more at present

Your affectionate Son

David Troup

On the reverse and written poignantly in a different hand is what first appears to be someone practicing their pen-

manship. It begins with the alphabet then parts of several Bible verses, Proverbs 31:30 and John 14:1, the latter repeated eight times. The first line is written in a very steady hand but by the eighth is a wild scrawl: "Let not thy heart be troubled." I presume this is either his mother's or his sister's writing that reflects the turmoil of emotion and search for solace concerning their son and brother in harm's way.

...Beauty Beauty is in vain Is in vain

Beautry is in vain unless it is shown in othr ways

RRR Command you may your...

Let not thy hart be trubled

Let not thy hart be trubled

Let not they hart be trubled

Let not thy hart be trubled

Let not thy hart be trubled

Let not thy hart be trubled

Let not thy hart be trubled

Let not thy hart be trubled

After returning to duty David was in a series of battles as the Army of Tennessee pursued General Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate forces east, the objective Atlanta. By June 1864 his unit had reached Kennesaw, Georgia, the setting for the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain that opened the way to Atlanta.

Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia: 27 June 1864 The third surviving letter from David is dated June 17th, (1864), from Big Shanty Station, Georgia. Curiously, he describes the destruction of oaks and pines along the string of battle fields from Chattanooga, but not the lives lost. Big Shanty Station was the original name of Kennesaw, Georgia. He wrote ten days before the major battle. This battle was a tactical defeat for Union forces amid great slaughter, the Union losing 3,000 men and the South 1,000, as the Confederates were dug into high ground. But Johnston had to retreat toward Atlanta as he had been out-flanked. David's letter mentions his unit was held in reserve and how much of the battle they participated in is unknown as his unit lost but two men; but he definitely witnessed great violence and bloodshed.

In the field near Big Shanty station Georgia June 17th

Dear Sister: Assuming this opportunity to write you a few lines in answer to yours of June 3rd which came safe to hand a few days since. We are now about 101 miles south of Chattanooga near Big Shanty Station. We have Old Johnson in the last strong hold this side of Atlanta & I think that Gen. Sherman Could soon get him out of this range of mountains if he deem it prudent. I believe Sherman and Grant is making to one another's hands, for I believe when

Johnson is driven out of here that he will not attempt to make a stand at Atlanta that he will make for Richmond. Gen. Sherman is awake to what he is doing & if he had Old Johnsons Army out on open field he could soon Clean him out. Our Division is held back as reserves we have three lines of Breastworks three lines of Battle & I think it impossible for the Rebes to Breast our lines if they were to hurl the Whole Confederate army against them; This is 5th day of our Campaign, this is 28 days we have been under the sounds of the Cannons & while I am writing to you the Booming Cannons can be hurd on our right & left. Keep shelling the rebes Enough to keep them uneasy, there more or less deserters Comes to our lines Ever day & night whole Companies at a time. There seems to be great dissatisfaction among the Rebes, The seem to think that their So Called Confederacy is about played out. Prisoners say that is useless for them to fight Gen Sherman's army; they say Gen Thomas will get up on a mountain & Gen Hooker on a Mountain Gen Scofield on a mountain & Gen Sherman will cry out attention world by nations, right face, forward march & then Gen Johnson will have to get up & Double quick to the rear. This will be one memorial Railroad from Chattanooga to Atlanta Ga. One Entire battlefield the riven pines & the splintered oaks will tell how fierce the Contest has been. You can see Evry hill where the Cannons has boom across their Loft Crest ---- you must not be uneasy if you do not hear from me soon again as this is my last supplies & stamp & God only knows when I will get some more thus orders for rest goin to Government

this full excuse this short letter as this is my last papers

Yours as ever, &C, &C

D.C. Troup

Family history often uncovers remarkable coincidences. Unbeknownst to David, the 7th Iowa was facing the 7th Florida Infantry regiment, in which this author's g-great grandfather, Samuel Burton Dampier (1835-1909) was a private in Co. A.⁵ Samuel Dampier retreated from Kennesaw with Johnston's forces and was captured the last day of the Battle of Utoy Creek, 7 August 1864, outside Atlanta while defending a railroad link to Macon, Georgia. He was sent to Camp Douglas near Chicago and after the war made his way back home, one of two brothers out of six to survive the war.

These letters are but an incomplete glimpse into the effect of the war on David Troup. He had death and destruction all around him from the beginning of service through Sherman's March to the Sea and then into the Carolinas waging total war against soldier and civilian targets alike. How anyone could not have been affected is difficult to imagine and perhaps he mostly remained silent as many war veterans unable and unwilling to articulate

the horrors they witnessed and in which they participated.

LATER YEARS IN LYNN

After the war David returned to Richmond, Iowa, where he married Mary Ann Brown, had the first two of their children, a daughter and a son, and settled down as a farm family. In 1877 he removed to Linn, Washington County, Kansas, where he took over a farm of 80 acres in 1879 that he improved with orchards and trees. In addition he operated another 320 acres in a mixed grain-livestock operation. Twin sons were added to the family in 1878. He was active in local affairs, serving as a District School Director, as a constable and road overseer. He was a Mason and also a member of the G.A.R. His vanity biography says he was a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican Party.¹

At some point he became editor of the local weekly, *The Linn Digest*. In 1897 a hot exchange occurred in the column, "People's Political Page," between himself and another civil war veteran, obviously from his old unit. Although a "staunch Republican" he evidently supported a Democrat running for County Treasurer. The other veteran didn't sign his name to his published letter but signed off as "A Comrade." He took David to task for not being highly educated, becoming addled in his old age, supporting a candidate that made him no better than a rebel, and furthermore making misleading appeals to fellow veterans to support this terrible candidate.⁶

The next week brought an elegantly written and scathing rejoinder from David who came down on him like a ton of bricks. He reminded him that one of their beloved officers, Brigadier General John Corse, was a Democrat who refused to surrender when surrounded at the Battle of Altoona Pass, Georgia, and earlier carried on the fight at Kennesaw Mountain despite losing part of his cheek and ear; that soldiers both Republican and Democrat fought to preserve the Union. Also, as the South had again sworn allegiance to the US, it was the duty of every American citizen to help bind up the wounds of war.

Striking at the personal level, David reminded his "Dear Comrade" how he elevated his rifle to shoot over the heads of rebel soldiers, trying to hit a big rebel general instead; "Shooting straight in the ranks and killing common rebels was small business for such a great patriot as you." Furthermore, "You remember leaving your regiment very suddenly when the rebs were crowding us a little; you said you were thirsty and went back to get a drink. Sometimes it took you a day or two to quench your thirst. But your comrades were always glad to meet you."⁶

One wishes one could have been a fly on the wall at Washington County G.A.R. meetings!

David was known as a good family man, but with a quick and hot temper. He certainly didn't back down from a fight, whether in battle or in words. He obviously remembered his war experiences quite well and whether he talked about them much is conjecture, but when called upon he certainly did so.

David Troup died suddenly of a heart attack 20 February 1906. He is buried in the City Cemetery at Linn along with his wife, Mary Ann, who followed him in 1919.

Note:

All individuals with dates of birth and death can easily be looked up on Findagrave.com, should readers want more information on individuals and the wider family.

* Rachel Elizabeth Troup's family was the subject of the August 2015 Kansas Kin article, "There is Nothing New under the Sun", Vol. 53, No. 3.

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Author information

Barry Michie is a trained anthropologist from Michigan State where he and his wife, Aruna, earned their terminal degrees, she in political science. They are both retired from Kansas State after having worked there for 35+ years. His last 20 years were spent as a program officer in the Office of International Programs, first as Director of Study Abroad and then in Program Development working on internationally related curricular programs.

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Updated October 2015

We are pleased that you have considered submitting an article to the Riley County Genealogical Society for possible publication. The *Kansas Kin* focuses on articles ranging from useful genealogical strategies and sources, to interesting accounts of personal research, to local histories as they relate to Kansas.

MANUSCRIPTS

500 to 2,000 words, including reference notes, is the suggested length of submissions. Submit your document in Word format via e-mail. Topical headings are preferred for longer pieces, keeping in mind that at least five typeset lines (ca. 60 words) must separate each subheading. All manuscripts and references should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. End notes are recommended, especially for books, articles, and web sites.

IMAGES

Whenever possible, please provide images to accompany your submission. The image must be over 1MB in size, with good quality resolution. Please also include a caption for each picture which includes a photo credit or source. All images must be sent as separate files.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Please provide a few sentences about the author(s) to accompany the manuscript.

DEADLINES

Submissions are due the 1st of the month in January, April, July, and October. Address submissions to the editor at britlyn1423@gmail.com.

All submissions to *Kansas Kin* are subject to review by the RCGS Editorial Board and revisions may be made, either by the writer or the editor.

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KANSAS KIN FEBRUARY 2016 VOL. 54, NO. 1

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 10th **10:30 am—1:30 pm**
Writing Your Family Story

Workshop by Charley Kempthorne
Registration fee of \$35 will include a box lunch
Registration deadline is Feb 25.
To register, call Riley County Genealogical Library
785-565-6495 or stop by 2005 Claflin Road

thelifestoryinstitute.com/Workshop
thelifestoryinstitute.com/About

Sunday, March 20th **2:00 pm**
GIS Mapping of Sunset and Sunrise Cemeteries

This presentation will examine the process the City of Manhattan undertook in creating its online Cemetery & Grave Locator webmap. All steps of the process will be discussed including: record types, data organization and layouts, software and use of the final product.

Location: Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, Kansas.

Sunday, April 17th **2:00 pm**
History of Ireland by Colin Noble

Colin Noble will be talking about his native county
Location: Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, Kansas

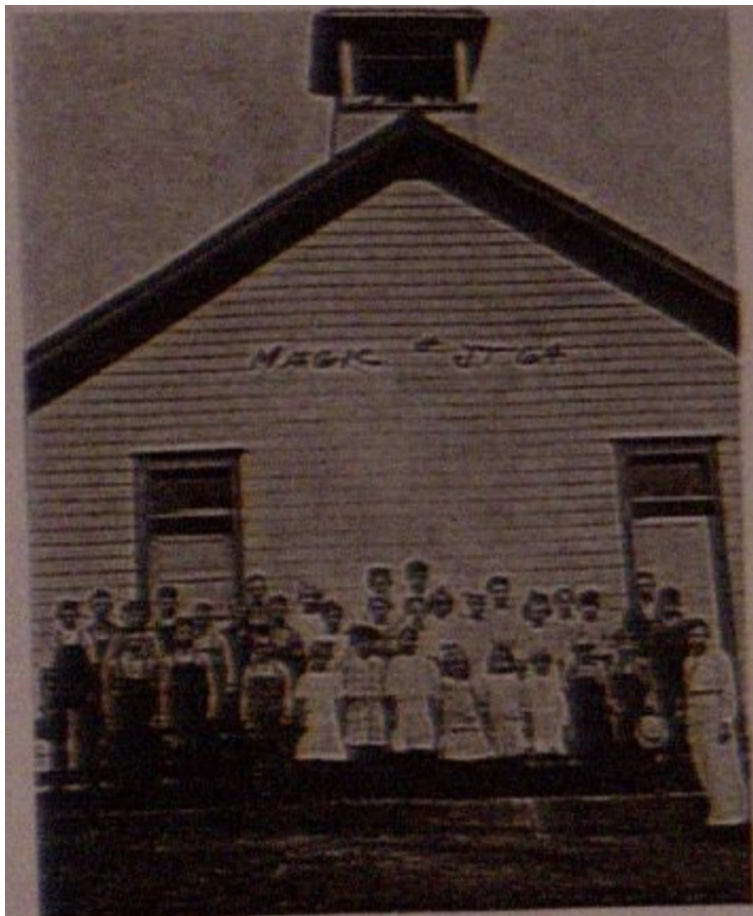
For more information see <http://www.rileycgs.com/eventListings.php?nm=38>



KANSAS KIN

A quarterly publication for the members of the Riley County Genealogical Society
May 2016 Vol. 54, No. 2

Magic: The Ultimate Vanishing Act



The story of the lost community of German immigrants in Riley County.



Riley County Genealogical Society

2005 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-3415
Phone: (785) 565-6495

Library Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday, Saturday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

www.rileycgs.com

info@rileycgs.com

Membership: Membership is open to individuals at all levels of genealogical experience. The membership year is January 1 through December 31. Memberships received after October 1st will receive the balance of the year free with a paid membership through the following year.

