

Kansas Kin

A semi-annual publication of Riley County Genealogical Society
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Kimble Homestead, Manhattan, Kansas

Home of Sam and Mary Ann Kimble

Photo courtesy of Charlene Brownson



Riley County Genealogical Society

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

From the President

As we go to press many of our below activities are on indefinite hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The times give us all pause to contemplate many things. Of utmost importance take good care and remain healthy.

In this current *Kansas Kin* edition we continue articles of historical, research and general interest. Once again we encourage readers with a story and an itch to write to please consider submitting an article and, if possible, include photos to our editor. Guidelines are on the inside back cover. You are not limited to topics about Riley County.



We draw your attention to:

- (1) Public presentations on a variety of topics held at 2:00 on Sunday afternoons at the end of each month; topics, speakers and venues are announced in the press, our website and the FYI newsletter.
- (2) The Round Table at Aggieville's Blue Stem Bistro every third Friday of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 open to the public. We have beginners to advanced researchers and have a good time on topics/problems people bring to discuss.
- (3) First Friday morning RCGS Members workshops at the RCGS Library on a number of research and other topics.

Also, please let others know about the benefits of RCGS membership that include not only receiving *Kansas Kin* but also on-line access to our growing data base connecting to articles and records, many of which are digitized for Riley and surrounding counties. We have about a million names in our surname search. Please check out our website: <http://www.rileycgs.com>.

Barry Michie, President, RCGS

In Memoriam
Phyllis Eyestone

Land Grant from 1879

This is a picture of my family's Land Grant dated 1879. The Land Grant is an original document showing the name S. C. Baker. He purchased this 80 acres for \$250.00. The "Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie" names S.C. Baker as Sherman Cummings Baker who is one and the same person.

The land grant process began when a person seeking a grant submitted an application to a government office. He may have applied to purchase land or to receive it free as payment for military or other service. If application was approved, a war-

rant was issued to the individual. The warrant was a certificate that authorized him to receive a certain amount of land. Later this was surrendered to a land office.

If you would like to download a copy of our Bureau of Land Management history timeline, click on this link or type it into your browser.

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/About_historytimeline.pdf

The title of this timeline is, "Our Public Land Heritage: From the GLO to the BLM."

Charlotte Shawver



Kimbles in Kansas

by Charlene (Johnson) Brownson, Marlene (Johnson) Sedillos, and Amy Johnson

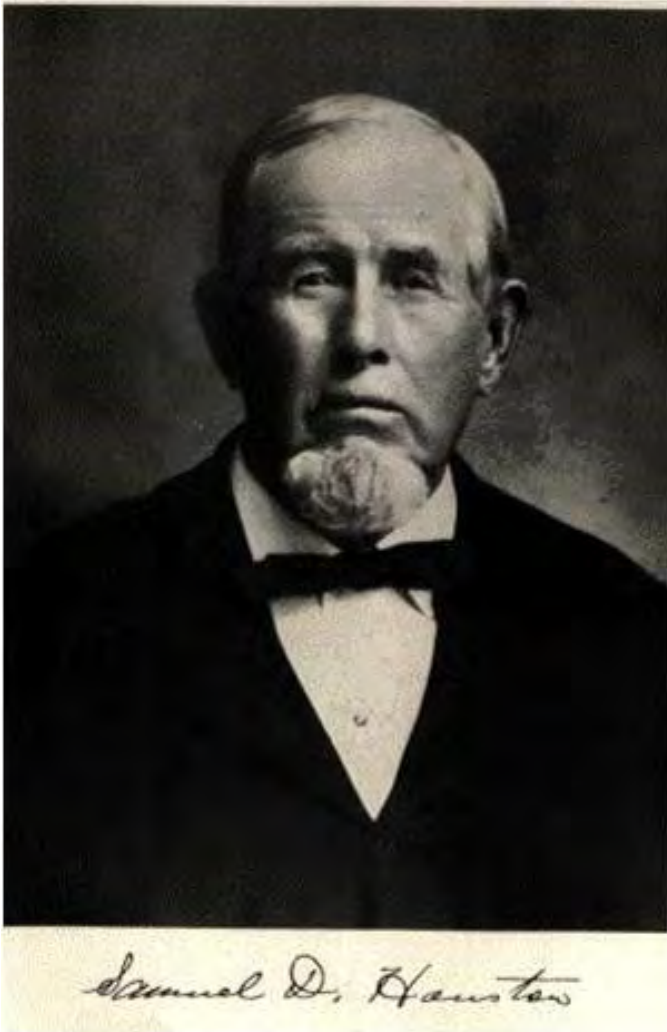
Growing up in Manhattan, Kansas, our mother would point out the Kimble limestone houses around town. As children, we didn't really appreciate our family history. As adults, we now wish that we had asked more questions and recorded the family stories.

Our mother (Evelyn L. Kimble Johnson) always took us to family graves at Sunset Cemetery on Memorial Day, and we now carry on this tradition. After research, we discovered the graves of our 3rd Great-Grandfather (James Kimble) at Sunset Cemetery and more graves at Ashland

Cemetery of our great-grandparents (James & Elizabeth Dempsey) and Elizabeth's parents (Hanson & Ann Williams.) We have discovered that we are related to more people around town – and the genealogy research continues.

In researching our family history, we discovered that our deep roots in Manhattan, Kansas, started with Tabitha Kimble Houston. Tabitha's husband (Samuel Dexter Houston) was a free-stater who arrived in Riley County in 1853 — a year before the state was open for settlement. The Houston family settled here before the Goodnow and Hartford groups. Sam Houston built a cabin south of what is now Anneberg Park, and later built the limestone house at 3624 Anderson Ave. “He could well be called the founder of Manhattan. Houston contracted four university men from four different states and induced them to meet him at the mouth of the Blue River in the fall of 1854...He along with four other companions, Judge Saunders W. Johnson, OH; Judge J M Russell, IA; E M Thurston, ME; and A H Wilcox, RI. built a dugout in the side of Bluemont Hill a little west of the mouth of the Blue, fronting on the Kaw. They named the town ‘Canton.’ When the New England Emigrant Aid Company arrived, Canton and Polistra combined with them to form Boston, which later became Manhattan.” -Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie – Riley County Genealogical Society

Another source, *Neighbors from the Past* by Lowell Jack, lists Houston as the founder of Manhattan:





Samuel D. Houston's house shown in modern times. It is located at 3624 Anderson in Manhattan Kansas.

Among the earliest pioneers in this area was 35-year-old Samuel Dexter Houston, who could in some ways be called the founder of Manhattan...he married Tabitha Kimble, a teacher at the Mission Institute, Quincy, Illinois. The Houstons headed west. Finding the county near the Missouri River occupied by Indians, they passed beyond their land and settled on the Blue River near current day Manhattan. They staked a claim on Wildcat Creek and built a cabin in December, 1853. (p. 2)

Houston also played an important part of public affairs.

Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie states, "Houston volunteered for the defense of Topeka and Lawrence and was a participant in the pursuit of General Price to

keep him out of KS. However when Houston tried to enlist at Ft Leavenworth he was thwarted when President Lincoln ordered him escorted back to his post in Junction City." (p. 360)

Houston served as state representative in 1855 and become the state's first senator from Riley County in 1860. President Lincoln appointed him to be receiver of public moneys at the Junction City Federal Land Office in 1861. He helped with the

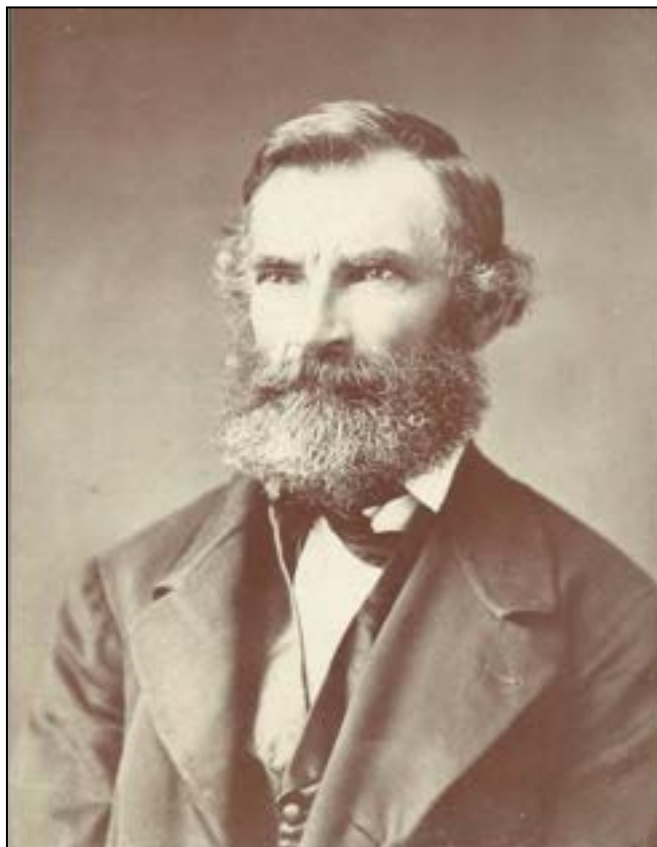
Samuel D. Houston was a free-stater who arrived in Riley County in 1853.... He could well be called the founder of Manhattan....he married Tabitha Kimble....

establishment of Bluemont College and helped pass the legislation to make it the first land-grant college in the U.S. When the discussion of boundaries for Kansas arose, he supported "Big Kansas" which would have taken the Kansas border to the Rocky Mountains.

Kansas Historical Society tells more about Houston:

In March 1855 Houston was elected to the first territorial legislature as a free-soil candidate but resigned his position amidst the expulsion of all free-state legislators. He was elected to the state senate under the Topeka Constitution in 1857, as a delegate to the Wyandotte Convention in June 1859, and as a member of the first state senate under the Wyandotte Constitution in December... he was active in local affairs and an avid prohibitionist...

Tabitha's brother, Samuel Kimble Sr.,



Sam Kimble, Senior

(our great-great grandfather), arrived in 1857 to what is now Riley County to work as a carpenter and stonemason at Fort Riley. "Deciding that he liked the county and also needing a place to live, he applied to a land office in Ogden for a homestead. They gave him a piece of land in the Wildcat valley, once there he fulfilled the necessary requirement, by building a log house with a clapboard roof. The house was furnished with beds, bedding, provisions, cooking utensils and so on and so forth. Later they built a permanent house of rock quarried from nearby." -History of Wild Cat Valley Kansas History R 978.1 History

He moved his family to KS in 1860 from Sarahsville, Ohio and started building their limestone house located at 5020 Anderson Ave. Their homestead was just west of the Houston's homestead.

The story of their family traveling to Kan-



Mary Ann Petty Kimble

sas was told by Sam Kimble Sr.'s youngest son (Samuel Kimble Jr.), Judge 21st Judicial District of Kansas 1902-1915, in his Memorial Address - delivered May 31, 1915 to the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, and Ladies Organizations in Manhattan, Kansas. He starts out his speech with a description of the trip that his family took as they traveled to Riley County in 1860.

“A little over 55 years ago a small boy not yet six years old, just beginning to look and hear with recognizing perceptive senses of and into the unfolding mysteries of life, led by the footsteps of his parents, left the place of his birth at Sarahsville, Noble County, Ohio, on the most wonderful trip of his existence down the valley of the Mushingum, to Marrietta, where embarkment was made upon the steamboat, and for three long mystic interesting weeks the thread of his future moved toward the setting sun, until on April 4th, 1860, landing was made at Leavenworth, and from there by wagon to a ferry crossing of the Blue river near the foot of Bluemont; his feet were, on the evening of April 7th planted upon the soil of Riley County in the infant Commonwealth of Kansas.”