Dues- \$30 per calendar year.

To see a full list of membership benefits, visit rileycgs.com and click on the "Join RCGS" tab.

Tax Exempt Gifts: Donations to RCGS are tax deductible. RCGS is a tax exempt, educational and scientific organization under Section 501(c) (3) of IRS code, 1954.

Memorial Gifts: Families of a deceased member or non-member will be notified that a donation was received by RCGS. Donors may designate the gift for a specific purpose. Otherwise, the Board will identify projects for the funds within 90 days.

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Kansas Kin is a quarterly publication of Riley County Genealogical Society whose purpose is to collect, preserve and share information for researching Kansas family histories.

From the President



Hello Members,

Welcome to the second edition of the *Kansas Kin* quarterly of 2016! We are endeavoring to make improvements in layout, types of articles and other content. Many of you have already remarked positively, including some non-members who have seen articles and have joined the society.

I again remind readers that if you have a story to tell (and perhaps have photos) please consider submitting an article. Again you are not limited to submissions about Riley County.

I draw your attention to the benefits of membership that include not only receiving the quarterly, but also access to our growing data base that connects to articles and records, many of which are digitized. We also have about a million names in our surname search. Please check out our website at <http://www.rileycgs.com>.

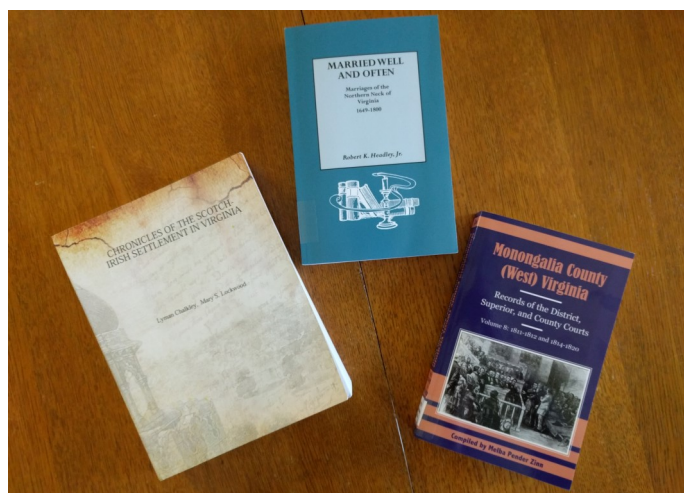
Barry Michie
President, RCGS

Combs Memorial Books

Rebecca Rose

As a memorial to Don Combs, his wife Millie made a generous contribution to the RCGS Collection on the state of Virginia. The selections strengthen the already comparatively strong collection of research materials on Virginia. Many of the nation's population hailed from New England and Virginia and pushed westward; therefore our collection on that state warrants a good core collection. Don Combs' ancestry was in early Virginia, and Millie has been an eager and valuable researcher and volunteer at RCGS. With the Combs memorial, core collection books were considered and the following selections were made:

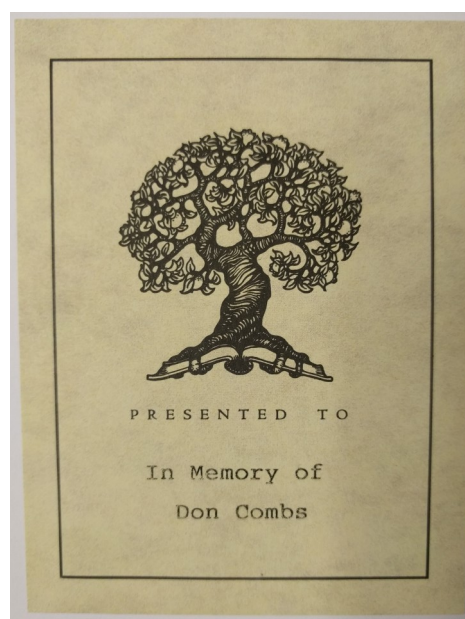
- 1) *Monongalia County (West), Virginia, Records of the District, Superior, and County Courts, Vol 8* (1811-1812 and 1814-1820) by Melba Penda Zinn. This is a new county to be represented exclusively in the RCGS Virginia books;
- 2) *Virginia County Records, Volume VII; a Key to Southern Pedigrees* by John Crozier (a well respected and much published genealogist). The library has other volumes in this series with all containing thousands of names and valid sources.
- 3) Another early and well-known author, John Chalkey, undertook the monumental task of *Chronicles of the Irish Settlement in Virginia* (edited by Virginia Lockwood) to record the Scots-Irish pioneers who breached the mountains to settle land extend 'the West'. Many used the Augusta County and the Great Valley route.
- 4) *Burned Record Counties, Virginia Tithables from Burned Record Counties* by R. F. Woodson .



Three of the books donated in memory of Don Combs.
Photo by Britt Talkington

- 5) *Married Well and Often: Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia 1649-1800* by Robert K. Headley has an amusing title and a serious mission to record 7,000 marriages and 16,000 indexed name entries.
- 6) Another well known and respected name in genealogy is Virginia Kegley. Her *Virginia Frontier: The Beginning of the Southwest 1740-1783* was donated.
- 7) *The Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740-1783 with Maps and Illustrations* by Frederick Kegley provides a comprehensive history of the migrations and people in Virginia Kegley's original volume.

Millie and Don left their mark on Manhattan; they were fascinated by history and always eager to receive new information and share it with others.



Memorial book insert. Photo by Britt Talkington

Riley County

Naturalization Records

Marcia Schuley

Behind each naturalization document is the story of someone who wanted to become an American citizen. The legacy of that decision is a powerful piece of our family story. Naturalization records provide rich details of ancestral origins, dates, ports of entry and ship of arrival.

Your ancestor might have started the process soon after arriving near his or her port of entry, or moved on to another location, and completed the process in an entirely different city or state.

RCGS has digitized and indexed early Naturalization Records for Riley County found in microfilm rolls for Riley County, U.S. District Court. These are Records of Naturalization 1859-1943. There are three types of records, Declaration of Intentions, Petition for Naturalization, and Final Naturalization Papers. Not everyone who filed a Declaration of Intent completed the full process.

The original naturalization ledgers are stored in the Riley County Courthouse in Manhattan, Kansas. These records were filmed at the end of the 1990s by a Latter Day Saints film crew and copies were provided to the Riley County Genealogical Society in recognition of the help their volunteers provided. Requests for naturalization information were difficult to fulfill, as volunteers, using the microfilm, found handwritten petitioners' names and a confusing order of record types. When Sue Smith, RCGS member, funded the digitization of RCGS microfilm, volunteer Margaret Parker agreed to index the ledgers. Patty Wadick, RCGS computer support coordinator, prepared the data for review, adding source citations. Parker matched names to images and transcribed names. Marci Schuley reviewed illegible names, using records on Ancestry.com and FindaGrave to verify correct spellings. The images are now available on-line in the RCGS Surname Search

feature.

Records from the 1850s and 1860s are in paragraph form and provide basic information as to name, age, and country of origin, citizenship intention and renouncement of allegiance to home country. By the 1870s 1880s, and 1890s the U.S. Department of Labor, Naturalization Service, provided forms that required much the same information. However, in 1888, Alexander Alexanderson, of Leonardville, completed a much longer Declaration of Intent form that states he is known as Alexander Samuel Seagren, is a farmer, white, with ruddy complexion, 5'10", 172 lbs., iron grey hair, blue/grey eyes and has no birth marks. He was born 4 April 1865 in Mariestad, Sweden, and sailed from Gottenberg, Sweden on the Catalona Cunard line to Boston, MA. He is married to Eva Seagren and has apparently taken her surname. A researcher would hit the jackpot coming upon this record. Official government forms continued to differ over the years, as did the federal department of oversight.

In an excellent article at the National Archives on *Naturalization Records*, a Justice Department Investigator, in 1903, made a condemnatory comment.

I find the naturalization records in many cases in a chaotic condition, many lost and destroyed, and some sold for old paper. Most of the records consist of merely the name and nativity of the alien with no means of identifying aliens of the same name....In numerous cases I find aliens naturalized under initials instead of Christian names, surnames misspelled or changed entirely, and names of witnesses inserted in place of the alien naturalized....The examination of the records discloses the remarkable fact that never, since the first enactment of the naturalization laws, has any record been made in any court of the names of minor children



The home page for the Naturalization Records on the National Archives website. You can visit the website at <http://www.archives.gov/research/naturalization/naturalization.html>. Photo by Britt Talkington

who, under the operation of the statutes, were made citizens by the naturalization of their parents.

From 1790 to 1922, wives of naturalized men automatically became citizens. Conversely an American woman marrying an alien lost her U.S. citizenship. The political and cultural climate of the country is reflected in later Declarations of Intent forms. Gunnar Carlsson of Randolph stated in 1913 that he was not an anarchist, a polygamist, nor a believer in polygamy. By 1 March, 1933, Abelino Cerrilo recorded his occupation as railroad laborer, nationality Mexican, entrance to the U.S. via the El Paso Railroad. He volunteered his marriage date, names, birth dates and current residences of his children. He also attached a photograph!

The Declarations of Intent offer the most genealogical information. I found it fascinating to search ONLY on Declaration of Intent, with no Surname entered, and to review the variety of nationalities. While Swedes, Germans and Irish predominate, there is the occasional Russian, Mexican, Greek, Slav and Chinese. Naturalization Records offer another research gem for RCGS members. Coming soon:

Applications for Marriage Licenses, followed by Probate Records and Deeds.

References

"Riley County Naturalization Records." Riley County Genealogical Society. Accessed January 15, 2016. <http://rileycgs.ens-6.com/>

"Naturalization Records" National Archives. Accessed January 16, 2016. <http://www.archives.gov/research/naturalization/naturalization.html>

Author Information

Marcia Schuley has been an RCGS member since 2008 when she discovered her Revolutionary soldier in a book in the RCGS library. She has a Ph.D. in Counseling and Student Personnel from Kansas State University and retired as Associate Director from Career & Employment Services in 2005.

Alien Registration of Wabaunsee and Wallace Counties

In April of 1917, congress declared war on Germany. Although Americans were only a part of the war effort for just under two years, the Great War created a plethora of documents which genealogists today can find quite useful. One such set of records are the Alien Registration Documents. As an extension of Proclamation 1364, a Presidential Proclamation set forth by Woodrow Wilson in November of 1917 called for “all natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of the German Empire” age 14 and older who were “within the United States” to register as “alien enemies.” Though the collection is fragmentary in nature, those lucky enough to find a relative’s registration documents will be given at least a birth date and place.

The following pages list the registration information from Wabaunsee and Wallace counties. Notice how out of all the registration documents listed, only two names are from Wallace county. For further research, both [The National Archives at Kansas City](#) and The National Archives sites have digitized collections of the Enemy Alien Registration Affidavits for the state of Kansas. You can search them using the directions found under the link for [Alien Registration Affidavits, February 6, 1918 – June 28, 1918](#) at Archives. gov.

**ALIEN REGISTRATION
WABAUNSEE AND WALLACE COUNTIES**

Registration of Alien enemies and Alien females submitted by local Registrars of the Chief Registrar for the District of Kansas (United States Marshal) under provisions of proclamations of the President dated November 16 1917-April 19, 1918. USDC KS Reg. Affidavits of Alien enemies, Roll Cabinet 40, Drawer 8 or RG 118, Records of the U.S. Attorneys and Marshals, Dist. of KS-Topeka, KS. Box 27, Wabaunsee-Wallace Counties. National Archives, Central Plains Region, Kansas City, MO. Extracted by Ruth Bennett Sanderson.

WABAUNSEE COUNTY

Registered from Alma	Birth Date	Birthplace
Name		
Achtenberg, Augusta, see Heideman		
Anderson, Adser S.	23 Aug 1858	Fender N. S. Jervig, Denmark
Anderson, Alice (Burke)	2 June 1861	Cincinnati, OH
Bandel, Mary (Hoepner)	15 Sep 1861	Klashagen, Brandenburg, Germany
Benthien, Elise, see Beutel		
Berg, August	25 Oct 1834	Densow-Kreis, Templinberg, Germany
Berg, Bertha (Gresning)	14 Nov 1844	Warte., Brandenburg, Germany
Berg, Carl August	19 May 1879	Densow-Kreis, Templinburg, Germany
Berg, Emma (Schmanke)	21 Oct 1883	Alma, KS
Beutel, Elise (Benthien)	13 Jul 1885	Tritan, Sch. Hol., Germany
Blank, Karolina, see Lietz		
Boettcher, John	28 Nov 1842	Templeburg, W. P., Germany
Brasche, Minna (Schulz)(Werner)	22 Dec 1847	Berlin, Germany
Brase, Fritz (reg. as Fred)	16 Apr 1858	Neranburg, Germany
Bredow, Julius Herman	1 Oct 1876	Brandenburg, Germany
Burke, Alice, see Anderson		
Cutright, Katie, see Czirr		
Czirr, Agnes (Herman)(Hensel)	11 Jul 1870	Wilmendorf, Germany
Czirr, Gustav F. E.	26 Jul 1870	Leba, Germany
Czirr, John	5 Jun 1867	Leba, Germany
Czirr, Katie (Foltz)(Cutright)	28 Jan 1872	Germany
Czirr, Theodor	28 Mar 1857	Charmovske, Pomm., Germany
Dieball, Albert	29 Mar 1842	Charbrow, Prussia
Dieball, Anna Maria (Thoes)	25 Dec 1850	Gutten__aul, Germany
Dieball, Anna W. (Hess)	27 Oct 1855	Westport, MO
Dieball, Wilhelm	29 May 1853	Charbrow, Prussia
Diepenbock, Maria, see Ringel		
Dietl, Katrina, see Paetke		
Dittmann, Mary, see Steimel		
Drebing, Mary (Klein)	27 Feb 1836	Wahn, Prussia, Germany
Eck, Rosa, see Noller		
Fechter, Elizabeth, see Hafenstein		
Feiden, Marie (Young)	24 Sep 1850	Pittsburg, PA
Feiden, Peter	4 Jul 1846	Alf, Rhine Prov., Germany
Fink, Augusta, see Hafenstein		
Fink, Carl	5 Jul 1843	Templin, Prussia
Fink, Emma, see Vobach		
Fink, Herman	18 Aug 1846	Reingenwalda, Brand., Germany
Fink, Louise (Havenstein)	26 Oct 1860	Petersdorf, Germany
Fink, Martha, see Neff		

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Fink, Minna (Huebner)(Gresning)	29 Jan 1841	Brandenburg, Germany
Foltz, Katie, see Czirr		
Furstenau, Mina, see Palenske		
Glosse, Henerette (Schmanke)	10 May 1862	Fuskberg, Krisstulp, Germany
Gnadt, Augusta, see Hafenstein		
Gresning, Bertha, see Berg		
Gresning, Minna, see Fink		
Grunewald, Henrietta (Moege)	14 Dec 1843	Verionieu, Posen, Germany
Gutknecht, Ottilie, see Richter		
Haensler, Frederica, see Kramer		
Hafenstein, Augusta (Gnadt)(Fink)	9 May 1866	Jarbrof, Germany
Hafenstein, Elizabeth (Fechter)	15 Aug 1870	Ebring, Baden, Germany
Hafenstein, Louise (Laging)	17 Nov 1881	Belvue, KS
Havenstein, Gustav	27 Jan 1865	Petersdorf, Brand., Germany
Havenstein, Louise, see Fink		
Heideman, Augusta (Achtenberg)	18 Dec 1853	Posen, Germany
Heideman, Julius	17 Dec 1845	Petersdorf, Brand., Germany
Heidemann, Augusta, see Simon		
Henkel, Hilma (Metzger)	23 Dec 1875	Alma, KS
Henkel, Matthew J.	6 Nov 1870	Marburg, Hessen, Germany
Hensel, Agnes, see Czirr		
Herman, Agnes, see Czirr		
Hess, Anna W., see Dieball		
Hoepner, Mary, see Bandel		
Hoferstein, Gustav	20 Feb 1881	Berlin, Germany
Hoferstein, Herman	26 Oct 1860	Petersdorf, Brand., Germany
Hohensee, Julia, see Raasch		
Huebner, Minna, see Fink		
Kast, Matthias	24 Feb 1852	Pfaffentrofer, Bavaria, Germany
Kernitz, Albert	14 Aug 1872	Seeburg, Brandenburg, Germany
Kerwitz, Katie (Pageler)	25 Sep 1883	Belvue, KS
Klein, Henry J.	25 Jan 1845	Warn, Rhein., Germany
Klein, Mary, see Drebing		
Klintworth, Christof Henry Conrad	4 Nov 1879	Badenstedt, Germany
Kramer, Frederica (Haensler)	9 Apr 1843	Germany
Krentz, Sarah, see Nehring		
Laging, Louise, see Hafenstein		
Lietz, Karolina (Blank)	12 Feb 1840	Friederichshof, Germany
Metzger, Hilma, see Henkel		
Meyer, Fred	14 Feb 1863	Germany
Meyer, Hanna (Varhae)	24 Jun 1851	Schanwece, Hann., Germany
Meyer, Henryetta, see Wandersee		
Moege, Henrietta, see Grunewald		
Neff, Karl William	11 Feb 1889	Ehringen, Wurt., Germany
Neff, Martha (Fink)	2 Oct 1890	Volland, KS
Nehring, Gotthelf	13 May 1856	Nienburg, Germany
Nehring, Sarah (Krenitz)	4 May 1862	Port Washington, WI
Noller, Chris	25 Sep 1881	Wurtenburg, Germany
Noller, John	7 Jan 1879	Wurtenburg, Germany
Noller, Karolina (Peter)	26 Nov 1848	Wurtemburg
Noller, Rosa (Eck)	14 Jan 1883	Alma, KS
Noller, Ruth (Pennock)	21 Jan 1892	Alma, KS
Paetka, Louis E.	5 Apr 1878	Lauenburg, Pomm., Germany

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First appeared in: *Kansas Review*. The Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies, Inc.
Vol.28, no. 4 (May 2003): 112-17.

Paetke, Emilia (Schmanke)	29 Oct 1878	Alma, KS
Paetke, Katrina (Dietl)	11 Jun 1843	Munchen, Bavaria
Paetke, Ludwig	6 Sep 1837	Lauenburg, Pomm., Germany
Pageler, Katie, see Kerwitz		
Palenske, Mary (Wahl)	28 Jan 1850	Mecklenburg, Germany
Palenske, Mina (Furstenau)	17 Apr 1853	Warteby, Templin, Germany
Pennock, Ruth, see Noller		
Peter, Karolina, see Noller		
Pusch, John	7 Apr 1835	Retthraht, Rhein, Germany
Raasch, Frederick Ferdinand	23 Apr 1865	Naugard, Pomm., Germany
Raasch, Julian (Hohensee)	18 Jan 1873	Geneva, NE
Range, Elizabeth, see Stuewe		
Rettke, [C/K]arlina, see Welk		
Rettke, Fritz	30 Aug 1846	Charbon, Pomm., Germany
Rettke, Henriette (Richter)	19 Aug 1850	Linwald, Posen, Germany
Rettke, Herman	3 May 1851	Streson, Pomm., Germany
Richter, Augusta, see Schroeder		
Richter, Henriette, see Rettke		
Richter, Otilie (Gutknecht)	21 May 1867	Schoenwaldo, W. P., Germany
Richter, Reinhold	9 Jun 1859	Womwalus, Posen, Germany
Rickels, Maria, see Ringel		
Ringel, Ferdinand Ernest	4 May 1879	W. Preusan, Germany
Ringel, Maria(Rickels)(Diepenbock)	4 Feb 1846	Oldenburg, Germany
Rouge, Elizabeth, see Stuewe		
Schmanke, August W.	18 Jun 1851	Czarnowsky, Germany
Schmanke, Emilia, see Paetke		
Schmanke, Emma, see Berg		
Schmanke, Henerette, see Glosse		
Schroder, Wilhelmina, see Theel		
Schroeder, Augusta (Richter)	25 May 1844	Posen, Germany
Schulz, Minna, see Brasche		
Schulz, Wilhelm	5 Sep 1838	Warteby, Templin, Germany
Senne, Henry H., Sr.	13 Aug 1835	Germany
Senne, Mary, see Zeckser		
Simon, Augusta (Heidemann)	1 Jul 1852	Petersdorf, Germany
Steimel, Mary (Dittmann)	6 Aug 1850	Oberthaubach, Alsace
Steimel, Mike	12 June 1837	Carlin, Germany
Strasen, Bertha, see Stuewe		
Stuewe, Albert	29 Apr 1854	Mamerow, Meklenburg, Germany
Stuewe, Bertha (Strasen)	47 yr. of age	not given
Stuewe, Edward	3 Mar 1852	Mamerow, Meklenburg, Germany
Stuewe, Elizabeth (Range/Rouge)	16 Dec 1859	Cossel, Hessen, Germany
Theel, Wilhelmina (Schroder)	65 yr. of age	Sayendurb, Brand., Germany
Thoes, Anna Maria, see Dieball		
Thoes, Mary, see Wetzel, Mary		
Varhae, Hanna, see Meyer		
Vobach, Emma (Fink)	20 Oct 1886	Alta Vista, KS
Vobach, Max W.	22 Mar 1878	Ludorn, Posern, Germany
Wahl, Mary, see Palenske		
Wandersee, Mrs. Henryetta (Meyer)	18 Jan 1857	Lanenburg, Germany
Wandersee, Reynold H. O.	--- Feb 1888	Lowenberg, Germany
Welk, [C/K]arlina (Rettke)	22 Sep 185[8?]	Charnovske, Pomm., Germany
Welk, August	5 Dec 1855	Hoffmarderf, Germany

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Werner, Minna, see Brasche		
Wetzel, Mary (Thoes)	25 Nov 1855	Gutenthal, Germany
Young, Marie, see Feiden		
Zeckser, Carl	15 Jul 1860	Templin, Brandenburg, Germany
Zeckser, Mary (Senne)	11 Sep 1861	Will Co., IL

Registered From Alta Vista

Blaney, Hattie E., see Kruger		
Bock, Augusta, see Zimmerman		
Bock, Gustav	7 May 1847	Lairndberg, Germany
Bock, Henrietta, see Zimmerman		
Bock, Wihlmine E. (Heideman)	8 Nov 1864	Alta Vista, KS
Church, Martha E., see Fechner		
Dittman, Elizabeth (Mettenthalmer)	9 May 1843	Germany
Ehrke, Wilhelmine Caroline, see Havenstein		
Eissler, Jacob E.	27 Feb 1895	Sundhausen, Germany
Engle, Frederike, see Wall		
Falk, Anna, see Heideman		
Fechner, Charles Fredrick	9 Mar 1866	Zorgat, Germany
Fechner, Fredrick	85 years	Falo, Germany
Fechner, Martha E. (Church)	7 Mar 1879	Alta Vista, KS
Hartner, Anna L. (Zorbe)	27 Feb 1870	Chicago, IL
Hartner, Gustav W.	30 Oct 1850	Wuttenberg, Germany
Havenstein, August	2 June 1850	Petersdorf, Germany
Havenstein, Wilhelmine Caroline (Howenstein)(Ehrke)	3 June 1853	Templin, Germany
Heideman, Anna (Falk)	12 Dec 1859	Templin, Germany
Heidemann, Christ	1843 (1 Nov?)	Templin, Germany
Heidemann, Wihlmine E., see Bock		
Heise, August	17 Feb 1854	Warte by Temp—
Heise, Frederick	17 Aug 1878	Warte by Temp—
Howenstein, Wilhelmine Caroline, see Havenstein		
Kamiskey, Caroline, see Kruger		
Kamisky, Albert J.	1 May 187(42 yr.)	Posen, Germany
Komiskey, Frances L. (Kruger)	10 Mar 1885	Alta Vista, KS
Kruger, Caroline (Kamiskey)	5 Nov 1857	Exarnum, Germany
Kruger, Frances L., see Kominsky		
Kruger, Hattie E. (Blaney)	27 Feb 1852	Sangamon Co., IL
Kruger, Henry	1857	Posen, Germany
Kruger, John M.	24 Sep 1851	Prov. Posen, Germany
Mettenthalmer, Elizabeth, see Dittman		
Meyer, Alvena, see Wondersee		
Pope, John	12 Jul 1851	Hanover, Germany
Reichling, Mary, see Schulz		
Rolfsmeier, Carl L.	15 Oct 1861	Eidinghausing, Germany
Schulz, Herman	15 May 1875	Pri__lough by Berlin, Germany
Schulz, Mary (Reichling)	27 Oct 1872	Mineral Point, WI
Wall (Wahl), Frederike (Engle)	1 Jan 1826?	Schroedershoff, Germany
Wandersee, Aloph	3 Oct 1858	Leba, Germany
Wondersee, Alvena (Meyer)	28 Feb 1871	Zornovske, Germany
Zimmerman, Augusta (Bock)	16 Aug 1853	Lowenberg, Germany
Zimmerman, Ferdinand	28 Feb 1860	Oderberg, Germany
Zimmerman, Henrietta (Bock)	4 Oct 1860	Leba, Germany
Zorbe, Anna L., see Hartner		