“From that day to this the growth, the work and life of

that boy has advanced with and noted the progress of the birth, struggle and development of the splendid State of Kansas, now one of the brightest stars in the Blue Union. For over a half century the scenes and impressions of that trip have remained more deeply engraved on that individual mentality than all other incidents of his life.” - from speech pamphlet

Samuel Sr. developed one of the finest stock farms in Northern Kansas and stood at the head of this industry. Some of Samuel Sr.'s accomplishments include...the pump, Rocky Ford...

The Kimble family acquired more land for their farming. “The 2,200 acres of land was mostly all in one body and in tame grass which was used largely for stock raising...The Kimble Community as it was once known, is now in 1976, the area half way between an enlarged city of Manhattan and the small town of Keats.” -History



Sam and Mary Ann Kimble homestead. Also pictured on front cover.

of Wild Cat Valley Kansas History R 978.1 History This property included a school “Kimble School” and a bridge with a Kimble sign on it. Kimble decedents who still live and farm on some of this area are the Russell and Goff families.

Samuel Sr. & Mary Ann Kimble had three boys (Joseph, Frances Bryon (Barney), and Samuel Jr. (the Judge)) & three girls (Mary Ann, Martha, and Emma.):

Joseph, the oldest son, at the age of 25, married Mary Belle Dempsey and moved to a 102 acre farm on College Hill – known today as the “states streets homes” on the westside of Manhattan. Joseph built their limestone home on their farm. The address was 1803 Browning Ave.; however, when the area was turned into a housing development, the address later changed to 1808 Alabama Lane.



Joseph Kimble house 1808 Alabama, Manhattan, Kansas

Mary Belle died during childbirth of their 8th child. Joseph later married Loretta Dodge and had four more children. Joseph and Loretta's children were Cora LaFond (Lucy Pearl), Frances Irene, Joseph James, and Oliver (died before he was a year old.) Joseph moved to his father's homestead when Samuel Sr. died in 1890. Joseph added the west-addition



Mary Bell Dempsey Kimble



Joseph Kimble



Joseph Kimble's ice house

to the limestone home and built the stone ice-house.

Barney Kimble, the second son, married Mary Ann Neusbaum in 1879. Their limestone house was built west of the Kimble homestead at 6982 Anderson Ave.; it is known as "Kimble Cliff." DeLoss Kimble,



Joseph Kimble's addition to the homestead

his only son, was working on the farm, drank tainted water from a puddle and soon died. Barney couldn't bear living at Kimble Cliff after the death of his son, so Barney built the limestone home at 720 Poyntz Ave. and lived there although he continued to farm at Kimble Cliff.



The Barney Kimble house also known as "Kimble Cliff" on Anderson Drive near Keats, Kansas

Samuel Kimble Jr., the youngest son, was known as The Judge. He graduated from Kansas State Agricultural College in 1873. He worked as an engineer and helped survey for the Blue Valley Railroad. He taught school at the college, served as the county attorney for Riley County, city attorney for Manhattan, and was judge of the 21st District. He served thirteen years as presiding judge of the district.

In 1880, as a young lawyer, Samuel Jr. married Cora Ulrich. He had some business ventures with Cora's brothers, William and Edwin Ulrich. The Ulrich brothers were machinists, wood workers, and stone cutters. They were contractors who operated several stone quarries in the area. Their father Robert Ulrich was engaged in the manufacture of bricks. "Edwin and William erected a machine

shop at 3rd & Osage and among other activities, manufactured the Kimble pump which was invented by their sister's husband, Sam Kimble, a MHK lawyer." (*Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie – Riley County Genealogical Society* p.476)

Civic activities were among Judge Kimble's greatest works, he supported civic improvements like paved streets and sidewalks. He donated land to the city to build the water tower on Cemetery Hill, which is located across the street from the Sunset Cemetery. He also gave land for streets and drives in the area.

"The mother of Arbor Day in Manhattan'. That's how Cora Kimble was known to her fellow citizens because within two or three years after Arbor Day was established in Nebraska in 1872 Mrs. Kimble urged, caajoled, and wheedled Manhattan residents



The Barney Kimble house at 720 Poyntz in Manhattan, Kansas



Judge Sam Kimble Jr. known as "Judge" on the left and his wife Cora on the right. Kimble Castle located on Poyntz in Manhattan, Kansas.

to observe the day by planting trees and shrubs. Kansas recognized Arbor Day in 1875." -Neighbors from the Past by Lowell Jack, p. 58

Samuel Kimble Jr. built Castle Kimble; it was completed in 1904. Sam and Cora had three boys (Robert, Kenneth W., and James Carlisle.)

Mary Ann Kimble, Samuel Sr and Mary Ann Kimble's oldest daughter, married David R. Carnahan (Kernohan) and lived in Beverly, Kansas.

Martha Kimble, the sister of Joseph and Barney, married Tom Murphy and they moved down on the Wildcat Creek road to just west of the railroad crossing just



north of their house. It was still Martha's land, which was given to her by her father, Samuel Sr. Stone was quarried from the land to build her stone house. In the 1880's the Rock Island Railroad built a spur track, to haul rock to the main line, where it was then hauled to Ft. Riley and other places to build stone buildings. This rock quarry brought in quite a tidy in-



Martha Kimble's house near Scenic Drive and Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas

Submitted by Charlene (Johnson) Brownson, Marlene (Johnson) Sedillos, and Amy Johnson

Resources:

History of Wild Cat Valley - Kansas Histo-

ry R 978.1 History

Kansas Historical Society. Kansapedia. Retrieved from <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/samuel-dexter-houston/17069>

Neighbors from the Past by Lowell Jack.

Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie – Riley County Genealogical Society – 1976 RCGS First Edition #76-11926

come each year.” - -History of Wild Cat Valley Kansas.

Emma, the youngest daughter, never married. Her house is at 728 Poyntz Avenue. The quote from *History of Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie* sums it up well when they wrote, “In all, you could say that Kimble's, no matter how they were a Kimble, had stone in their blood.” *History of Wild Cat Valley Kansas*.

We are descendants of Joseph Kimble; many of his descendants still live in Manhattan and the surrounding area. There are now at least nine generations of Kimbles in the Manhattan area.

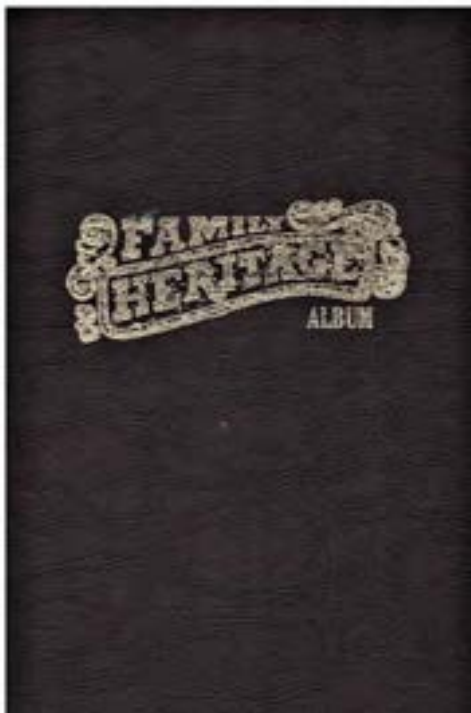
We wish that we had asked more questions and recorded more family stories to pass along to our descendants. If anyone knows of additional history or stories of the Kimbles, we would love to hear from you. We have a Kimble reunion every Memorial Day weekend in Keats, KS. Contact Charlene cmbrownson@hotmail.com.



Emma Kimble's house, 728 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS

New Books at the Research Library

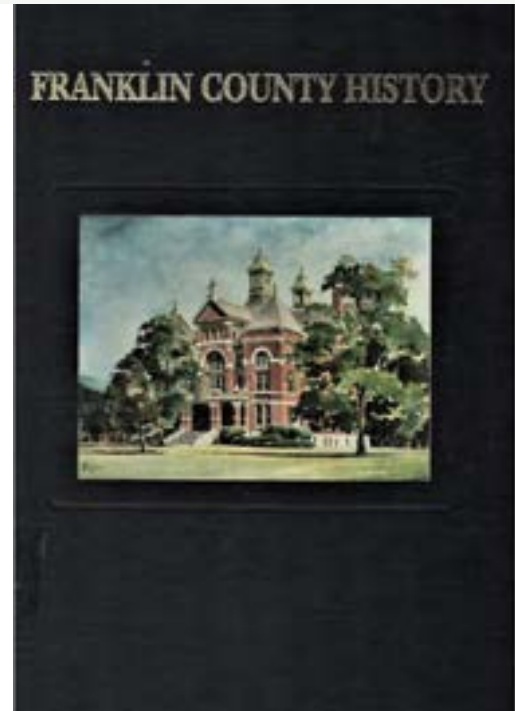
By Virginia Beddow



Family Heritage Album of Russell County, McPherson, Kansas: Family Heritage Society, 1973.

Data for this book was collected by Family Heritage Society for Russell County, Kansas. They worked with history makers in the last decade. A statement from the publishers says, "You have in your hands a document about people—American people, living at the heart of this great nation."

County history is covered with photographs, maps, charts, and land description. A tribute to Robert Dole, senator, is included. Russell County Families of 1973 are described as "our greatest natural resource" and are highlighted by township. The final part covers family biographies, churches, school histories, service personnel, business histories, clubs and organizations, farms and homes, general interest, and weddings and anniversaries. Index included.



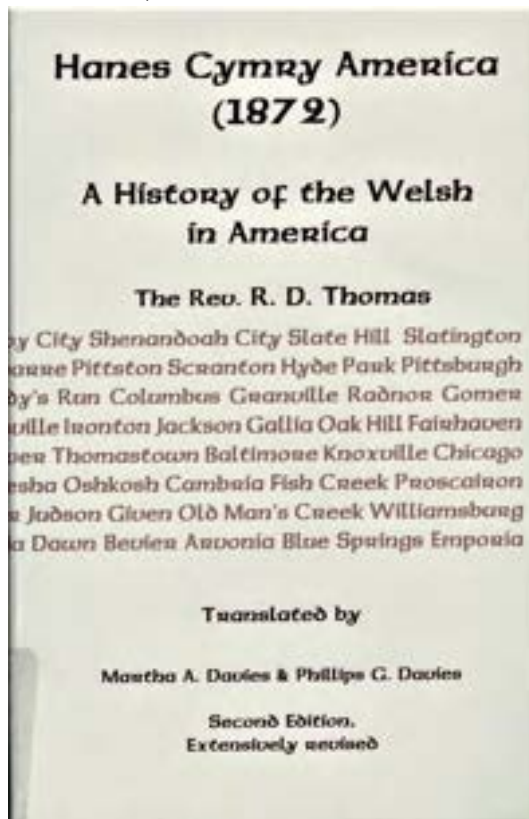
Franklin County History. Compiled by the Franklin County Historical Society and Friends of the Ottawa Library. Dallas: Curtis Media, 1993.

Initially this book was the project of the Franklin County Historical Society and Friends of the Ottawa Library. But many more became involved. Stories were contributed by citizens and family members during the two-year period, 1991-1993.

The book opens with "A History of Franklin County, Kansas Territory" by the Honorable Daniel M. Valentine. The book contains the following sections: Maps, Research Aids, and Cemeteries; County Towns and Historic Places; Ottawa; Organizations; Churches; School; Business—New and Old; Pictorial Section; First Families of Franklin County; Family Stories, Sponsor Section.

Surname Index is included in the 640 pages.

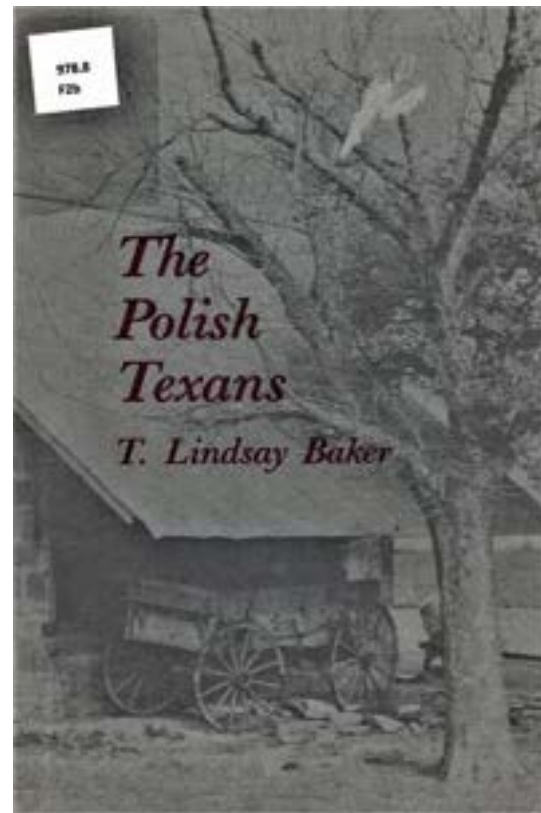
New Books, continued



Hanes Cymry America (1872): A History of the Welsh in America, Revised Edition. R. D. Thomas, translated by Martha A. Davies and Phillips G. Davies. Wymore, NE: Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, 2008.

An excellent explanatory section provides interesting details about the original book and its translators. The book itself is divided into three parts: East and South, The Far West, and Overview. The first part has two chapters about the Welsh in America and then ten states. The Far West covers twelve states plus Canada and Patagonia. The overview section provides interesting aspects of Welsh history like Welsh Religious Denominations, Advice for the Immigrant; Best Railroad Routes for Immigrants; Gold, Silver, Money, Bills.

An index of names is included in the 536 pages. Appendix includes Music by Joseph Parry, Shipping adverts, Books, etc.



The Polish Texans, T. Lindsay Baker. San Antonio: The University of Texas, 1982.

This history traces the role of Polish people in Texas. It begins in Poland and concludes with Polish Texans in the 20th century. Chapter titles include: The Poles in the Early History of Texas; Founding the First Polish Colonies in America; First Years on the Frontier; Expansion of Silesian Settlement; The Civil War Years; Reconstruction for the Silesian Poles in Texas; The Poles Come to East Texas; Soldiers From Mexico; Polish Life in 19th Century Texas; Business and Commerce; Polish Texans in the 20th Century; Suggested Reading; Photo Credits. An index is included in the 113 pages.

Other Books not Pictured

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in the Harveyville Monitor During the Period of 23

New Books, continued

July 1959 thru 28 December 1967 at Harveyville, Wabaunsee County. Sy Ekart. Manhattan: RCGS, 2020.

Five Binders of Resources for African American Research

Five binders have been compiled at the library to help researchers. Three of them contain several manuscripts.

Exodus to Kansas

“Bibliography for African Americans in Kansas and the West”

“Exodusters—National Park Service”

“From Egypt to Canaan: Why African American Exodusters Left Mississippi for Kansas in 1879”

“The Great Exodus 1879-1880 to Kansas”

“Exodusters on the Missouri”

Histories of Afro-Americans in Riley County, Kansas

“Early Resident Relates History of Negro Pioneers in City” by Mrs. Ellen Pillsbury Ellsworth Martin

“The First Blacks in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas” by Patricia O’Brien

“History of the Manhattan Black Community” from *Kansas Kin*, May 1986

“Some Early Black Families in Manhattan, Kansas” from *Kansas Kin*, May 1986

“Perpetual Persistence: The African American Community of Manhattan Bottoms 1880-1920” by Blake Hall-Latchman, Chapman Center, KSU

Articles by Nupur Chaudhuri

“We All Seem Like Brothers and Sisters” from *Kansas History* “The Afro-American Community in Manhattan, Kansas 1865-

1940”

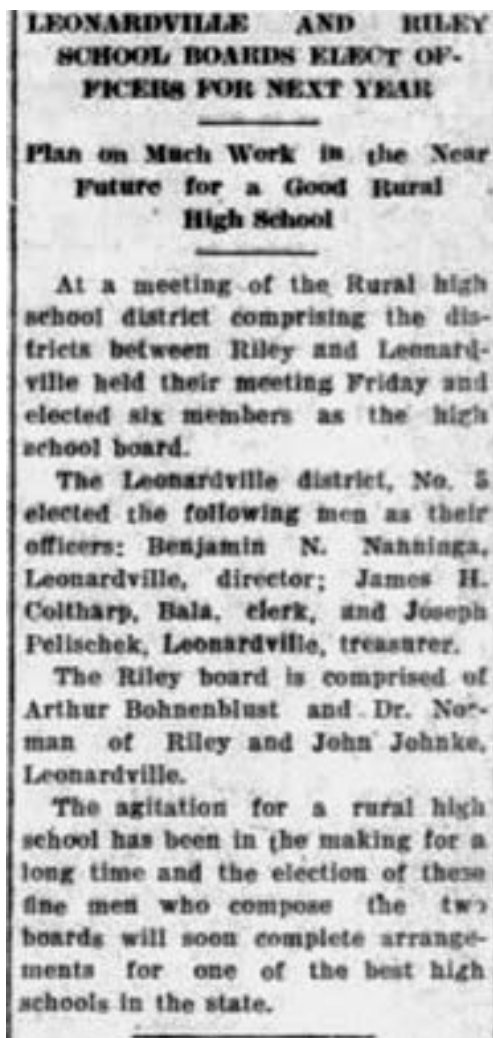
African American Resources in Manhattan, Kansas

“National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation” prepared by Three Gables Preservation, September 21, 2011.

Tracking Success of African American Landowners in Wabaunsee County, Kansas circa 1900.

“A Case Study of African American Farmers at the Turn of the Century” by Michael Spachek, Chapman Center for Rural Studies. 2014.

One Hundred Years Ago —



Manhattan Nationalist, May 27, 1920. Note school board member from Bala, Kansas, which was a thriving town at that time.

By Sherry Butler

The Welsh Settlement of Bala, Kansas

By Robert Humphries

“Wales occupies but an insignificant place on the map of the earth, but its people are very apt to make themselves felt in some way wherever they may chance to go.” So begins a biographical sketch of John Hughes Jenkins, one of the founders of the Welsh settlement of Bala, Kansas, published in 1890.¹ Bala in Riley County was one of hundreds of communities in the United States where Welsh immigrants settled and made their mark in the 19th century.

Located in Great Britain to the west of England, and about the size of Massachusetts, Wales possesses a distinctive Celtic language, which was spoken by most of the population until the early 20th century and set the Welsh apart from other British immigrants. Nevertheless, the Welsh have often been overlooked or even mislabeled as English in the historical record. Welsh immigrants first arrived in North America during the colonial period, but the most significant migrations began in the early 1800s when farmers and industrial workers arrived in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and established Welsh-speaking communities. Another wave of immigration began in the 1840s, this time to the Midwest, during a time of poverty and unrest in Wales. Many followed itineraries of chain migration, first to the well

-established Welsh communities or industrial centers of the eastern states where they could work to acquire the capital they needed to purchase land in Wisconsin, Iowa or Minnesota.

The passage of the Homestead Act of 1862 drew Welsh settlers across the Missouri River to Kansas and Nebraska, and although their numbers on the Great Plains were relatively small compared to those of other nationalities, they nevertheless established distinctive ethnic communities. For the Welsh, settling together was a necessity since it afforded the benefit of worshipping in their own language. Emporia in Lyon County was home to the largest and most prosperous Welsh community in the state. Rev. R.D. Thomas, who compiled an exhaustive survey of the Welsh in the United States in 1872, estimated Emporia’s Welsh population at 600, closely followed by Arvon in Osage County with 400 Welsh settlers. Powys in Riley County, where the town of Bala was located, he estimated as having a Welsh population of 300, the third largest in the state.² By 1900 there were 5,728 Kansans of Welsh birth or parentage according to one estimate.³

Named for a district in North Wales, Arvon was established by a group of Welsh-American land speculators from the east as a Welsh colony in 1869. Similarly, the Powys colony and its town, Bala, named after an important market town in North Wales, were the creation of the Welsh Land and Emigration Society, which purchased land from the Kansas Pacific Railroad for sale and distribution to Welsh

...the Welsh have often been overlooked or even mislabeled as English in the historical record. Welsh immigrants first arrived in North America during the colonial period, but the most significant migrations began in the early 1800s

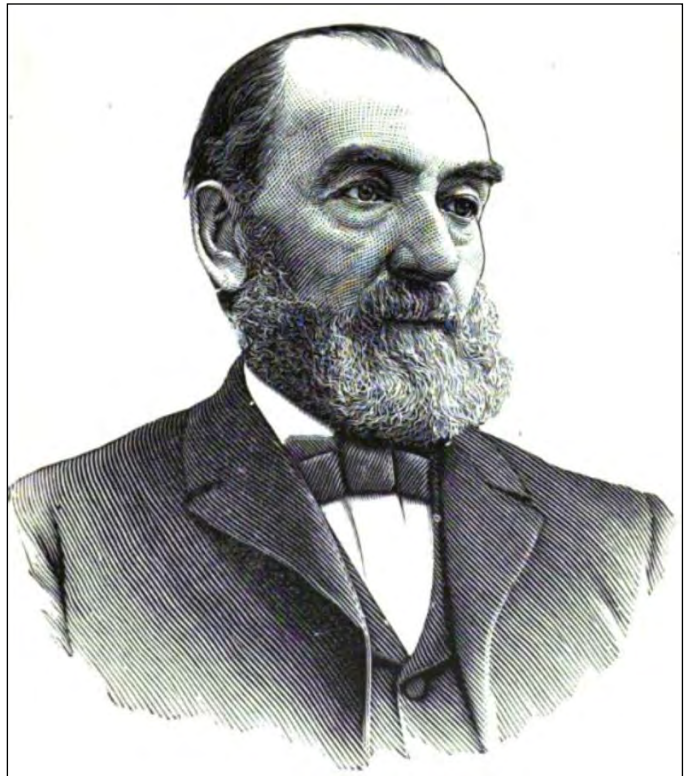
settlers and attracted 17 founding families in 1870.⁴ According to its advertisements, the company possessed \$50,000 of capital and 100,000 acres of land, and sold shares at \$100 each. Free lots were offered to settlers who were able to raise a house in Bala by May, 1871. The president of the company was Rev. Rhys Gwesyn Jones, a Congregationalist minister based in the heavily Welsh city of Utica, New York, and all but one of the other officers resided in New York or Ohio.⁵ John Hughes Jenkins, however, was a recent immigrant to the United States who had lived in Arvonnia before moving to Bala to become the company's local agent. He would go on to be a banker and businessman in both Bala and Leonardville.⁶

The founders were naturally eager to boost the colony. In a letter to the Welsh Congregationalist magazine *Y Cenhadur Americanaidd* (The American Missionary) in 1870, Rev. Jones wrote:

“The new settlement for our nationality is coming along splendidly. Forty have already acquired free land and are therefore coming at once to take possession of farms like they would never have but for this movement. There is opportunity for hundreds more to have the same ...”⁷

In his 1872 *Hanes Cymry America* (A History of the Welsh in America), R. D. Thomas quoted a favorable report from a settler who claimed that:

“... when land can be had sometimes for nothing, and for \$5 to \$8 an acre, is it not a shame that the Welsh stay in smoky factories and unhealthy towns? The appearance of the land is splendid—tall green grass waving in the breezes and flowers adorned in many colors,



Rev. Rhys Gwesyn Jones, president of the Welsh Land and Emigration Society of America which organized the Welsh colony at Bala. Although Rev. Jones never lived in Bala, he did visit the community. Photo courtesy of April, 1892 edition of *The Cambrian*.

and the herds of the settlers' animals roaming here and there such that the scene is enough to enchant anyone... ”⁸

Even a decade after its establishment, boosters were still aggressively promoting Bala. “Welshmen will find Bala an especially agreeable place to settle in.” claimed one Manhattan publication, describing it as “a neat little town on the head of Timber Creek” with “three general merchandise and grocery stores” as well as John Hughes Jenkins’s drugstore and Riley county’s first cheese factory built by James Sharples. There was also “a harness shop, shoe shop, blacksmith shop and hotel.”⁹

As was the case for many Welsh immigrants on the Great Plains, Bala was often not their initial destination. John Hughes

CYMDEITHAS DIROL !
A C
YMFUDOL GYMREIG AMERICA !