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Baier, Margaret, see Haubold
 Fry, Lizzie, see Rosenstengel
 Haubold, Margaret (Baier) 12 May 1854 Durrmaul, Austria
 Hillar, Anna, see Kolde
 Kolde, Anna (Hillar)(Stech) 18 Nov 1866 Paris, France
 Nuttmann, Anna Gertrude (Wahl) 15 Jul 1876 Altendorf, Essen, Germany
 Stech, Anna, see Kolde
 Wahl, Anna Gertrude, see Nuttmann

Registered from Volland

14 Aug 1873 Brandenburg, Germany
 Bredow, Anna (Lilke) 24 Jan 1875 Russia, city unknown
 Bredow, Carl Fred 2 Sep 1859 Ringenwalde, Germany
 Bredow, Mary (Haner) 2 Aug 1884 Wabaunsee Co.
 Falk, Minnie, see Gensing
 Fink, Augusta (Heinz) 15 Oct 1879 Germany
 Fink, Gustave H. (applied under Gustave H. Hammen)
 Gensing, Gustave Adolph 16 Mar 1870 Brandenburg, Germany
 Gensing, Katherina Elizabeth (Mayer) 8 Dec 1879 Illinois
 Gensing, Minnie (Falk) 9 Feb 1874 Wabaunsee Co., KS
 Gensing, William Arnold 25 Feb 1875 Brandenburg, Germany
 Hammen, Gustave H., see Fink, Gustave
 Haner, Martha, see Ringel
 Haner, Mary, see Bredow
 Heinz, Augusta, see Fink
 Heinz, Ida Emma, see Heise
 Heise, August Fred 20 Dec 1894 Hannover, Germany
 Heise, Henry, Jr. 1 Sep 1881 Hannover, Germany
 Heise, Henry, Sr. 14 Dec 1854 Hannover, Germany
 Heise, Ida Emma (Heinz) 20 Oct 1881 Wabaunsee Co., KS
 Lilke, Anna, see Bredow
 Mayer, Katherina Elizabeth, see Gensing
 Ringel, Martha (Haner) 29 Sep 1891 Wabaunsee Co., KS

WALLACE COUNTY**Registered from Sharon Springs**

Novak, Robert H. 1 Jul 1881 Berlin, Germany
 Stragey, William August 11 Aug 1880 Clem. Prov., Pom., Germany

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Registered from McFarland

Czier, August Carl 2 Mar 1854 Labe, Pomm., Germany
 Mathias, Conrad 26 Mar 1860 Grosgran, Hessen, Germany
 Noller, Geo. 13 Jul 1875 Oberroth, Wurt., Germany
 Pusch, Nicholas 28 Mar 1862 Trier, Germany
 Ringel, Herman Albert 8 Apr 1877 Prussia, Germany
 Wahl, John 12 May 1870 Essen, Rhine, Germany
 Zalenke, John August 24 Jun 1877 Koenigsberg, Prussia

Registered from Bradford

Fox, Fredrick (entered as Fuchs, Frederick) 5 Jan 1841 Hochdorf, Germany

Registered from Halifax

Kiser, Mathilda, see Kraus
 Klein, William 22 Jan 1848 Germany
 Kraus, Mathilda (Kiser) 25 Dec 1839 Halfenngen, Germany

Registered from Maple Hill

Bernritter, Mary (Ludwig) 4 Dec 1850 Germany
 Homan, Fredinand 31 Aug 1896 Germany
 Kamiskey, William G. 28 Sep 1870 Germany
 Kamisky, Theresa May (Stuart) 10 Feb 1885 Ozawkie, KS
 Kast, Ida Anna, see Marstall
 Knoffer, Mary Adelaid, see Marstall
 Kolde, Frank William 11 Dec 1872 Priggenbergen, Germany
 Kolde, Helena Augusta (Stech) 17 Aug 1819 (29 yr. old) Paxico, KS
 Ludwig, Mary, see Bernritter
 Marstall, B. Henry 19 Dec 1850 Bokel Kreis, Hann., Germany
 Marstall, Bridgett (Sweeney) 23 Nov 1883 Marion, OH
 Marstall, Clem Ben 13 Aug 1888 Bokel Kreis, Hann., Germany
 Marstall, Frank 5 Dec 1884 Bokel Kreis, Hann., Germany
 Marstall, Henry J. 20 May 1881 Bokel Kreis, Hann., Germany
 Marstall, Herman H. 9 Aug 1876 Bokel Kreis, Hann., Germany
 Marstall, Ida Anna (Kast) 10 Feb 1880 Leavenworth, KS
 Marstall, Mary Adelaid (Knoffer) 9 Nov 1847 Hanover, Germany
 Stech, Helena Augusta, see Kolde
 Stuart, Theresa Mary, see Kamisky
 Sweeney, Bridgett, see Marstall

Registered from Paxico

Weith, William Henry 1 Apr 1891 Landburg, Germany
 Weith, Charles Freidrich 31 Oct 1888 Lanenburg, Germany
 Wahl, Herman 6 Apr 1840 Straland, Germany
 Rosenstengel, Lawrence 16 Jul 1878 Zella, Germany
 Reinert, Gerhard 21 Jul 1893 Sande Olden, Germany
 Kolde, Henry Anton 7 Aug 1864 Bersenbruck, Hannover, Germany
 Nuttmann, Bernhardt Henry 12 Oct 1868 Lee, Hannover, Germany
 Haubold, Gustav Bernhard 28 Oct 1843 Chemnitz, Saxony, Germany
 Graf, Christian Friedrich 26 Feb 1885 Witt, Germany
 Weith, Rosa (Blanc) 11 Jul 1893 Alta Vista, KS
 Blanc, Rosa, see Weith
 Rosenstengel, Lizzie (Fry) 23 Mar 1978 (40 yr. old) Millhausen, IN

First appeared in: *Kansas Review*. The Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies, Inc. Vol.28, no. 4 (May 2003): 112-17.

Magic: The Ultimate Vanishing Act

Magic, Riley County, Kansas, 1882-1955

Anthony Porter

The lost community of Magic, located in Riley County, Kansas, was settled by immigrants from Germany in a process of chain migration. The community's population steadily began to decline in the 1930s and was eventually consumed by the expansion of Fort Riley Military Reservation during the Cold War. This study provides a history of Magic using newspapers, maps, photographs, various book segments, and an interview of a longtime resident of the area.

A special thanks to Marcia Schuley and the Riley County Genealogical Society for their dedication to history and their invaluable assistance in the completion of this work.

In the state of Kansas, there are over 9,000 townships, communities, and settlements that were established but, due to many diverse circumstances, have since faded into obscurity. Each town, rich with culture and a story to tell; Magic in Riley County, Kansas, established January 24th, 1882 is no exception to this. If one were to visit the location of Magic today, there would be little evidence a community once existed. The flat prairie-land of the Milford-Riley vicinity, once occupied by Magic homesteaders, is now an expanse of scattered tree clusters and graveled military roads on Fort Riley. Travelling straight south from the Nebraska line to Junction

City, Geary County, would once have also led you by Magic Schoolhouse, directly on the way. This is no longer the case as Highway 77 was relocated after the Fort Riley ex-

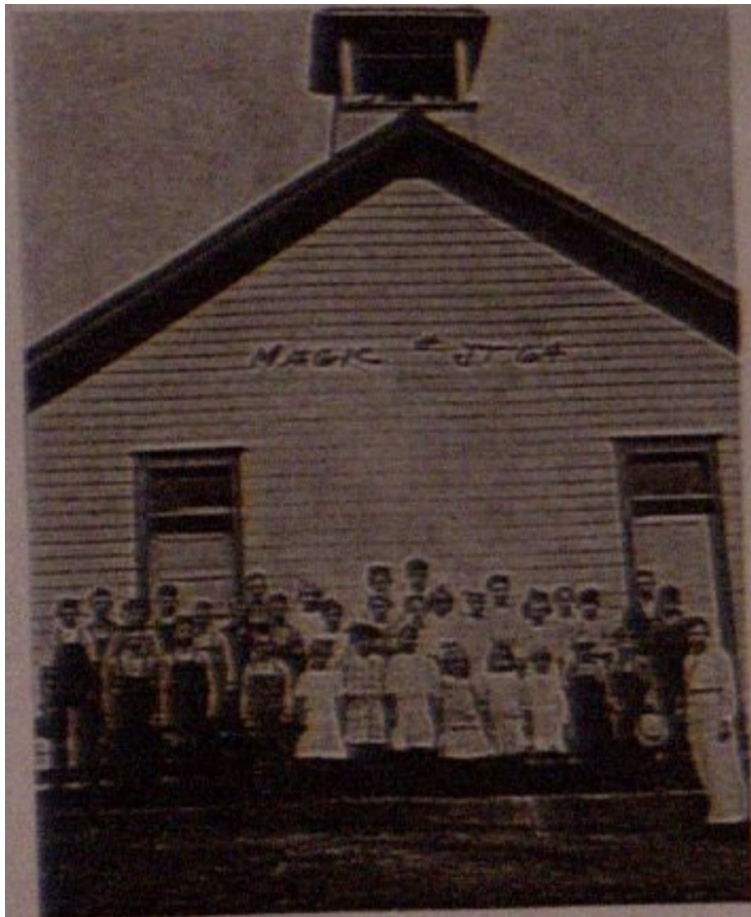


Figure 1. A historic photograph of school district 64, Magic schoolhouse, located 15 miles West of Manhattan, Kansas in what is now the Fort Riley Military Reservation. The enrollment size suggests that this picture was taken circa 1930. SOURCE: Rural Schools of Riley County Kansas p. 84.

pansion. Although Magic never had a mercantile district of its own, the community was fortunate in that there were multiple towns nearby to obtain supplies from. From 1885 to the 1920s, Magic saw a steady increase in population, regularly expanding the school facility to accommodate.

One of the most prevalent migrating groups to Kansas were the impoverished farmers of Germany. The relatively rapid construction of the Magic schoolhouse and Methodist church reveals that these German immigrants placed great value on their religion and education. After the Second World War the population of

Magic gradually began to disperse to neighboring communities, eventually disappearing after the second expansion of Fort Riley Military Reservation, forcing residents to relocate. Magic no longer appears on current maps and

seems to have been forgotten by many, a tragedy considering its history and legacy. Yet despite its disappearing act, some people in Riley County – and other places in Kansas -- can still recall a time when Magic was more than just a memory. Many consider Magic their home to this day, even going as far as establishing it as such in their obituaries.¹

Humble Beginnings

For settlers the world over, the appeal of cheap and fertile land brought about by the Kansas-Nebraska act of 1854 was too enticing to resist. The perceived opportunities to start life anew in the budding expanse of the Midwestern territories drew settlers not only from various states across the country but also from countries across Europe. One such family was the Sylvesters of Stagentien, Germany. After arriving to Indiana, a cousin of the family praised his new home for its wealth of opportunity and cheap land, eventually sending money for the eldest Sylvester son, Louis, to come as well. Upon his arrival to America, Louis quickly made use of the stonemasonry skills he had developed in Germany to assist in the rebuilding of Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871. The money Louis earned afforded him the ability to send for two more his brothers, Henry and Charles, who arrived in 1877.