CAPITAL.....\$50,000

TIR AR WERTH !

Llywydd: PARCH. RHYS GWESYN JONES,
 Utica, N. Y.

Is-lywydd: PARCH. JOHN MOSES, New-
 ark, Ohio.

Trysorydd: PARCH. DAVID T. DAVIES,
 Utica, N. Y.

Ysgrifenydd: MR. ISAAC THOMAS, Utica,
 N. Y.

Goruchwyliwr: Mr. JOHN H. JENKINS, Po-
 wys, Manhattan, Kansas.

Gellir cael *Shares* yn y Cwmpeini \$100 yr un
 gan y personau uchod; neu y Parch. H. E. Thom-
 as, Pittsburgh, Pa.; neu Mr. J. W. Howell, Scrant-
 on, Pa.

Rhoddir *lot* am ddim o fewn terfynau tref y sef-
 ydliad, sef y Bala, i bob un a godo dy ar y tir hyd
 fis Mai, 1871.

Gellir cael hysbysiad pellach am y Gymdeithas,
 neu y tir, trwy anfon at unrhyw un o'r swyddog-
 ion.

Prif Swyddfa y Gymdeithas:
 104 GENESEE STREET,
 UTICA, N. Y.

An ad from a Welsh-American publication promot-
 ing the Welsh colony at Bala, Kansas

Jenkins, as mentioned above, worked as bank clerk in Utica upon his arrival in the United States.¹⁰ Another settler, William Humphrey Jones, known as “Wil Sir Fôn” (Will of Anglesey), and his wife Ann, lived for a time in Pennsylvania and Topeka before arriving in Bala in 1870. The couple relocated to Manhattan in 1885.¹¹ On the other hand, Jonathan Davies from North Wales worked as a butcher in Liverpool, England, from where he emigrated to Bala. A farm laborer for seven years after his arrival in Kansas, he eventually owned 160 acres and was “numbered among the substantial citizens” of the community.¹²

The most unusual route to Bala was that of James and Niomi Sharples and their family, originally from Llanelli, South Wales. In 1851, they had joined an attempt to establish a Welsh colony in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. After the venture collapsed, the family came to Dover, New

Jersey, where James managed a mine. In 1875, they settled in Bala. Upon their arrival, their 11-year-old daughter spoke Welsh and Portuguese but no English.¹³

Wherever they hailed from, the Welsh created a briefly thriving ethnic community in Bala, as reported in the Welsh-American newspaper *Y Drych* (The Mirror) in 1878:

“The ‘Sons of Temperance’ are increasing both their male and female membership. The Literary Society has not yet held its meetings; instead the members are preparing to create a permanent Society of a high standard. The Welsh and English Congregational Church under the ministry of Rev. Ivan M. Jones is flourishing; and the Welsh Calvinist church, under Rev. Morgan Williams, is active. The new organ is played by Miss Lizzie Jenkins, and the religious singing school is held under the leadership of Mr. W. H. Jones (Wil Sir Fôn), every Friday evening. There will be a Welsh doctor here, Dr. Evan Jones from Wales, within a few weeks. Immigrants are starting to come in and land is changing hands; and we hope the Kansas Central Narrow Gauge Railroad will come to Bala ... The Regional Meeting of the Calvinistic Methodists will be held here this year, and we expect some of our friends from Arvonja and Osage at that time.”¹⁴

“Welshmen will find Bala an especially agreeable place to settle in.” claimed one Manhattan publication, describing it as “a neat little town on the head of Timber Creek” with “three general merchandise and grocery stores” ...



Bala Presbyterian Church. December 1977. Courtesy of the Riley County Historical Society & Museum.

However, tragedy struck Bala in 1882 when a tornado destroyed both the Congregational and Calvinistic Methodist (Welsh Presbyterian) churches. *Y Cyfaill* (The Friend), the magazine of the latter denomination, noted that “This was a great loss to the fragile church, but they intend to rebuild as soon as they can. We wish them success in acquiring a minister to reside in the area.”¹⁵ Unfortunately, another tornado would destroy both churches again in 1903.¹⁶

From its inception, Bala also faced challenges due to its distance from rivers and railroads, obstacles that would eventually lead to its decline. As early as 1872, R. D. Thomas observed that:

“Bala in Powys would be much more desirable and advantageous to the Welsh settlers had it been established in the center of the county ... Or, if it had been raised near the Big Blue or Republican Rivers, its situation would be better and its

advantages greater. Despite all this, I believe the Welsh Land and Emigration Company of America made a good choice, the best they could at the time.”¹⁷

Nevertheless, when the long-awaited rail connection finally arrived, the Rock Island Railroad laid its tracks over a mile to the southwest. The Welsh of Bala

moved most of the town to the location

of the depot, named Bala City. This move, however, was not enough to guarantee the long-term vitality of town. According to Welsh-American historian Phillips G. Davies, many of the Welsh settlers drifted away, frustrated by Bala’s deficient water supply as well as the severe weather and insects that afflicted Kansas in the following decades. In 1914 the Congregationalist and Presbyterian churches merged, reflecting the declining Welsh population. The Bala City railroad depot closed in the 1930s, and the Bala school closed in 1964.¹⁸

Bala, Kansas, never became the boomtown its founders intended it to be, and may be considered a “ghost town” today, but for a brief period in the late 19th century it represented the ambitions of successful Welsh immigrants to create a community bound together by their shared nationality, language, religious beliefs and pursuit of opportunity in a new country. *(Continued on next page.)*

Learn more about the Welsh on the Great Plains.

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, located in Wymore, Nebraska, provides the only museum and cultural center dedicated to telling the story of Welsh immigrants on the Great Plains. In addition to exhibits and historic artifacts, the project's Welsh Heritage Centre also holds an extensive archive of Welsh and Welsh-American publications, documents, photographs and textiles from across the United States, including every available issue of the Welsh language American newspaper *Y Drych*, beginning in 1851. The organization also offers assistance with genealogical and historical research and translation from Welsh to English. To

learn more, visit welshheritageproject.org or email gcolgrove@neb.rr.com.

About the Author

Robert Humphries is a native of Wales and member of the board of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project. He is a Welsh speaker and holds a Master's degree in Celtic Studies from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David. He has published numerous articles about Welsh-American history, and co-produced, with the late Martha Davies, the mini-documentary film *Pobl y Paith/People of the Prairie: The Welsh in Nebraska*, which was broadcast on Nebraska Public Television in 2017.

EndNotes

¹*Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington, Clay and Riley Counties, Kansas* (Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1890), 1230.

²R. D. Thomas, *Hanes Cymry America* [A History of the Welsh in America] (Utica, NY: T. J. Griffiths, 1872), Section C, 14

³Phillips G. Davies, "The Welsh in Kansas: Settlement, Contributions and Assimilation," *Welsh History Review*, June 1989, Vol. 14 Issue 3: 382

⁴*Ibid*: 391

⁵This advertisement appeared in Welsh-language American periodicals such as *Y Cenhadwr Americanaidd* [The American Missionary], the official magazine of the Welsh Congregationalists, throughout 1870.

⁶*Portrait*, 1230

⁷Eirug Davies, *Gwladychu'r Cymry yn yr American West* [Welsh Settlement in the American West] (Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 2003), 59. (Note: all translations in this article by Robert Humphries.)

⁸Thomas, *Hanes Cymry America*, 131

⁹*An Illustrated Sketch Book of Riley County, Kansas, the "Blue Ribbon County"* (Manhattan, Kansas: The Nationalist, 1881), 126

¹⁰*Portrait*, 1230

¹¹"Y Diweddar [The late] Wm. H. Jones (Wil Sir Fôn), Manhattan, Kansas," *Y Drych*, July 29, 1915, 4

¹²*Portrait*, 458

¹³"Marwolaeth Mr. James Sharples, yn Kansas" [The Death of Mr. James Sharples in Kansas], *Baner ac Amserau Cymru*, March 1, 1899, 15; Eirug Davies comments on the daughter's bilingualism in *Gwladychu'r Cymry*, 63

¹⁴"Bala, Kansas," *Y Drych*, March 7, 1878, 2

¹⁵"Kansas," *Y Cyfaill*, March 1883, 107

¹⁶Eirug Davies, *Gwladychu'r Cymry*, 63

¹⁷Thomas, *Hanes Cymry America*, 130

¹⁸Phillips G. Davies, "The Welsh in Kansas," 391. See also <http://www.rileycountyks.gov/441/History-of-Riley-County>

Bala, Kansas, never became the boomtown its founders intended it to be, and may be considered a “ghost town” today, but for a brief period in the late 19th century it represented the ambitions of successful Welsh immigrants to create a community bound together by their shared nationality, language, religious beliefs and pursuit of opportunity in a new country.



Street sign in the present day Bala. Photo taken in 2014 by Judy Regehr.



Historical Sign in present day Bala. Photo taken in 2014 by Judy Regehr



An old, abandoned railroad bridge near the present town of Bala, Kansas. Photo taken in 2014 by Judy Regehr.

Are You Getting the Most out of FamilySearch?

By: Kelsee Jackson Walker

FamilySearch is a free website focused on gathering records, creating an interconnected family tree, providing useful family history resources, and even giving research instruction. General searching in FamilySearch is straightforward with a name, date, and place search on the records page. Contributing to the world-wide family tree can connect you with other sources mentioning your ancestor, additional ancestral family members, and memories uploaded by others in the FamilySearch community. While these features are well-known and characterize much of FamilySearch's mission and purpose, there are several other features that may prove very helpful in your family history research.

Learning Center

Like most other fields, family history is multi-faceted. Researching in one country

may be vastly different from researching in another country. While a researcher may be skilled in tracing her American ancestors, tracing her Japanese ancestors will likely require different skillsets. Did you know that FamilySearch has a database dedicated to helping you learn how to do many of these different kinds of genealogical research?

For people who learn best in an interactive, visual setting, the Learning Center is a great place to find resources to help with very specific types of research. Additionally, if you are new to FamilySearch, the learning center provides tutorials to help you navigate the FamilySearch website. There are resources available for people of all skill levels. A few things you might find are:

Research tools and tutorials sorted by place

Help Center

Genetic Genealogy Search

All Articles Lessons Wiki

Lessons

Why is DNA Valuable? DNA: An Introduction to Genetic Genealogy - Why is DNA ...
by Beth Taylor / 2 years ago
This segment will discuss the value of DNA in genealogy.

Types of DNA DNA: An Introduction to Genetic Genealogy - Types of DNA

FamilySearch Learning Center, <https://familysearch.org>

- A researcher can do a search in the Learning Center for places in which she or he is doing research.
- Example: a search for “South Africa” in the Learning Center results in several lessons teaching the researcher how to use the South African National Archives, how to begin your South African research, online South African resources, and even includes a 3-part research series on how to research in South African records.

FamilySearch website tutorials

- Getting familiar with the FamilySearch website may require some guidance. If you find yourself needing a lesson on something specific on the website, try searching for it in the Learning Center, as there may be a lesson or tutorial walking through your question.
- Example: A search for “FamilySearch Family Tree duplicates” in the Learning Center provides a lesson called “Duplicates in Family Tree” that walks the researcher through the steps of resolving duplicates in Family Tree.

Research by record type

Some record types can be confusing to understand and apply in genealogical research. There are lessons and tutorials available through the Learning Center for some of these record types, created to help researchers understand the context around the creation of the records and a knowledge of information they can provide.

Example: A search for “Pennsylvania Court Records” in the Learning Center provides a video on Pennsylvania county courts and probate records.

Research process lessons

- Do you have questions about the research process in general? Family history includes more than just reading records: there are citations, organizing research, creating research logs, etc.
- Example: A search for “research logs” in the Learning Center gives two classes on research logs covering what they are and how to use them.

Handwriting reading lessons

- Some records contain antiquated handwriting that is difficult to decipher. The Learning Center offers lessons and tutorials on how to better read some of these handwriting types.
- Example: A search for “Scandinavian handwriting” results in several lessons teaching researchers, through video and tutorials, how to read Scandinavian Gothic Script.

Genetic Genealogy lessons

- Genetic Genealogy is an important part of family history research. Learning how to examine DNA results and cousin matches in an effective way often requires training. The Learning Center offers several options for teaching how to start adding DNA analysis into his or her genealogical toolkit.
- Example: A search for “DNA testing” provides several lessons on researching using genetic genealogy, as well as a lesson on testing companies, cousin matches, types of DNA, and more.

The Learning Center contains other free resources, often compiled by a professional genealogist, for the benefit of researchers of all skill levels. Searching for a place, record type, handwriting, or even parts of the research process may result in helpful lessons, videos, and tutorials.

FamilySearch Wiki

One of the most useful and diverse resources available to the family historian is the FamilySearch Wiki. The FamilySearch Wiki, like any other wiki, is a website that allows for collaborative editing of content. This wiki has a focus on family history-related topics of many varieties. It can be helpful to approach the wiki as a 'help desk': although there are not people answering your questions in person, many of the pages have been created and edited by professional genealogists. Many of these genealogists work for FamilySearch but there are others who volunteer their time to add to the quality of the wiki as well.

The FamilySearch Wiki contains a variety of page types, ranging from histories to research guides to maps. A few useful page types found in the wiki are:

FamilySearch Historical Records Articles

Contains information about record collections on FamilySearch. This information can cover record content, dates of coverage, sample images, gaps in the records, and image visibility, among other things.

State and County Pages (Including other Jurisdictional Areas)

Organized by place (state, county, or another jurisdictional area), these pages provide information for a place by record type, often including online links, Family History Library Microfilm numbers, or archive information. Additionally, historical information is often included, such as boundary changes, date ranges for various record types, and record availability.

Coverage Maps and Tables

Record collections available online may indicate that it covers an entire state even when there are a few counties missing from the collection. Coverage maps and tables explicitly state record coverage, often giving the exact amount of records from a county and showing which counties were not included in the collection.

Historical Context

There are wiki pages that provide primarily historical information to better help the researcher know where to look for records or to add historical context to interpreting the records.

Page Talk Read Edit Edit source View history More Search FamilySearch Wiki

To request editing rights on the Wiki, click here.

Lincoln County, North Carolina Genealogy

United States • North Carolina • Lincoln County

Guide to Lincoln County, North Carolina ancestry, genealogy and family history, birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, family history, and military records.

Contents [hide]

- 1 County Information
 - 1.1 Description
 - 1.2 County Courthouse
 - 1.3 Lincoln County, North Carolina Record Dates
 - 1.4 Record Loss
 - 1.5 Boundary Changes
 - 1.6 Populated Places
 - 1.7 History Timeline
- 2 Resources
 - 2.1 Bible Records
 - 2.2 Biographies
 - 2.3 Business, Commerce, and Occupations
 - 2.4 Cemeteries
 - 2.5 Census Records
 - 2.6 Church Records
 - 2.7 Court Records
 - 2.8 Directories
 - 2.9 Emigration and Immigration

County Information [edit | edit source]

Description [edit | edit source]

Lincoln County is located in the southwestern portion of North Carolina and was named for Revolutionary War general Benjamin Lincoln, who was appointed by George Washington to receive Lord Charles Cornwallis's sword when the British commander surrendered at Yorktown.^[2]

County Courthouse [edit | edit source]

Lincoln County Courthouse
115 W Main Street
PO Box 218
Lincolnton, NC 28093
Phone: 704-736-8534
Lincoln County Website¹

Register of Deeds has birth, marriage, death and burial and land records.
Clerk Superior Court has divorce and court records from 1920, and probate records from 1869.^[3]

North Carolina Online Genealogy Records

County Facts	
County seat:	Lincolnton
Organized:	April 14, 1778
Parent County(s):	Tryon ^[1]
Neighboring Counties	
Burke • Catawba • Cleveland • Gaston • Iredell • Mecklenburg	
See County Maps	
Courthouse	

FamilySearch Wiki county page for Lincoln County, North Carolina, <https://familysearch.org>.

Research Guides

Sometimes, record types are organized in a complicated manner and require special instructions before use. Research guides might be available on the FamilySearch Wiki for these record types.

Handwriting Guides

Old handwriting can be difficult to decipher, especially if it uses a different alphabet than what the researcher is used to using. The FamilySearch Wiki contains handwriting guides that may help a family historian learn how to read the handwriting (such as German Deutsche Schrift or English Secretary Hand) used in many key documents.

Genealogical Word Lists in Different Languages

To do genealogical research in different languages, it can be helpful to have a word list available that allows you to do basic searches. The wiki contains word lists for many languages, often ranging from simple terms (such as words for birth, marriage, and death) to more complicated terms (such as legal jargon for more complicated documents.)

These resources and more can be found on the FamilySearch Wiki (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page) by searching for the needed resource type in the search bar upon initial arrival to the wiki's homepage. Your searches are best performed using key words instead of asking direct questions. For example, if you were looking for the Johnson County, Kansas, county page, type "Johnson County, Kansas" in the search bar for results. Additionally, if the search ventures toward handwriting guides or word lists, the wording would require key words for the area of interest.

(Such as searching for "French Genealogical Word List" in the search bar.) Contributors are editing and improving these wiki pages on a daily basis so if you don't find what you're looking for now, check back later to see if it has been added.

FamilySearch Catalog

The FamilySearch Catalog is a catalog of the genealogical materials (digital images, books, microfilm, etc.) made available through FamilySearch, which includes FamilySearch online, FamilySearch Centers and affiliate libraries across the world. FamilySearch (formerly known as the Genealogical Society of Utah) has been around since 1894 and starting in 1938, they began microfilming historical records of genealogical significance in addition to gathering reference materials and books from around the world. The historical records found through FamilySearch can range from vital records to parish registers and censuses to court records and more. Nowadays, FamilySearch has shifted much of its preservation work to digital images and formats, often made available for viewing through the FamilySearch Catalog.

The FamilySearch Catalog is different from searching the online historical records, mostly because it is not searched by name of the ancestor. Instead, records in the catalog are searchable by place or record type (or in the case of books, by author, title, or surnames if listed in compiled genealogies.) While many of these record types *are* indexed and readily searchable through FamilySearch Historical Records (the area of the website where patrons can search for their ancestors by name), there are still many record types that are not yet indexed (indexing can be a long process) but the images or microfilm are still available for viewing page-by-page.

So how do you search the FamilySearch Catalog for records to aid in research? See a step-by-step sample example below.

1. It is important to pick a family or ancestor of choice around which you can center your research. Where did the ancestor live? Make sure to use complete place names, as each level of jurisdiction can contain different record types within the catalog.
- Example: If you were researching a family who were known to have lived in Hopkinton, Washington, Rhode Island, there are several levels of jurisdiction you could search in the catalog. First, you could search for Hopkinton, Washington, Rhode Island, United States, which would provide records that were held on the town level. Similarly, you could search under the county level, searching for Washington, Rhode Island, United States or even the state

(Rhode Island, United States) or the country level (United States).

2. After searching for place name, the results from the catalog will show. (Please note that not every locality will give results in this search.) These results, where available, will be sorted by record type.
- Using the same example from above, when Hopkinton, Washington, Rhode Island is typed in the search bar, the catalog gives several results. Just a few of the possible record type results that come up for this place and level of jurisdiction are cemeteries, church records, schools, town records, vital records, and voting registers.
3. Looking at the possible results for the place searched, click on the record type you are interested in viewing. It will reveal a drop-down list of records that fall under that broad record type. Click on the records from this list that you are most inter-

[← BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)[PRINT](#) [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

Voting registers, 1843-1874, 1889-1925, 1920-1930 [Hopkinton, Rhode Island]

Authors:

Hopkinton (Rhode Island). Town Clerk (Main Author)

Format:

Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language:

English

Publication:

Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993

Physical:

on 1 microfilm reel : 35 mm.

Add to Print List

Notes

Microfilm of records at Hopkinton town hall, town clerk, Hopkinton, Rhode Island.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

Subjects

Locality Subjects

United States, Rhode Island, Washington, Hopkinton - Voting registers

Film/Digital Notes (This family history center has 1 of 1 films/fiche.)

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
Voting registers, 1843-1874, 1889-1925, 1920-1930 [Hopkinton, Rhode Island]	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	1872374 Items 1 - 3	7791947	

Catalog entry in the FamilySearch Wiki for Voting Registers in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, <https://familysearch.org>

ested in viewing.

- Continuing with the example from above, clicking on “voting registers” record type reveals two specific kinds of records: Town records from 1743-1920 and voting registers that cover several years between 1843 and 1930.

4. Once you click on the records that are of interest to your research, you will be taken to the catalog page that is specific to this record set. This page is important and will provide much-needed information about where the original records were stored, date ranges the records cover, microfilm numbers, digital image information, and sometimes historical background. When scrolling down to the Film/Digital Notes, notice that one of the headings reads “Format.” This heading is home to several different icons: a camera icon, a camera icon with a key above it, a magnifying glass icon, and a film reel icon. The camera icon indicates that that portion of the record set is available for online viewing, the camera icon with a key shows that there are records available for viewing at your local FamilySearch Center or FamilySearch Affiliate Library, the magnifying glass icon indicates that there is an associated index to the record set (that may not be attached to the actual images), and the film roll icon suggests that while the film is not digitized, it is available on microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

- When looking at the options under the “voting registers” record type in Hopkinton, Washington, Rhode Island and clicking on the voting registers covering various years from 1843 to 1930, a new page opens with catalog information about these voting registers. The catalog page clarifies that the records are from the Hopkinton town hall

and shows the camera icon under the “format” heading. The camera icon indicates that the images from this record set are available online. Clicking on it allows image viewing. While these images are not indexed, they are fully available to search page-by-page.

5. From here, you can go back to the results page to see what other records are available for your area. Don’t forget to alter the search terms to narrow or broaden the jurisdictions of your search. For example, while you may find town records available at the town name jurisdiction, you might find court records from the county court sorted under the county jurisdiction.

Because the FamilySearch Catalog is so varied in its content, it is important to include checking it as part of genealogical research. FamilySearch is not a complete guide to all the records in the world, so if the record type of interest is not found in the FamilySearch Catalog, other archives and repositories should be checked as they may have the needed records.

Conclusion

Between the Learning Center, the FamilySearch Wiki, and FamilySearch Catalog, there are many resources to assist genealogists in the search for their ancestors.

Author Information

Kelsee Jackson Walker completed family history internships in Austria, England and in the Family History Library (international floor) before receiving a bachelor’s degree in family history and genealogy from BYU. She worked for FamilySearch in 2016 and has since moved to Kansas, where she works as a research contractor.