For three years the brothers settled in Indiana, becoming well acquainted with their neighbors the Rudolfs. In 1880, Henry and Louis purchased a half section of land in Riley County, Kansas for \$3 an acre. The two brothers lived in their covered wagon until they completed construction of their house, after which they sent for the rest of their family in Germany and began the arduous process of “breaking” the land for cultivation. Shortly afterwards in November of 1882, the Rudolfs joined the Sylvesters and purchased land nearby, just as they had in Indiana.²



Figure 2. Platt map of Riley County, Kansas 1887. Magic can be seen on the border of Madison and Ogden Townships. The Fort Riley Military Reservation had yet to expand. Courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society. <http://www.kshs.org/p/riley-county-schools-bibliography/13678>.

Five short years after arriving in the area, a post office was established on January 24, 1882 with William Beard as the first post-master. Section 13 provided post offices to numerous communities; Magic was a beneficiary of this legislation.³ This post office acted as one of the few non-residential establishments in Magic as well as federal recognition of an expanding populace. In addition, in an isolated early settlement such as Magic, the post office acts as hub of communication providing one of the only means of correspondence between other centers of populations. The growth of Magic continued despite a measles epidemic in the late 1890s. The success of the

Magic Stock Farm, owned by so called “Cattle King of the County,” Frank Oscar Clark, illustrates the abundance of fertile grassland on which livestock could feed.⁴ Magic’s proximity to Wildcat Creek and other Republican and Kansas River tributaries provided potential settlers further incentive to settle the area.

Magic Schoolhouse

In the early 1870s homesteaders in the Magic area decided that the distance to neighboring schools was too far and a meeting was called to organize a new school district. This new Magic school board visited nearby schools in hopes of fundraising, an endeavor resulting in donations totaling \$168.⁵ On October 31, 1885, grantors ceded one and one half acres to the trustees of the new school district 64.⁶

The land was bought for \$75 dollars and divided among the trustees. After securing the acreage, the one room schoolhouse of Magic was constructed and in the first year, fourteen students were enrolled.⁷ In 1892 a well was constructed, in 1898 came new hedge posts and an iron chain fence, and an additional seven and a half feet were added to the schoolhouse.⁸ By 1908 the enrollment size

grew to 50 students, necessitating the conversion from a single to a two-room school house; this expansion took place in 1915.⁹ Things were not easy for rural teachers as they had to accommodate for their students due to a lack of space, a small library, no hot lunch programs, and no electricity or running water. Students assisted by maintaining the cleanliness of the room and chalkboard, pumping water, and undertaking the unique responsibility of older students in assisting and mentoring the younger students. Before the second expansion of Fort

Riley Military Reservation, Magic was located in such close proximity that children could regularly watch the horse cavalry from just outside the school.¹⁰ As in most small frontier communities, the schoolhouse of Magic functioned as more than just a place of education. Through programs, socials, and a place of worship for the local Methodists, Magic schoolhouse thoroughly connected the community.¹¹ Although there was never a shortage of work to be done, it was not all work and no play in Magic; there were many extracurricular activities. Three-act plays, softball, the game of fox and geese, last day of school events, baseball, musicals, PTA, track events, and field days were all a part of the Magic experience.¹²

Religion in Magic

One of the greatest mysteries of this community is the correlation between its strong religious ties and its seemingly contradictory name. The role of religion in the Magic Community was prominent to say the least -- making it all the more curious that a community would name itself after something that is typically associated with pagan practices. The church was German because the settlement was mostly German families, meaning it was no coincidence that the revivalist movement in the late 1880s significantly increased the Methodist population in Magic.¹³

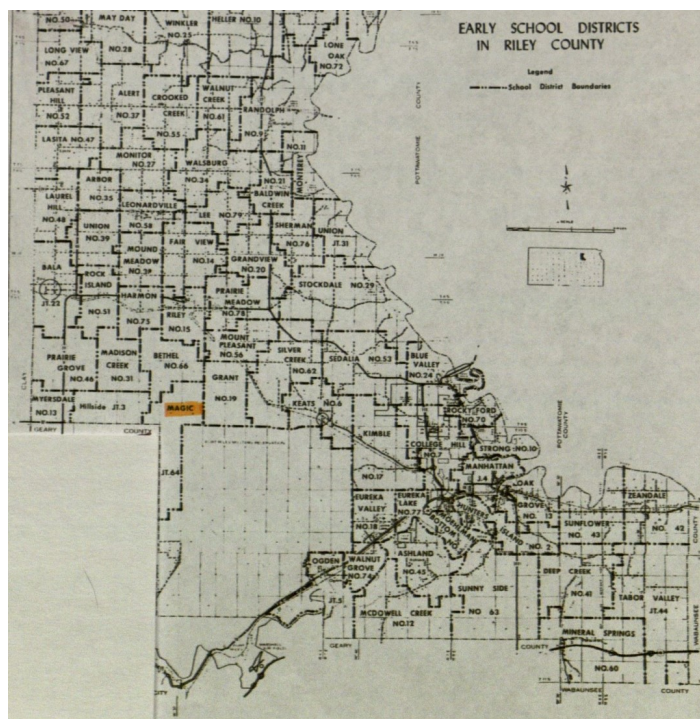


Figure 3. Highlighted is the Magic school district while the white portion beneath it represents the first expansion of the Fort Riley Military Reservation. Circa 1920. Courtesy of the Riley County Genealogical Society.

Newspaper accounts of religious conversion regularly appeared as the revivalist movement boasted sixty conversions and mass river baptisms.¹⁴ The congregation originally met at High Point, a schoolhouse church in southwestern Geary County, but started their own services at the schoolhouse of Magic in 1903 when it was agreed the distance was too far to regularly travel.¹⁵ As a member of the German Conference, various ministers from Junction City served churches in the Magic and Zoar communities as well.¹⁶

Jacob Rudolph, friend of the

Sylvesters from Indiana, served as one of the first ministers of the church.¹⁷ By 1926 the German Conference was eliminated, transferring to English instead.¹⁸ This move most likely occurred to be more inclusive of members of the church without a German background (it may also reflect the anti-German sentiments arising during WWI). Around this time as well, Riley and Magic began to regularly conduct services in tandem with one another.

Curtain Call

A community that seemingly had so much going for it begs the question, what went wrong? To answer this, it's important to understand that there is always more than one factor working in (or out) of favor of any particular community. While Magic grew organically in size as homesteaders continued to settle the surrounding area, the growth of neighboring towns helped to stunt its potential, especially Riley, Ogden, and Junction City. Although Magic had a post office, it was discontinued in June of 1892. Residents then had to travel to Junction City post office to receive their mail.¹⁹ A major drought in the 1890s also contributed to a decline in Magic as illustrated by the relocation of the Schoonover family to Riley in 1897.²⁰ In a twist of fate, the same towns that provided Magic residents supplies became the same towns that progressively

12. Ibid., 84
13. Marjorie Sand, "Magic Church." In *Yea, We Have a Goodly Heritage: The Founding of Methodist Churches And Families in Riley County Northwest of Fort Riley*
14. "Magic", Junction City Weekly Union, Jan 1 1887. The river referred to is probably the Republican River.
15. Marjorie Sand, "Magic Church." In *Yea, We Have a Goodly Heritage: The Founding of Methodist Churches And Families in Riley County Northwest of Fort Riley*.
16. "Magic," Junction City Weekly Union, May 22, 1919.
17. Sand, "Magic Church." In *Yea, We Have a Goodly Heritage*.
18. Ibid.
19. Kansas Historical Society, *Kansas Post Office, 1828-1961*.
20. "Magic," The Junction City Weekly Union, Dec 10, 1897.
21. Riley Church, Trustees of the Riley Church to Magic Methodist Church, letter. In Sand, *Yea, We Have a Goodly Heritage: The Founding of Methodist Churches And Families in Riley County Northwest of Fort Riley*. May 8, 1952.
22. Ibid., Willis McGuire to Dr. Gordon, letter. May 22, 1952.
23. Ibid., "Magic Church"
24. Charlotte Shawver. Interview by author. November 11, 2015.
25. Jim Bogart, et al., *Rural Schools of Riley County Kansas*, 85.
26. Winifred N. Slagg, *Riley County Kansas: A Story of Early settlements, Rich Valleys, Azure Skies, and Sunflowers*, 253.

Note

This research was originally undertaken in the Fall of 2015 for the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University under the supervision of Dr. M.J. Morgan.

Author Information

Anthony Porter is currently a senior at Kansas State University from Olathe, Kansas, who plans to continue his education through graduate school as he pursues History as a career. Anthony is an intern for the Chapman Center for Rural Studies and is working on many projects including resources for the Chapman Center's upcoming "Going Home" exhibit at the Flint Hills Discovery Center and research of the Quivera Society. When not researching or working to bring spicy wings to the Midwest, Anthony invests his time with friends and exploring new music.

100



As a part of our continuing growth and desire to bring our members interesting content, we here at the *Kansas Kin* are proud to present a new column: *100 Years Ago*. Here you will find interesting articles from local news sources which occurred a century past. This will include social columns, weather reports, and local happenings.

If you have an article to contribute to the *100 Years Ago* column, or any other contribution, see the back cover of this publication for detailed instructions for submissions.

~Britt Talkington, Editor

YEARS AGO

The J. U. Embroidery club was entertained Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mabel Moyer. The guests were entertained by vocal solos by Miss Beulah Truesdal and piano selections by Miss Frances Stall. The invited guests were: Mrs. James Helbrook, Mrs. Arthur De Young, Miss Beulah Truesdale, Miss Frances Stall and Mrs. Frank Armstrong of Atchison. Refreshments and decorations were carried out in the color scheme of yellow and white, cut roses being used as the main feature of the decorations.

Manhattan Nationalist

18 May 1916, P. 5

THIEF GETS BIG HAUL.

Trunk Containing \$2,000 In Jewelry Stolen In Salina.

C. E. Schemerhorn was notified by telephone this morning that approximately \$2,000 worth of jewelry was stolen at Salina last night, and had been taken away from the town in a black trunk weighing about 300 pounds.

The message came from the sheriff of Saline county. No details as to whom the jewelry was stolen from, were given, and no further information has reached Schermerhorn.

Manhattan Nationalist

25 May 1916, P. 2

BLUE BOTTOM.

May 22.

We are sure getting plenty of rain just now, of which is of much benefit to the growing grain and garden.

A good many of our citizens are engaged in fishing just now as it is too muddy for anything else much.

Literary was held at the Strong school house Friday night as usual quite a few were out.

The Riverside club met with Mrs. Savage, the president, Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Flora Tatlock of the Hickory Grove neighborhood, spent a few days last week visiting her daughter, Mrs. Harvey Dane, and Mrs. Anna Henton at the home of Mrs. Dane.

Elmer Jones of Grandview, is visiting at Fritz Stadles this week.

Harry Packard has arrived from New York to join his family here, and expects to locate in this locality, permanently.

Most every one in this locality are through planting corn and now some are thinking they will have to replant quite a little over again.

The Blue river got on kind of a rampage last week, by coming up real fast and making some of the people think they would have to move to another vicinity, but however, it did not overflow so very bad right in this locality, but up the line farther we guess it did.

Manhattan Nationalist

25 May 1916, P. 2

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***Kansas Kin* Submission Guidelines**

Updated October 2015

We are pleased that you have considered submitting an article to the Riley County Genealogical Society for possible publication. The *Kansas Kin* focuses on articles ranging from useful genealogical strategies and sources, to interesting accounts of personal research, to local histories as they relate to Kansas.

MANUSCRIPTS

500 to 2,000 words, including reference notes, is the suggested length of submissions. Submit your document in Word format via e-mail. Topical headings are preferred for longer pieces, keeping in mind that at least five typeset lines (ca. 60 words) must separate each subheading. All manuscripts and references should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. End notes are recommended, especially for books, articles, and web sites.

IMAGES

Whenever possible, please provide images to accompany your submission. The image must be over 1MB in size, with good quality resolution. Please also include a caption for each picture which includes a photo credit or source. All images must be sent as separate files.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Please provide a few sentences about the author(s) to accompany the manuscript.

DEADLINES

Submissions are due the 1st of the month in January, April, July, and October. Address submissions to the editor at britlyn1423@gmail.com.

All submissions to *Kansas Kin* are subject to review by the RCGS Editorial Board and revisions may be made, either by the writer or the editor.

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KANSAS KIN MAY 2016 VOL. 54, NO. 2

Calendar of Events

Monday, May 9 through Saturday, May 21
Genealogy Essentials: Offered by UFM Community Learning Center (Genealogy Class)
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Riley County Genealogical Library Kansas room, 2005 Claflin, Manhattan, Kansas
May 9: Genealogy Essentials: Preservation
May 21: Genealogy Essentials: Cemetery Research

See UFM Catalog for complete description and enrollment information

<https://ufmprograms.org/wconnect/QuickSearch.awp>

Sunday, June 12

The Early History of the Flush Community and the Early Settlers by Sy Ekart (Educational Program)
2:00 pm

Manhattan Public Library Auditorium
Sy Ekart grew up in the Flush community in 1931-1943. He is the descendant of several early settlers: Michael Anton Repp a 1854 settler, John Joseph Umscheid an 1861 settler, John Ekart a 1866 settler -John's brother George was an 1858 settler, and George Riat a 1860 settler.

Sy is the compiler of the newspaper abstracts that RCGS publishes each month. He has published several other RCGS publications on the Flush Community, especially on the St. Joseph's Church history at Flush. Sy is a delightful story teller and fun to listen to. Sy will be traveling to Manhattan from his home in Bismarck, North Dakota.



Kansas Kin

A quarterly publication for members of the Riley County Genealogical Society
November 2016 Vol. 54, No. 3



Rosencutter house built by William Moehlman



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*Kansas Kin is a quarterly publication of Riley County Genealogical Society
whose purpose is to collect, preserve and share information
for researching Kansas family histories.*

From the President



Hello Members,

Welcome to the third edition of *Kansas Kin* for 2016. This issue is delayed as we have undergone an editorial change. Many thanks to Britt Talkington who has moved on to a very busy life and career in Kansas City after marriage and graduating from Kansas State. Judy Regehr has taken over as Editor and Margaret Parker as Assistant Editor and things remain in very capable hands.

Over the next year we will continue to make improvements in layout, types of articles and content. We particularly aim to bring the journal up to standards found in many other society's publications.

I again remind readers that if you have a story to tell (and perhaps also have photos) please consider submitting an article. Again you are not limited to submissions about Riley County or even your own family. We are particularly pleased with contacts with K-State faculty whose students research Kansas history, towns, things of social/cultural interest. We will be publishing articles written by students as class projects.

I also remind you that we are an all-volunteer organization including staffing of our library to assist patrons coming in to use our facilities. We particularly welcome those of you who can work three hour shifts, morning or afternoon, even once or twice a month the days we are open.

I draw your attention to the benefits of membership that include not only receiving *Kansas Kin* but also access to our growing data base connecting to articles and records, many of which are digitized. We have over a million names now in our surname search. Please check out our website: <http://www.rileycgs.com>.

Barry Michie
President, RCGS

Henry Moehlman's Dream

By Katie Brummett-Reboul, Chapman Center for Rural Studies, 2011

This paper chronicles the story of Henry Moehlman (1854—1951) and the development of Moehlman Bottoms in Riley County, Kansas.

Imagine yourself a new immigrant to the United States of America in the 1840s. As a vibrant teenager, you start your journey to America. After a seven-week voyage across the Atlantic, you are in a young, prosperous country full of possibilities. However, the land you have come to is very different from your homeland of Prussia.¹ The opportunities abound, yet you search to find the perfect place to settle and live the life you have always dreamed. These are the footsteps and memories of many immigrants, but those of Henry Moehlman in particular.

In 1854, he arrived in the southern part of Riley County, Kansas Territory. This area is part of the Flint Hills, which stretch from north to south across the state.² For a narrow section in east-

central Kansas, the native vegetation is that of the Northern Floodplain Forest, which is found in the southern part of Riley County.³ These two features create an undulating landscape with native tree species beneficial to farming, especially in the river lowlands. The precipitation in this region also contributes to farming, with approximately 30 to 32 inches of annual rainfall.⁴ Climate and geography obviously play a large role in settlement, but for Kansas, one should not forget the presence of trails and military roads. Settlement falls along these paths due to the continual moving presence of people. The Ft. Leavenworth-Ft. Riley Military Road passed to the east and west of Manhattan, creating the possibility of other Riley County settlements.⁵

While this may seem like just common sense, it explains Henry Moehlman's reasons for settling where he did, just south of Manhattan. The rationale behind his

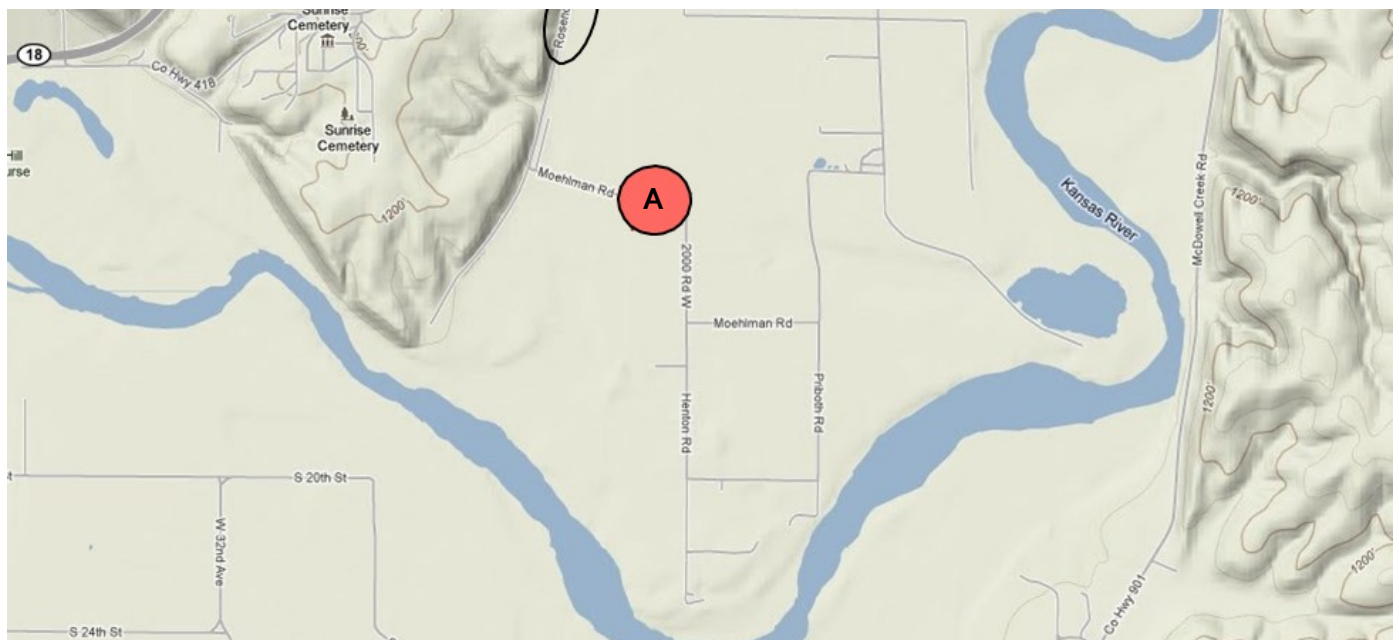


Figure 1. A terrain map of Moehlman Bottoms, present day. SOURCE: Google Maps. Note: The red "A" dot marks the site of Moehlman Bottoms, near Moehlman Road and Rosencutter Road is circled near the top.

choice for the location of what became Moehlman Bottoms and the effects of his presence in that area, such as architecture and schools, provide a familiar, yet unique tale of an immigrant in America.

Bottomland Geography

Bottomlands are "low-lying land along a watercourse,"⁶ making excellent farmland. Many times, pioneers decided on the name of a newly settled place by using the geography as a guide (e.g., Mount or "Mt." for an elevated area). These places are referred to as "toponyms," named for a specific person or place. Therefore, Moehlman *Bottoms* refers to a geographical area where there is low land next to water. Along the Kansas (Kaw) River, there are plenty of these fertile sites. However, these locations are extremely desirable in the Flint Hills: they are flat, fertile, and have a water source nearby. Moehlman Bottoms is south of Manhattan, Kansas, and north of the river. This area is very flat, but hills border the region, as seen in Figures 1 and 2. The Riley County bottomlands are particularly unique because not only are they easy to farm, but also, high-quality clay and limestone could be quarried. These materials were the early construc-

tion materials of Moehlman Bottoms and Manhattan.⁷

While the closeness of the Kansas River proved to be a boon to farming, there was the very real threat of flooding in a low-lying area. This is evident by the numerous floods Moehlman Bottoms, and even Manhattan, experienced. The two most devastating floods for the region were in 1903 and 1951. The flood of 1903 affected many houses and the school to the point of necessary repairs for operation. This same flood also caused the Kansas River to move, changing the landscape enormously. The 1951 flood caused more destruction than many previous floods in this area and Moehlman Bottoms School was wiped out. Much of the farmland was destroyed due to mud and sand deposits, and livestock had to be saved, as shown in Figure 3. After natural disasters such as these, it is not uncommon for people to move away. This occurred with Moehlman Bottoms.⁸ Even though today it is still farmland, it is no longer a separate community like the one it used to be.

Henry Moehlman

Henry Moehlman came to the United States as a teenager seeking out a better



Figure 2. A photograph (by author) of Moehlman Bottoms looking east, December 7, 2011. Note: The flat fields have been plowed for farming and there are hills behind them.



Figure 3. A photograph of two Army Engineer land and water "ducks" helping rescue stranded livestock in Moehlman Bottoms after the 1951 flood. Source: A Picture Record of the Great Flood of 1951. The engineers are docked at an island with flooded farmland around them.

life. He was born in the Kingdom of Prussia (now what is considered Germany) in 1829, and his journey to the U.S. began in the late 1840s.⁹ He voyaged to New Orleans, where he travelled up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. He worked as a cook in a hotel and a steamboat, but after a couple of years, he boldly decided to move to the newly opened Kansas Territory. Henry arrived at the Manhattan area on June 17, 1854, and bought 160 acres of bottomland for his homestead. It was around this homestead that Moehlman Bottoms was founded. Along with farming, Henry drove freight wagons to western Kansas. He also signed up for the Union Army when the Civil War broke out and returned to his farm after three years of service. Henry had a brother named William in Germany who eventually joined him in Kansas.^{10, 11} William Moehlman was a stonemason, and thanks to the building materials located in Moehlman Bottoms, he was able to construct many buildings in and around Manhattan. Some of his structures include a large stone house belonging to the Rosencutters (another early Moehlman Bottoms family) and the first territorial capital building located on Ft. Riley military

base.^{12, 13} The house belonging to the Rosencutters is still present on Rosencutter Road near Moehlman Bottoms, as seen in Figure 4. Henry Moehlman married Hannah Wilhelmina Vogelsang, and they had six children together, including five boys and one girl.¹⁴ Their fourth child, Herman, died right after his second birthday. Their son Charles was born soon after Herman's death in 1878. A short time later, the family sat for a formal portrait. Henry and his family were crucial to the survival of Moehlman Bottoms. The whole family actively participated in the community and two sons, Henry and Frederick, stayed in the area after their parents had passed away, both around 1890.¹⁵ The presence of the Moehlmans is still there today due to the maintenance of buildings and the permanent change of the landscape due to settlement and farming.

The story of Henry Moehlman and the neighborhood he brought together is really the story of many immigrants. His dream to create a new life was not unusual, but it had an enduring effect of the history of Riley County. Henry Moehlman is a fundamental part to the under-



Figure 4. A photograph (by the author, December 7, 2011) of Rosencutter house built by William Moehlman.

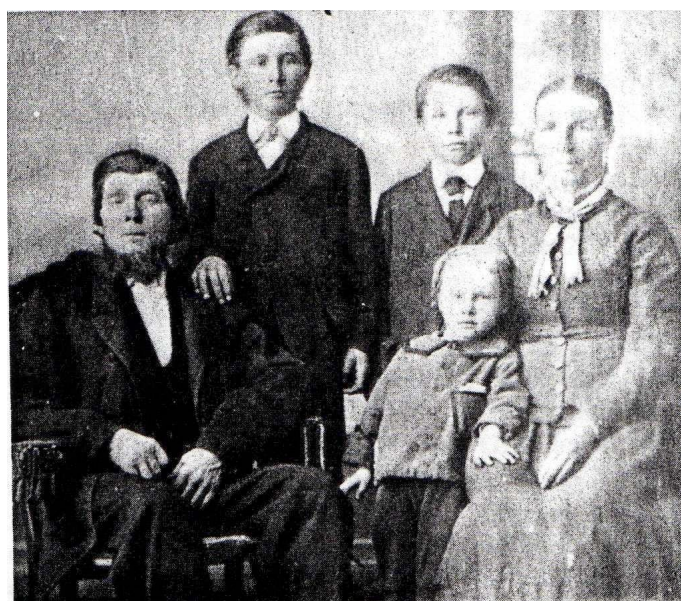


Figure 5. Henry and Hannah Moehlman and their sons Henry, Frederick and Charles, circa 1880. Source: *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*.

standing the life and dreams of an immigrant in America.