The Family of Frank Elias Simons and Jessie Eugenia Parker and Their Ancestors and Descendants

By Michael and Brenda Simons of Manhattan, Kansas, and Sylvester C. Ekart with research by Carolyn Hamilton Mayo and Marcia Schuley of the Riley County Genealogical Society, Manhattan, Kansas.

Extensive use was made of Ancestry.com, Library Edition and Findagrave.com in researching this story. Pictures provided by Michael and Brenda Simons.

Frank Elias Simons was born in Michigan in 1856, the son of Seth R. Simons (1824-1861) and Louisa Hunt (1835). He was the grandson of John Simons (1783-1832) and Eunice Robinson Simons (1794-1884). John Simons died in 1832 in Amherst, New York. Seth R. Simons has a sister Eunice Ann Simons who married Frederick Fifield. In 1880, Eunice Robinson Simons was living with her daughter Eunice Ann Simons Fifield and family in Shannon Township of Pottawatomie County, Kansas. Eunice Robinson Simons is believed to have died about 1885 in Pottawatomie County; however, the location of her grave has not been identified. Seth R. Simons was born in Erie County, New York, in 1824. He and Louisa Hunt were married on 27 May 1855, in Genesee County, Michigan. While living in Genesee County, Seth and Louisa had two sons Frank Elias Simons in 1856, and Menzo Eugene Simons in 1859. In 1861 on June 10, Seth Simons enlisted in the 3rd Michigan Infantry Regiment and by July of that year was stationed at Georgetown, District of Columbia. At that place, on July 21, 1861, Seth was accosted by one William Woodward and stabbed in the neck and chest in a robbery. As a result of this as-

sault he died on Sunday the 22nd and is buried in United States Soldiers and Airman's Home National Cemetery in the District of Columbia.

Louisa Hunt was the daughter of Elias and Catherine



Seth F. "Bud" Simons 1929-1988
(Father of Michael Simons)

Hunt. The Hunt family was living in Genesee County, New York, in 1850. In 1863 on 4 June, Louisa Hunt Simons married a second time to John Davis in Genesee County, Michigan; the same location where Seth R. Simons and Louisa Hunt were married. Louisa and John Davis had three sons, George Davis born 1865, Ransom Davis born 1869, and Fred Davis born 1874, half-brothers of Frank Elias and Menzo Eugene Simons. Frank Elias Simons and Jessie Eugenia Parker were married 6 April 1887 in Pottawatomie County, Kansas. Jessie Eugenia was the daughter of George Washington Parker and Anne Ormston and granddaughter of John and Mary Ormston.

Frank Elias Simons was born on 27 July 1856, at Atlas, Genesee County, Michigan. He died on 14 January 1929, at Manitou, Tilman County, Oklahoma. He is buried in Bethel Cemetery, Tilman County. He was married on 6 April

1887, in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, to Jessie Eugenia Parker who was born on 18 October 1863, in the Elbow Community of Blue Township in Pottawatomie County, Kansas. She died on 9 June 1929, at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. She was buried on 11 June 1929, in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Elbow (1) (2) (3) (4) (5).

Jessie Eugenia was a member of the George Washington (1818-1892) and Anne Ormston Parker (1838-1892) family. There were eleven girls: Mary (1858-1859), Alice (Mrs. David Irvine 1859-1929), Jessie (Mrs. Seth Simons 1863-1929), Ellen (1865-1866), Evelyn (Mrs. Oliver Goudy 1867-1941), Mary (Mrs. Thomas Connaughton 1868-1947), Margaret (Mrs. Charles Weltsch 1870-1950), Jane (1876-1877), Anna (Mrs. Albert Ferlemann 1878-1940), Lucy (Mrs. Alfred Anderson 1878-1968) and Martha (Mrs. Wade Orr 1880-1943) and three boys: John Franklin Parker (1861-1918), George Ormston Parker (1872-1910) and Joseph Tobias Parker (1874-1950).

Frank was a farmer for most of his life; however, he was a mail carrier for a time. Eugenia was a homemaker. They lived in the Elbow area of Pottawatomie County at different times; in Franklin County, Kansas, in the 1890s; in 1900 the family was living near Grandview in Morris County, Kansas; and in 1920, the family was living in Tilman County, Oklahoma, near the Maguire community. Frank and Jessie had seven children (a) Seth R. Simons born on 5 March 1888, at Westmoreland, Kansas, died 22 October 1957, at Manhattan. He married on 20 April 1915, at Flush, Kansas, to Anna Barbara Hohn who was born on 13 October 1892, at Flush.

Both are buried in Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan, Kansas (6) (7) (8), (b) Frank Hubert Simons was born in 1890 at Westmoreland, Kansas, died in 1893. His burial place is not known; (c) Anna Mary Simons born 18 March 1893, at Pomona, Kansas, died 2 June 1962, in Sacramento, California. She was married on 25 December 1910, in White Church Missouri, to Thomas William Montgomery who was born 2 November 1874, near St. Joseph, Missouri. He died on 16 September 1952, at Abilene, Kansas. Both are buried in Abilene Cemetery (9) (10); (d) Frank Simons, Junior died in infancy; (e) Walter Joseph Simons born on 1 July 1898, at Grand View, Kansas, died 7 April 1955, at Topeka, Kansas. He was married 12 April 1921 to Elizabeth Hohn, born on 10 August 1896, at Flush, Kansas, and died 12 January 1997, at Topeka, Kansas. Both are buried Mount Calvary Cemetery, Topeka (11) (12); (f) Georgia F. Simons was born on 20 December 1901, died 10 July 1971, at Los Angeles, California. She married (1) Raymond D. Brown who was born 31 March 1903, at Manhattan, Kansas and died 24 November 1966, at Kansas City, Missouri. He is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery, Kansas City. Georgia married (2) Larry Kay (13).; (g) Carl Bernard Simons who was born on 29 October 1903, died 9 December 1953, and was buried in Aztec Cemetery, Aztec, New Mexico. (14)

See bottom of page 33 for list of sources.



Seth R. Simons 1888-1957
Anna Hohn Simons 1892-1980



Online Genealogy Research Corner

Five Reasons You Are Not Finding Your Ancestor

By Patty Wadick

Brick walls are a fact of life in genealogy research. There are many reasons why they exist but sometimes we create them ourselves because of newness to genealogy or lack of information or various other reasons. Here are some of the ways we create our own brick walls.

1. **Too much emphasis on family information and stories.**

We are encouraged to talk to the older members of our family. Most likely they have information and great stories from the past. But where there are 2 or more people, there will be 2 or more ways events will be remembered. It is important to find the records that support those family stories. Look for the records verifying the information. The truth behind the story can be an eye-opener.

Example. The family lore says the immigrant is from Lithuania. A ship's passenger list shows the family left from Bremen, Germany, they did live in Lithuania but they spoke German and were of the Lutheran religion, not Catholic. By researching the history of Lithuania you find that Germans were invited to settled in Lithuania and they continued to live as Germans for several decades. A new twist to the story.

2. **Using someone's unsourced family tree.**

When accepting the information in someone else's family tree, pay attention to the sources in that tree. Can you recreate that source? With the information available online it is easy to add the wrong person to your tree. The name may be the same but the relatives are different or birth/death dates are different. If your information is unsourced, look for records of the times and places to verify that the information fits into your family. You may find you have been tracking the wrong person.

3. **Searching for non-existent records**

Research websites such as *ancestry.com* or *familysearch.org* include a "card catalog". These are invaluable when trying to find if records exist. Check the catalogs for places where you think the record exists and pay attention to the dates shown. The record may not exist and you will need to find a substitute such as a bible record or published family book. Also check your State Historical Societies. They can help you determine what records exist.

Example. The catalog at *ancestry.com* shows that Ancestry does not have vital records for Riley County, KS. The catalog at *familysearch.org* shows they do have vital records for Riley County between 1865 and 1921. The Kansas Historical Society <https://www.kshs.org/> is another resource for finding existing Kansas records. Click on RESEARCH/GENEALOGY INDEX/VITAL RECORDS. Also at this site you will have access to Historical Kansas Newspapers.

4. **Stuck in a search rut**

We search for information the same way over and over. We click on the person we are looking for and follow the “leaf” produced in our family tree. Time to try something different.

Try a Global Search. Type the complete name in the search box instead of letting your system fill it in. Try searching on last name only. The same name can be recorded with many spellings. Try omitting the name and searching on the date and location. Browsing all records in a specified location and date often finds the person spelled differently. Try searching a specific database instead of all databases available. Try other sources such as newspapers.com or military sites like fold3.com. Try a google.com search. Once I found the complete story of an ancestor’s life published by a person with his own website. Think “outside the box” as they say.

5. **Not looking at your ancestor’s entire life.**

We become so focused on the one record we cannot find such as great grandfathers parents that we cannot see other resources. At this point we need to look at grandfathers whole life and for his siblings.

What records can be found for them? Is there a birth or death record or obituary listing the sibling’s parent? Look at census records through the years and follow grandfather’s life. Look at passenger lists. Neighbors may have been sisters who married and last name is different. Was there a group who emigrated from the same town? Gather all the information possible to reconstruct grandfather’s life and maybe you will break down

X. And then there are those who swam here and went into the witness protection program. No help for this!



Sources for Sy Ekart’s article, found on pages 66 and 67

(1) Probate Court Records, Pottawatomie County, Kansas.

(2) Kansas Marriage Records 1811-1911.

(3) Morning Chronicle, Manhattan, Kansas, 15 January 1929.

(4) Frederick Press, Frederick, Oklahoma, 18 January 1929.

(5) Morning Chronicle, Manhattan, Kansas, 15 June 1929.

(6) St. George News, St. George, Kansas, 23 April 1915.

(7) Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, Kansas, 23 October 1957.

(8) Topeka Capital Journal, Topeka, Kansas, 13 April 1980.

(9) Eskridge Independent, Eskridge, Kansas 9 October 1952.

(10) Eskridge Independent, Eskridge, Kansas, 7 June 1962.

(11) Topeka Capital Journal, Topeka, Kansas, 8 April 1955.

(12) Obituary of 1977, source not identified.

(13) California Death Index, 1971.

(14) Application for Headstone for a Veteran, 1953.

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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 first of the month in April 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.