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cember 15, 1934.

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<http://cityofmnhk.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/4680>

End Notes

1 *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*. Manhattan, KS: Riley County Historical Society, 1976, p. 406.

2 Homer E. Socolofsky and Huber Self. *Historical Atlas of Kansas*. 2nd ed. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1988. Map 3: Landforms of Kansas.

3 Ibid, Map 5: Native Flora of Kansas.

4 Ibid, Map 4: Precipitation in Kansas.

5 Ibid, Map 17: Trails Through Pre-territorial Kansas

6 Merriam-Webster. "Bottomland - Definition."

7 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service. "Nineteenth Century Development of Manhattan, Kansas: 1855-1900." p. 4.

8 Jim Bogart, et al. *The Rural Schools of Riley County Kansas*. Manhattan, KS: Riley County Historical Society, 2004, pp. 94-95

9 It was June 19 of either 1847 or 1848. The year is disputed among sources.

10 *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*, p. 406.

11 "Moehlman Bottom Early Settlers Saw Redskins." *The Manhattan Mercury*, December 15, 1934.

12 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service." pp. 30-32.

13 *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*, p. 406.

14 Records are unclear for the girl, Hannah, and their last boy, Herman (the 2nd).

15 *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*, p. 406.

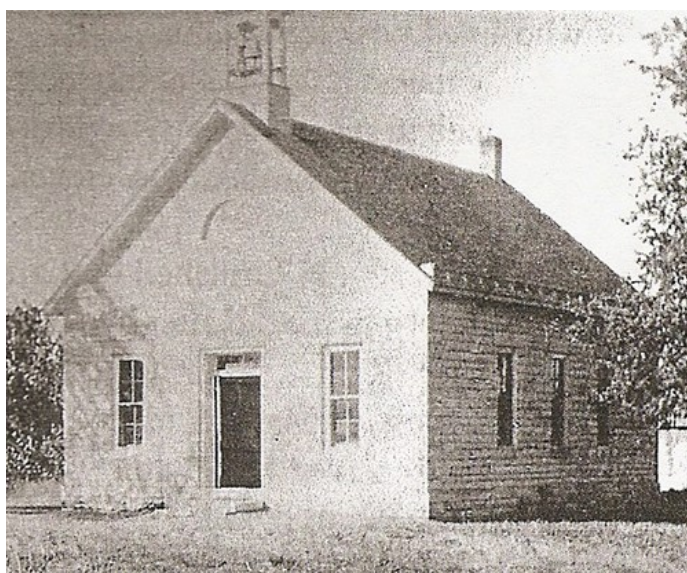
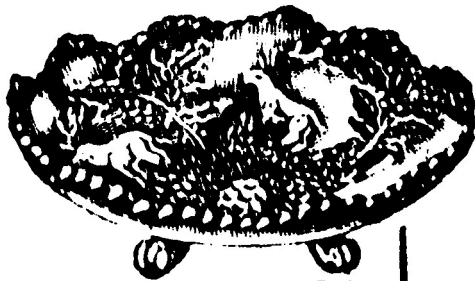


Figure 6. A photograph of Moehlman Bottoms School. Source: *The Rural Schools of Riley County Kansas*. This picture was most likely taken between the 1903 and 1951 floods, after repairs had been made, but there is no record.



11-Inch Golden Iridescent Glass Footed Fruit Bowl. Deer, holly leaves and berries in raised relief. Height, 3½ in. Wt., packed, 4 lbs. 35K2100... 65c

Advertisement for Stag and Holly pattern bowl proves it was still being sold by Sears Roebuck as late as 1927.

A Colorful Memory from My Grandmother

My Grandmother Elizabeth Voth was born in 1875. She was a huge influence on my life. As a small child, I loved to visit her home in the country near Hillsboro (Marion County, Kansas). I vividly remember the zwiebach she baked every Saturday. I still remember drinking cold well water from a carnival glass tumbler. I can still feel the smooth-scratchy texture of the glass as I drank. The tumbler did not survive, but I still have a carnival glass bowl.

The bowl is Fenton “Stag and Holly” marigold 11-inch footed carnival glass. The value of the bowl as an antique has varied over the years, but to me it has only increased because it reminds me of my Grandmother. This bowl was available in the Sears Roebuck catalog as late as 1927. Since my grandmother got married in 1896, which is too early for Fenton’s carnival glass, she very likely purchased it from the Sears Roebuck catalog. It sold for 65 cents in 1927. What a wonderful memory!

Judy Regehr

New Ledgers Digitized for RCGS Website

For many years, genealogical societies have performed many services to family researchers. Especially helpful were newsletters and journals that carried transcriptions of records available only in courthouses or libraries. How exciting it was for a person in Kansas to find an ancestor's maiden name and birth place in the baptismal record transcribed in a county genealogical journal that had come to her local genealogical library as an exchange subscription.

Today genealogical societies can offer such a service on their websites. Many vital statistics records are not yet digitized and available online, so a society can abstract local records and place them on their website to become available to researchers.

The Riley County Genealogical Society website offers such potential in its "Surname Search" on their website at www.rileycgs.com. Members can search for a surname and view all the documents from our library or records that have been transcribed, digitized and indexed by our members. Nonmembers can also use "Surname Search" and then order copies at a cost of \$1.00 a page or \$10.00 minimum.

Last year, five ledgers of Riley County vital statistics records were indexed by Riley County Genealogical Society members. Margaret Parker transcribed the records and Marcia Schuley confirmed the names by comparing them with other

Last Name of Person Afflicted		Setzberg		Residence		Madison Twp	
First Name of Person Afflicted		Carl					
Age	3.5	Sex	M	Color	W	Marital Status	Single
Disease	Scarlet Fever			Complications		No in family	No Affected
Course of Treatment				Action Taken			
Return Made By				Assessors Report			
Date of Return				01-Aug-1898			
				Remarks			
Record Page 1 Line # 34							
Last Name of Person Afflicted		Sampson		Residence		Riley	
First Name of Person Afflicted		Margret					
Age		Sex	F	Color	W	Marital Status	Single
Disease	Diphtheria			Complications		No in family	No Affected
Course of Treatment				Action Taken			
Return Made By				Dr Goodwin			
Date of Return				02-Dec-1906			
				Remarks			
Record Page 1 Line # 35							
Last Name of Person Afflicted		Carman		Residence		Riley	
First Name of Person Afflicted		Eula					
Age	16	Sex	F	Color	W	Marital Status	Single
Disease	Diphtheria			Complications		No in family	No Affected
Course of Treatment				Specific - Diph - Antitox			
Return Made By				Dr Litsinger			
Date of Return				17-Dec-1906			
				Remarks			
Record Page 1 Line # 36							
Last Name of Person Afflicted		Carman		Residence		Riley	
First Name of Person Afflicted		Alpha					
Age	20	Sex	F	Color	W	Marital Status	Single
Disease	Diphtheria			Complications		No in family	No Affected
Course of Treatment				Specific			
Return Made By				Dr Litsinger			
Date of Return				17-Dec-1906			
				Remarks			

RCGS WEBSITE

Actually see these digitized records online!

records of the time. Jan Lange developed templates to display the information and Patty Wadick formatted the results for the web. Their many hours of labor are appreciated.

These ledgers were originally held at the Riley County Clerk's Office where reports of births, marriages, deaths and contagious diseases were sent from the Riley County townships. The ledgers are now at the Riley County Historical Museum and may be seen by appointment. Microfilms of the ledgers are available at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka, Kansas.

The original ledgers are large and data is recorded across two pages. They are quite fragile. The transcriber for the ledg-

ers viewed the original ledgers at the Riley County Historical Museum. Efforts were made to confirm the spelling of the names. However, the handwriting was often difficult to decipher. Those records are now available through the online “Surname Search” on the Riley County Genealogical Society website, making it unnecessary to use the old, very fragile ledgers themselves.

The newly-digitized ledgers include:

- Record of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Riley County, Kansas, 1885-1886
- Record of Vital Statistics, No. 1 in Riley County, Kansas, 1892-1909, Volume 1: Births, Marriages, Contagious Diseases
- Record of Vital Statistics, No. 1 in Riley County, Kansas, 1892-1909, Volume 2: Deaths
- Health Officer’s Records, Riley County, Kansas, 1909-1911, Volume 1: Births and Deaths
- Health Officer’s Records, Riley County, Kansas, 1909-1916, Volume 2: Contagious Diseases

There are many types of records available through “Surname Search” on the RCGS website. The ledgers mentioned in this article are simply the newest additions.

In order to access the new records, as well as the other previously-digitized items, you must use the “Surname

Search” feature on the Riley County Genealogical Society Website.

The important criteria for “Surname Search” is having an ancestor in Riley or surrounding counties. Whether you find the person you are searching for depends on if his/her records have been digitized.

Submitted by Virginia Beddow

How to use “Surname Search” to find digitized records for your ancestor

1. Go to www.rileycgs.com
2. From the left-hand column, select:
Surname Search
3. On the “VIEWING DOCUMENTS OR ORDERING COPIES” page, enter:
<Surname:>
<First Name:>
4. On “Record Type:” choose:
All Records
5. If the person you are searching has records on our website, you will see a list of them.

RCGS members will be able to read the actual records. Nonmembers can order copies of them from the screen.

Alumni listed in *The Mirror* 1925

Riley County Genealogical Society has a copy of *The Mirror* 1925, published by Riley Rural High School Senior Class, Riley County, Kansas.

This book, not paginated, contains about 50 pages of photos and information on those attending Riley Rural High School. If your ancestors were from this area, you may wish to examine it on your next visit to our library. In this issue, we have chosen to include information from *The Mirror* about the school's alumni.

It should be noted that "Riley Rural High School" is not the same as the current "Riley County High School," which opened in the fall of 1959. Riley County High School was a consolidation of the schools of Leonardville, Riley, and Keats.

Find information on the history of Riley County Schools here:

<http://www.usd378.org/65/District-History>

Notice the middle column of Mirror Alumni

⇒ Men's occupations are listed

⇒ Women's husband's names are listed

ALUMNI

1915-1916—Purple and Gold

Donald Abell	Artist	New York City, N. Y.
Berton Quantic	Farmer	Riley, Kansas
Roy Griffiths	Banking	Manhattan, Kansas
Eleanor Nelson	Mrs. Philip Bruns	Whiting, Kansas
Miriam Lewis	Mrs. Laurence Pfeffer	Otis, Colorado
Wilma Kaup	Mrs. E. O. West	Olsburg, Kansas

1916-1917—Emerald Green and Gold

Virgil Lemon	Pharmacist	Salina, Kansas
Marie Nelson	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Fay Wills	Mrs. Walter Meyer	Riley, Kansas
Walter Meyer	Merchant	Riley, Kansas

1917-1918—Moss Green and Coral

Casper Hassebroek	Merchant	Riley, Kansas
Addie Bohnenblust	Mrs. Will Sylvester	Riley, Kansas
Lora Norris	Mrs. Geo. Hageman	Riley, Kansas
Anna Jones	Mrs. Earl Mackender	Bala, Kansas
Miriam Pierce	Mrs. John Hayes	Riley, Kansas
Verna Pierce	Mrs. Frank Kleiner	Riley, Kansas

1918-1919—Purple and Gold

George Timmons	Salesman	Manhattan, Kansas
Pearl Morgan	Teacher	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Earl Jahnke	Farmer	Riley, Kansas
Ervin Jahnke	Farmer	Riley, Kansas
Dwella Quantic	Mrs. Geo. Bohnenblust	Riley, Kansas
Elsie Sargent	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Maude Williams	Mrs. Berton Quantic	Riley, Kansas
Steven Sargent	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Louis Larson	Prof. of Chemistry	Harvard, University
Edna Rueck	Mrs. Charlie Sinn	Riley, Kansas
Anna Renz	Teacher	Hutchinson Kansas
Buel McFadden	Depot Agent	Galena, Kansas