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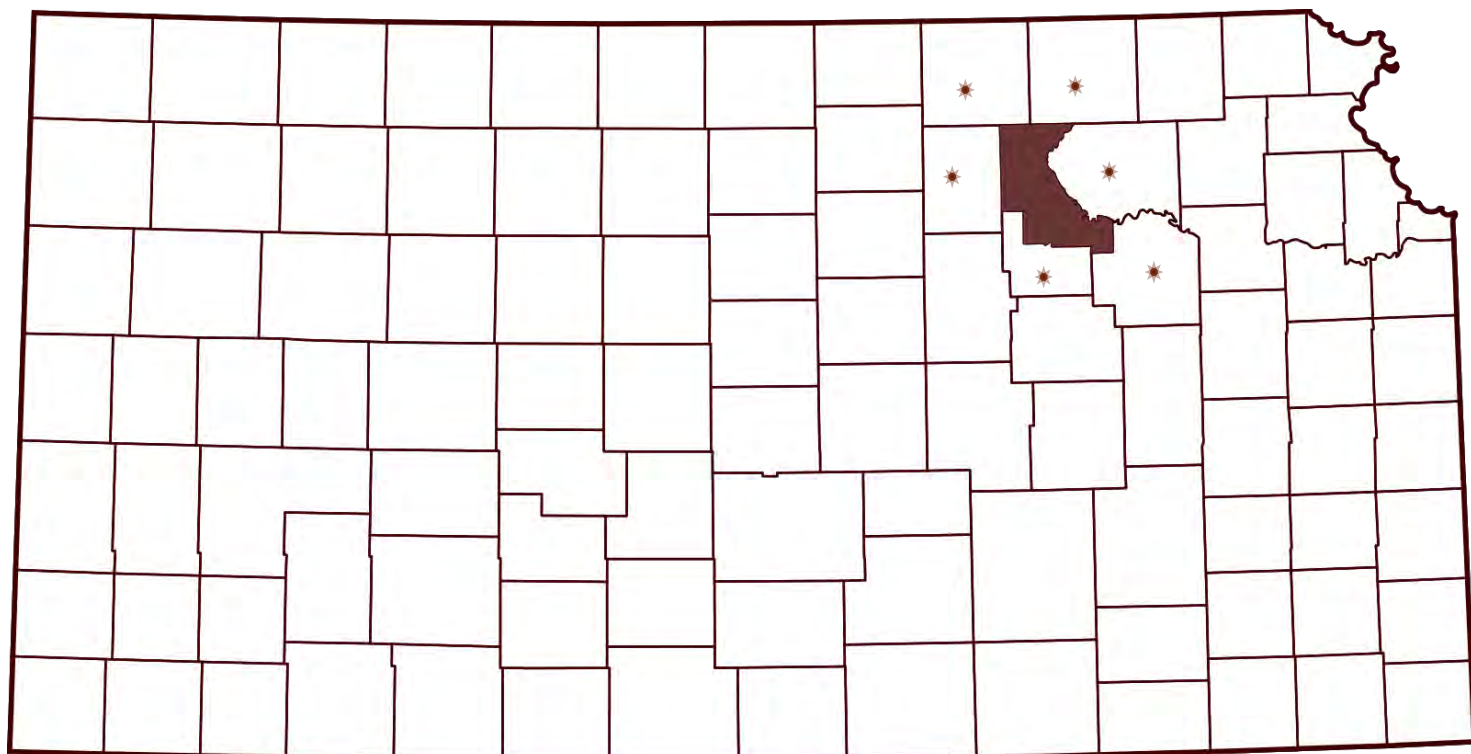




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Kansas Kin

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November 2020 Vol. 58, No. 2



Hannah Wetzig, ca. 1890's

First Woman Riley County Superintendent of Public Instruction

Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum



Riley County Genealogical Society

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Kansas Kin Submission Guidelines

Inside back cover

for researching Kansas family histories.

From the President

This November *Kansas Kin* edition continues articles of historical, research and general interest. We encourage readers with a story and an itch to write to please consider submitting an article and, if possible, include photos to our editor. Guidelines are on the inside back cover. You are not limited to topics about Riley County.

Once again as we go to press many of our normal activities are on indefinite hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We do however have normal open hours at the RCGS library, following masking and distancing requirements.

We must announce that we are not able to hold the usual largely attended November annual membership meeting at the Zean-dale Community Church. Furthermore, this meeting is the normal time for the annual election of RCGS officers. Consequently, the election cannot take place. All the current elected RCGS officers indicate they are willing to continue into next year. They are:

President – Barry Michie

Vice-President – Charlene Brownson

Immediate Past President — Judy Regehr

Corresponding & Recording Secretary – Virginia Beddow

Treasurer – Patrick Gormely

Also, please let others know about the benefits of RCGS membership that include not only receiving *Kansas Kin* but also on-line access to our growing data base connecting to articles and records, many of which are digitized for Riley and surrounding counties. We have about a million names in our surname search. Please check out our website: <http://www.rileycgs.com>.

Barry Michie

President, RCGS





The Ring Sees Many Generations

My mother gave me a moonstone ring dated prior to 1850. It belonged to my great, great grandmother, Fannie Martin. Her husband George Porter was a jeweler in Lebanon, New Hampshire so he may have given it to Fannie. Or perhaps Fannie's mother, Lois Huntington gave it to her. Subsequently, the ring was then handed down through 4 generations to me.

What we do know of the ring's age comes from a list of family jewelry written by its 3rd owner prior to 1944. She states that the ring is 100 years old. That dates it back to at least 1844.

Fannie gave the ring to her daughter Julia Porter, my great grandmother. The ring came to Kansas when Julia and her husband Earle Westgate came to Manhattan,

KS in 1883 with their two children Porter and Winifred Westgate. The family purchased Montrose Farms on what is now Browning Ave and where Earle and Julia lived the rest of their lives.

Julia gave the ring to her daughter Winifred who is my great Aunt. Winifred married Ben Bayles but was soon widowed. Although she had several stepchildren, Winifred did not have a daughter so she gave the ring to my mother, Dorothy Voelker, her niece by marriage. The moonstone is sometimes called the birthstone for the month of June and Dorothy's birthday was in June.

And now I have the ring. It is my turn to pass the ring to the next generation. Since I do not have daughters, I have chosen my oldest niece, Melissa Westgate

and the ring is going to California. Melissa has a daughter, Quinn. The ring will have traveled from coast to coast and passed through 5 generations. Another generation waits in the future.

Where will it go next?

Patty Wadick



Commemorating the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

By Allana Saenger-Parker

This year, the United States celebrates a momentous occasion as we commemorate the ratification of the 19th amendment. This addition to the Constitution prohibited the states and federal government from denying the right to vote to U.S. citizens on the basis of sex. In commemoration of this milestone and to honor the incredible women in Riley County's history, the Riley County Genealogical Society and the Riley County Historical Society have collaborated to create a coloring book. The coloring book entitled, "Coloring the Past: Twenty Riley County Women Who Made History," features illustrations and information about twenty women, each with a connection to Riley County, Kansas, who made a notable contribution to our history.

Two of the twenty women have been selected for this article, highlighting their involvement in the women's suffrage movement.

On April 4, 1887, former Kansas State Agricultural College student Susanna Madora "Dora" (Kinsey) Salter was elected mayor in Argonia, Kansas, becoming the first female mayor in the nation.

Born in 1860, Susanna moved with her parents to Silver Lake, Kansas in 1872. In 1876, she entered Kansas State Agricultural College in Manhattan. Her father, Oliver Kinsey, and

Susanna Madora (Kinsey) Salter was the first woman ever elected to the office of mayor of a city

mother, Terissa Ann White Kinsey, had difficulty finding a suitable place for Susanna to live while attending college. Her father determined that the sensible and economical decision would be to construct a home for Susanna himself. Oliver, who worked as a lumber dealer, together with the father of one of Susanna's friends, purchased a lot just east of the KSAC campus, and built a home that stood at 1126 Kearney Street in Manhattan. The *Industrialist* reported, "After the Misses Kinsey and Ayres are through with their little mansion, it will rent readily, or will sell for very nearly what it cost. We trust this example may be imitated by others." ¹

While attending KSAC, Susanna was actively involved in the Alpha Beta Literary



Susanna Salter family, ca. 1900. Courtesy Salter Museum, Argonia, Kansas.



Kinsey House, 1126 Kearney, Manhattan, Kansas. 1932

Courtesy Morse Department of Special Collections, Kansas State University Libraries.

Society, which was open to both women and men. Ironically, while participating in a society debate on women's suffrage in 1877, she argued in opposition.² Susanna left Manhattan and moved to Argonia, Kansas with her husband Lewis Allison Salter, a KSAC graduate, whom she married in 1880. It was here that she became active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. In 1887, at just twenty-seven years old with four children at home, Susanna was elected mayor of Argonia. The *Manhattan Nationalist* reported in August 1887 that "our friend of college days, Mrs. Dora Salter, is receiving many complimentary notices from the press of the United States, from the fact that she is the first woman ever elected to the office of mayor of a city."³ Susanna was no stranger to politics, however, as her father-in-law, Melville J. Salter, was a former Kansas lieutenant governor. For her one-year term of service, she earned \$1.00.⁴

Following a few years spent in Argonia, the Salter family moved to Oklahoma. Susanna lived out the remainder of her life there, and passed away in 1961 at 101 years of age.

Quite sadly, the Kinsey home at 1126 Kearney in Manhattan was demolished in the 1960s, but Susanna's connection to the Riley County community is not for-

gotten.

One of Riley County's most notable suffragists was Matie Toothaker Kimball, who in 1920 became Kansas' first female Presidential elector.

Matie was born to William Henry and Lydia Elizabeth Toothaker in Johnson County, Kansas in 1871. Matie's debut into the political world was made when she was only ten years old while accompanying her father as he campaigned for Charles Robinson's second bid for the Kansas governorship. Matie participated in the race by presenting a rhyming speech at every political rally for the gubernatorial hopeful.⁵ Even from this young age, Matie had a gift for oration.

In 1888, Matie entered Kansas State Agricultural College and was an active member of the Alpha Beta Literary Society, eleven years after Susanna Kinsey Salter's membership. Due to ongoing illness, Matie resigned from college and returned to her family's home in Kansas City where she taught school and worked as deputy clerk for Wyandotte County.⁶ In 1902, she married Charles Augustus Kimball and returned to Manhattan, Kansas in 1905. It was here that Matie became extensively affiliated with a number of women's social clubs including the Ladies' Library Association and the Domestic Science Club, as well as her in-



Matie Toothaker Kimball, ca. 1930 (Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum).

involvement in the push for women's suffrage.

Matie traveled widely throughout the state advocating for women's rights. Leading up to the 1912 election, Matie

Matie Toothaker Kimball became Kansas' first female Presidential elector

participated in a ten-day long motor parade of suffragists driving across the state. The speakers in their decorated automobiles made stops at the Union National Bank corner at 4th Street and Poyntz Avenue in Manhattan and on the main street in Leonardville, Kansas.⁷ Matie also made her way to Ogden, Zean-dale, and Randolph in 1911 and 1912 to help women organize local suffrage clubs. Matie held great literary talent, and was well-known for her numerous short stories and editorials.

In addition to her activities across Kansas, Matie was a devoted mother to two children. In response to critics who claimed her involvement in politics detracted from the care of her children, Matie stated, "To be active in politics, I consider a part of my duty as a mother. Politics is closely related to the home and the family, so close in fact that I consider it the duty of every mother to take part in the politics of her state."⁸

In 1920, after the 19th amendment was ratified, Matie was chosen as Kansas' first female presidential elector, as a Republican. In regard to her nomination, the *Manhattan Tribune* reported, "For the first time in the history of the state, a woman, Mrs. Kimball, has thrown her hat into the ring and announces herself a candidate for the Fifth District for Presidential Elector."⁹ In addition to Matie's service in the Electoral College, her resume also includes:

- 1) 5th District President of the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association (1911)
- 2) Founder and first President of the

Kansas Council of Women (1911)

- 3) President of the Kansas Women's Press Association (1912)
- 4) Instigated the recognition of the cottonwood as Kansas' state tree (1912)
- 5) 5th District President of the Federation of Women's Clubs (1912)
- 6) Auditor and State President of the Kansas League of Women Voters (1919)
- 7) President of the Woman's Kansas Day Club (1922)
- 8) District President of the Kansas Authors Club (1926)

Matie passed away in 1942 and is buried in Sunset Cemetery.

Although she is not featured in the upcoming coloring book, Hannah Amelia Wetzig Droll's leading role as an advocate for women's rights in Riley County is unquestionably worth noting.

Hannah was born to Christian Heinrich 'Henry' and Mary Vogelsang Wetzig in Winkler, Kansas (just north of Randolph) on November 22, 1875. Her father settled in Riley County, Kansas Territory, from Germany in 1858, and her mother, shortly thereafter. Hannah graduated from Winkler School, District #25, in 1890. As reported in the *Randolph Enterprise* on May 15, 1890, the graduation exercises were set to take place at the Zion Evangelical Church in Leonardville on June 5th.¹⁰ Traditionally, graduates presented a composition at the event, though due to the sizable number of graduates, time did not allow for all to present. The top twelve graduating students, however, were called to speak at the occasion. Hannah, then fourteen years old, held some of the highest grades in the class,

As Superintendent of Public Instruction, Hannah Wetzig served as the first female Riley County elected official



Hannah Wetzig, ca. 1890s (Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum).

and presented her composition entitled, "The Future of Women."¹¹

Hannah entered Kansas State Agricultural College in 1891 and became a member of the Ionian Literary Society, a literary club for college women. Her desire to teach also led her to the State Normal School at Emporia (present-day Emporia State University), where she graduated in 1904.