1919-1920—Purple and Gold

John Walters	Employed	Riley, Kansas
Harry Quantic	Student K. S. A. C.	Manhattan, Kansas
Ruth Anderson	Teacher	Garrison, Kansas
Edith Tobias	Mrs. Clifford Larson ..	Leonardville, Kansas
Josephine Webber	Mrs. Lewis Buseman	Riley, Kansas
Lester Walters	Printer	Topeka, Kansas
Gladys Hayes	Mrs. Ervin Fosha	Riley, Kansas
Edith Reece	Teacher	Riley, Kansas

1920-1921—Purple and White

Howard Brown	Mechanic	Riley, Kansas
Henry Abell	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Clarence Beninga	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Walter Bohnenblust	Student K. S. A. C.	Manhattan, Kansas
Blanche Hibner	Mrs. Ed. Funk	Riley, Kansas
Don Hassebroek	Banking	Topeka, Kansas
Anna Jahnke	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Margaret Meyer	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Sylvia Pierce	Teacher	Bala, Kansas
Madeline Quantic	Bookkeeper	Salina, Kansas
Orley Renner	Farmer	Riley, Kansas
Marie Renz	Mrs. Geo. Gravenstein	Riley, Kansas
Margaret Springer	Mrs. Herbert Haller	Winkler, Kansas
Ruth Larson	Employed	Topeka, Kansas
Fred Swart	Employed	Salina, Kansas
Eva Timmons	Student K. S. A. C.	Manhattan, Kansas
Wendell Watson	At Home	Riley, Kansas

1921-1922—Blue and White

Harold Beninga	Employed	Clay Center, Kansas
Helen Beninga	Employed	Clay Center, Kansas
Joe Brewer	Student K. U.	Lawrence, Kansas
James Carpenter	Soldier	Honolulu, H. I.
Doris Chamberlain	Teacher	Riley, Kansas

Nora Chamberlain	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Margaret Crowl	Mrs. Geo. Zeisset	Riley, Kansas
Vivian Dial	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Blanche Draper	Mrs. Vern Kleiner	Riley, Kansas
Esther Larson	Student K. S. T. C.	Emporia, Kansas
Bernice Morgan	Student C. of E.	Emporia, Kansas
Hazel Moritz	Teacher	Milford, Kansas
Gladys Popejoy	Teacher	Skiddy, Kansas
Cecil Sargent	Student K. S. A. C.	Manhattan, Kansas
Albert Swart	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Gertrude Tobias	Student	Edmund, Oklahoma
James Noble	Student K U.	Lawrence, Kansas

1922-1923—Lavender and Yellow

Anna Remmers	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Edna Anderson	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Jennie West	Teacher	Rolfe, Nebraska
Gladys Beninga	Employed	Riley, Kansas
Margaret Beninga	Student K. S. A. C.	Manhattan, Kansas
Esther Bohnenblust	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Mable Bohnenblust	Bookkeeper	Riley, Kansas
Edna Brown	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Alice Buseman	Stenographer	Washington, D. C.
Alvin Buseman	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Kenneth Hassebrook	Employed	Riley, Kansas
Ivy Kimberlain	Employed	Sullivan, Missouri
Marjory Kimberlin	Teacher	Steelville, Missouri
Thomas Lewis	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Meda Masterson	Student K. S. A. C.	Manhattan, Kansas
Bernice Renner	Employed	Kansas City, Missouri
Oscar Springer	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Gladys Heller	Teacher	Riley, Kansas
Violet Buseman	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Glenn Walter	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Ray Walters	Student K. W. B. C.	Salina, Kansas
Dorothy Webber	Teacher	Skiddy, Kansas
Winfred White	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Cecil Krehbiel	Mechanic	Long Beach, California

1923-1924—Old Rose and Grey

Sam Dyer	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Lloyd Morgan	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Karl Rueck	Employed	Riley, Kansas
Frieda Diskau	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Amelia Fosha	Student K. S. A. C.	Manhattan, Kansas
Jennie Parry	Postgraduate	Riley, Kansas
Eva Rudolph	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Alta Sand	At Home	Riley, Kansas
Birdie Belle Harrell	Student C. of E.	Emporia, Kansas
Opal Springer	Postgraduate	Riley, Kansas
Margaret Swart	At home	Riley, Kansas
Sophie Swart	At home	Riley, Kansas
Grace Hayes	Employed	Riley, Kansas
Lloyd Jahnke	At home	Riley, Kansas
Gladys Kaump	Teacher	Riley, Kansas

"Local Mention" One Hundred Years Ago....

LOCAL MENTION

Miss Laura Dugan spent Sunday in St. George visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Floersch, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Marcaux, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Stinger, Miss Martha Glenn and Mr. Sovocla of Topeka, went to Prospect Sunday and took their lunch.

Clarence Hellman of Des Moines, Iowa, is visiting his brother, H. F. Hellman and family for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Emmons motored to McFarland yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alden Huse returned Sunday evening from Baldwin, where they have been visiting their daughter, Mrs. Collins.

H. Stuart, general agent for the Rock Island at Kansas City, is in town today on business.

C. L. Nang of Seneca is in Manhattan today visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. James Pratt and family motored to Randolph Sunday to visit Mrs. Pratt's sister, Mrs. Chas. Peters and family.

Howard Dedrick went to Junction City Sunday to visit friends.

Dwight Bingham of Junction City is in Manhattan today.

Raymond Tucker of Topeka was a Manhattan visitor Sunday.

Miss Grace Harmon returned to her home in Clay Center this afternoon after visiting here for several days.

Mrs. A. J. Rathbone went to Riley this afternoon to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Chapman.

Wilbert Reed of Topeka arrived Sunday to visit his parents, W. S. Reed, 505 South Juliette avenue.

Alvin Katz and Ross McDonald were Junction City visitors Sunday afternoon.

This clipping is from *The Manhattan Nationalist*, Nov. 6, 1916.

The people in this article visited friends — and got their names in the "Local Mention" column. Do you remember these "Local Mention" columns?

Can you imagine your parents' names appearing in this column? (They probably do — somewhere, in a newspaper someplace. Just waiting for you to find!)

Were your parents or grandparents alive in 1916? If so, how old were they?

New Books at the Research Library

An Historical Record of Lane County 1886-1961, Lane County Historical Society, 1961
Descendants of Thomas Mudge Mudge, Melville R. Mudge, 2002
Early Kansas Churches in Kansas State College Bulletin, Vol. XXXIII April 1, 1949 Number 5 Dezurko, E.R. Engineering Experiment Station, Bulletin No. 60
Early Settlers of Tidewater Virginia Volume 1: Henrico County Jourdan, Elise Greenup Colonial Roots 2005
Early Settlers of Tidewater Virginia Volume 4 Jourdan, Elise Greenup 2009
Early Settlers of Tidewater Virginia Volume 2 Revised Jourdan, Elise Greenup Colonial Roots 2011
Grandma remembers Ebert, Martha Ebert 1982
Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in the Manhattan Mercury Chronicle During the Period of 17 April 1951 Thru 31 December 1951 at Manhattan, Riley, County, Kansas (304) Ekart, Sylvester Riley County Genealogical Society 2016
Portraits and Biographical Album Marshall County, Kansas 1st edition Chapman Bros. 1889
Riley County Blue Book and Directory 1884-1885 1884
Spotsylvania County Virginia Deed Book Brewer, Mary Marshall 2007
Virginia Tithables from Burned Record Counties Woodson, Robert and Isobel, Compilers Southern Historical Press 1970
Wilson County Tennessee Circuit Court Records (1858-1875) Vol. #2 Southern Historical Press 2006
Wilson County, Tennessee Circuit Court Records (1810-1855) Vol. #1 Partlow, Thomas E. Southern Historical Press 1988
Wilson County, Tennessee Circuit Court Records (1810-1855) Vol. #1 Partlow, Thomas Southern Historical Press 1988
Allingham Ancestors of Michael Murray Ekart, Sylvester 2006
At Home in Ellis County Kansas 1867-1992 Volume 2 Ellis County Historical Society History Book Committee Ellis County Historical Society 1991
Chautauqua County Kansas Its Pioneers, Beginnings, Towns, People and Places of Interest The Chautauqua County History and Genealogical Society 2004
Cheyenne County History Cheyenne County Historical Society 1986
Early Settlers of Tidewater Virginia Volume 3 Jourdan, Elise Greenup Colonial Roots 2007
Hamilton County, NE Courthouse 1895-1995 Fruits, Hap Plainsman Museum 1995
History of Emporia and Lyon County Kansas French, Laura Heritage Books 2008
History of Kearny County Kansas Volume II Kearny County Historical Society Mennonite Press 1973
History of Kearny County, Kansas Volume I Kearny County Historical Society Mennonite Press 1964
History of Labette County, Kansas, from the first settlement to the close of 1892 Case, Nelson Craner and Company 1893
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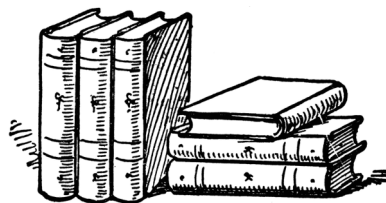
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For a list of RCGS publications for sale, visit our website at www.rileycgs.com and click on NEW STORE (in the left-hand column of the website Home Page.)



Note that all the books by Sylvester Ekart are for sale, as well as many others.

Visit RCGS Research Library

Tuesday and Thursday 10 am — 4 pm

Wednesday and Saturday 1 pm — 4 pm

How to search *Kansas Kin* for Surnames

All surnames in *Kanas Kin* are indexed on the Riley County Genealogical Society website.

To search for a surname, go to www.rileycgs.com and click on “Surname Search” in the left column.

Here is an example searching for Isaac Goodnow in *Kansas Kin*. Note that the “Record Type” “Kansas Kin” narrows your search to all issues of *Kansas Kin*.

No Printed Index

Because *Kansas Kin* surnames are indexed on the RCGS website, we will no longer include a printed index in *Kansas Kin*.

Surname:

First Name:

Record Type:

Please enter search criteria above.

New *Kansas Kin* Leadership

Starting with this issue, Judy Regehr will serve as *Kansas Kin* Editor and Margaret Parker as Assistant Editor.

The *Kansas Kin* Board consisting of Barry Michie, Sherry Butler and Virginia Beddow are heavily involved with article selection and are planning to further update *Kansas Kin*.

The *Kansas Kin* Board welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please send any input on *Kansas Kin* to judy@rileycgs.com.

Kansas Kin Submission Guidelines

We are pleased that you have considered submitting an article to the Riley County Genealogical Society for possible publication. The *Kansas Kin* focuses on articles ranging from useful genealogical strategies and sources, to interesting accounts of personal research, to local histories as they relate to Kansas.

MANUSCRIPTS

500 to 2,000 words, including reference notes, is the suggested length of submissions. Submit your document in Word format via e-mail. Topical headings are preferred for longer pieces. All manuscripts and references should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. End notes are recommended, especially for books, articles, and websites.

IMAGES

Whenever possible, please provide images to accompany your submission. The image must be over 1MB in size, with good quality resolution. Please also include a caption for each picture which includes a photo credit or source. All images must be sent as separate files. We prefer jpg format.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Please provide a few sentences about the author(s) to accompany the manuscript.

DEADLINES

Submissions are due the 1st of the month in January, April, July, and October. Address submissions to the editor at judy@rileycgs.com.

All submissions to *Kansas Kin* are subject to review by the RCGS Editorial Board and revisions may be made, either by the writer or the editor.

Editor: Judy Regehr

Assistant Editor: Margaret Parker

Editorial Board: Barry Michie, Sherry Butler, Virginia Beddow





Riley County Genealogical Society
2005 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-3415

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KANSAS KIN NOVEMBER 2016 VOL. 54, NO. 3

Calendar of Events

Riley Co. Genealogical Society Annual Meeting — Monday, Nov. 7, 2016

6:00 pm Brief business meeting

6:30 pm Dinner by Zeandale Community Church

7:30 pm “Fashion, Fabrics, and Rationing in WWII” by Marla Day

Registration required. \$13 fee for dinner

Call 785-565-6495 to reserve. For more information, see:

<http://rileycgs.com/eventListings.php?nm=38>

In Memoriam

Joan Leach

Cecil Eyestone