Following her formal education, Hannah dedicated her time to a teaching career. Her first position was held at her old school in Winkler. She also taught primary school at May Day, Moehlman Bottoms, Leonardville, Randolph, Riley, and Cleburne.

In March of 1899, Hannah spoke at the May Day Harvest Home Picnic on the topic of “Women’s Rights.” Her involvement in local organizations, such as the Randolph Literary Society, which she helped found, and her dedication to education earned her the position of assistant principal of Randolph schools in 1902. The following year she became principal of Riley schools.

In 1904, Hannah announced her candidacy for Riley County Superintendent of Public Instruction, becoming the first Riley County woman to do so. As reported in the *Clay Center Dispatch*, “A woman broke into politics in this county for the first time by the nomination of Miss Hannah Wetzig.”¹² Hannah won the election in 1905, and served as the first female Riley County elected official at just thirty years-old. As Superintendent, she oversaw the educational interests of over 100 teachers and 2,500 Riley County children. Interestingly, Hannah reported in 1914 that sala-

ries paid to rural school teachers of Riley County are \$2.60 a month more for women than for men.¹³

In July 1912, Hannah traveled to Randolph with Matie Toothaker Kimball to assist the local women in organizing the Randolph Suffrage Club. Additionally, Hannah was elected secretary of the Riley County Suffrage Association and often spoke at suffrage meetings and events throughout the county.¹⁴

In 1911, Hannah purchased a Reo Runabout, a fine motorcar, to assist her in efficiently visiting schools in northern Riley County. At the time, this made Hannah one of the few county superintendents in Kansas to own an automobile.¹⁵

Local newspapers often touted Hannah’s

success as Superintendent of Public Instruction and referred to her as a dutiful official. The *Manhattan Republic* on March 28, 1912 reported that Hannah had been visiting schools in the rural districts of Riley



Winkler School where Hannah Wetzig graduated in 1890 and where she first taught school. Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum .

"Coloring the Past: Twenty Riley County Women Who Made History" will be released this fall. This is a coloring book for adults and children!

County during a snow storm. While traveling by horseback, Hannah found herself navigating a twenty-five foot snow drift in the road. The *Republic* stated, "Miss Wetzig is one of the county's most efficient officers and does not let the awful condition of the roads stand in the way of her duties as school superintendent. During her recent trip, in order to reach some of the outlying schools, she was compelled to ride horseback thirty-five miles in one day... over roads, the poor condition of which is hardly imaginable."¹⁶

Hannah served the role as county Superintendent of Public Instruction until 1915 when she married Dr. Henry Droll and moved to Alta Vista, Kansas. The move, however, did not quell her interest in public service. In 1916, the *Alta Vista Journal* reported Hannah's bid as a Republican candidate for state Senator, with a campaign platform founded on "a better rural schools" program.¹⁷ Although she ultimately ended her campaign prior to election, she garnered wide support from the district in her political endeavor.

Hannah died on May 4, 1970 and is bur-

ied in the Alta Vista Cemetery in Wabaunsee County, Kansas.

This year, the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, we celebrate the women of Riley County who contributed to the march for women's rights. In following their example, let us remember to never take our right to vote for granted. Please look for Susanna Kinsey Salter and Matie Toothaker Kimball in the upcoming coloring book, "Coloring the Past: Twenty Riley County Women Who Made History" which is set to be released this fall.

Endnotes:

- 1) Kansas Industrialist, December 21, 1878.
- 2) Kansas Industrialist, December 1, 1877.
- 3) Manhattan Nationalist, August 12, 1887.
- 4) Billington, Monroe, "Susanna Madora Salter: First Woman Mayor," Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains, Kansas State Historical Society, Vol. 21, No. 3, Autumn 1954.
- 5) Kansas Industrialist, May 19, 1920.
- 6) Darnell, Laura. Biographical Sketch of Matie Toothaker Kimball, Database of NAWSA Suffragists, 1890-1920.
- 7) Leonardville Monitor, September 12, 1912.
- 8) Kansas Industrialist, May 19, 1920.
- 9) Manhattan Tribune, February 19, 1920.
- 10) Randolph Enterprise, May 15, 1890.
- 11) Manhattan Mercury, June 3, 1890.
- 12) Clay Center Dispatch, May 27, 1904.
- 13) Manhattan Mercury, December 31, 1914.
- 14) Manhattan Mercury, June 22, 1911.
- 15) Manhattan Mercury, March 23, 1911.
- 16) Manhattan Republic, March 28, 1912.
- 17) Hutchinson News, April 20, 1916.

In Memoriam

Dick Holverson

Avis Duncan Bidwell

The New Owners of the Platt House

By Sherry Butler



The Platt House, Summer 1907-1908. Joseph Neider (standing) and Anna Himes Curs Neider (seated on left). Home of the current Riley County Genealogical Society, 2005 Claflin Road, Manhattan, Kansas. Photo courtesy of Kathy Curs.

This photo, determined to be the Platt House, in Manhattan, shows the proud new owners, Anna and Joseph Neider about the summer of 1907-1908. Seated you see Anna (Himes, Curs) Neider, her granddaughter Laurel Matherly, a young woman helper, Blanche Stuckey and lastly Joseph Neider, standing.¹

The new owners, were mentioned briefly in an early *Kansas Kin*, when the Platt House became the new home of the RILEY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.² Then President of our society Ms. Mildred Loeffler, wrote a brief history of the house. The article mentioned Anna and Joseph Neider were the first owners after the Platts. Anna Neider purchased the house 31 Oct 1904.³

In July 2020, we received this photo in an

email from member Kathy Curs. She had received it from another descendant of early Manhattanites and wanted some assurance this was the Platt House. Kathy is researching her husband's Curs line. Anna, pictured above, was in her fifties then. Born in 1853, Rhode Island, Anna came to Kansas with her family about 1858. Kathy explained Anna Himes first husband was Charles Curs. He was born in 1836, Germany. He lived briefly in Ohio, before coming to Kansas. She may have been teaching school in the area, explaining how they met. Anna married Charles Curs in 1876, Marshall County Kansas. They were the parents of four children: Charles F, Agnes Louisa, Bertha W, and Walter F. Her husband died in Marshall Co. Kansas, 2 Sep 1894, when the youngest child was only 10

years old.⁴

Joseph Neider, in the photo on the previous page, and his first wife, Minnie Curs, came from Ohio and lived in Marshall County, Kansas. They were the parents of nine known children. Minnie died in 1893, and is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Marshall County, Kansas.

Joseph lost his wife in 1893, then Anna lost her husband in 1894, and the following year Joseph married Anna in 1895, Marshall County Kan-

sas.⁵ Both still had children in their households. The Neider surname was frequently spelled Nider, even on official documents.

The owner of the Platt house photo, Charles Mudge, is the great grandson of Anna Himes' sister, Phebe Himes Mudge, who was two years younger than sister Anna. He has kindly consented to the publishing of the photo. We hope to follow his Himes-Mudge family in a later article.

The Himes family is listed in our early book, *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*, but did not give any details on Anna, the subject of this article.⁶ Daniel B. Himes and Betsy A. Carpenter, both of Warwick, Rhode Island, were married in 1843. They had a large family of 12 known children. Among these we find Anna P. who was the fifth child, born 25 July 1853, in RI. A few years later, Daniel decided to move West. He came alone in 1857 and built one of the first frame homes in Manhattan. Having it nearly completed, he returned to Rhode Island for his family. When the family arrived here, the following year, they learned their home had been destroyed by a "hurricane", (likely a torna-

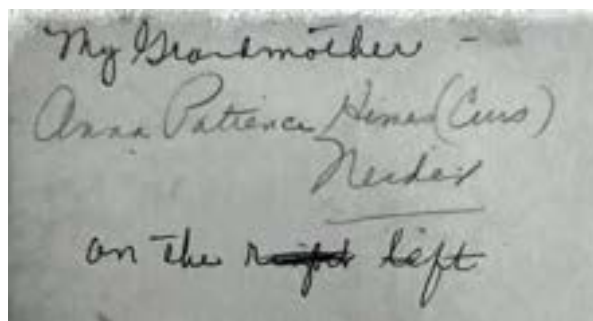


Anna Patience Himes Curs Neider (on left). Photo courtesy of Kathy Curs.

do). They were forced to move into the John Kimball home until the following spring when they could move onto their farm to the northwest of Manhattan. Anna Himes would have made the trip to Kansas at just about school age. About four years later, they moved to College Hill where Daniel and Betsy spent the rest of their lives.

Many of the Himes family are interred in Sunset Cemetery.⁷ Some of their children made Manhattan home, while others moved to Colorado and Texas. One great-grandson even resided on the family College Hill land.

Back to the photo at the Platt house. The child Laurel Matherly was the daughter of



Inscription on back of picture of Anna Patience Himes (Curs) Neider. Courtesy of Kathy Curs.

Joseph Neider and Anna Himes Curs Neider were the first owners of the Platt House after the Platt Family

Anna Curs' daughter Bertha Curs Matherly. Little Laura's mother died when she was seven. She may have been staying with her grandmother. Laurel had one brother Charles, who was four years older than she. Little Laura's mother died when she was seven. She may have been staying with her grandmother. Laurel had one brother Charles, who was four years older than she.

When Anna and second husband Joseph purchased the Platt house, she was about fifty. Joseph was nearly 70 years of age. With their "blended" family, it is easy to see why she had hired help, and caring for two grandchildren. The woman helping, Blanche Stuckey, was also born in Ohio. It would be interesting if she may have been related to either Anna or Joseph. After 1915, the Neiders moved to Pagosa Springs, CO, where Joseph died in 1918. Anna died there ten years later in 1928.⁸

Ms. Curs is currently attempting to prove that Charles Curs and Minnie Curs Neider may have been siblings. It is interesting that Charles Curs was enumerated just after the Neiders in 1870.

As this goes into the *Kansas Kin*, we have yet to determine the relationship of Mina Curs to Charles Curs. Genealogy seems to be this way, the more you research, the more questions arise. Perhaps, DNA in this case, could help in this question. Should any of our readers know of the answer, please reach out to us here at the Riley County Genealogical Society.

Endnotes

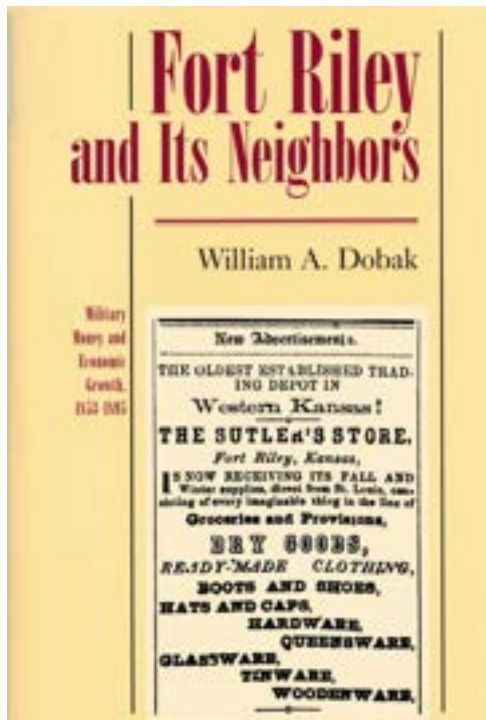
- 1) Neider home, formerly the Platt home, Manhattan, Kansas. Photograph ca 1905. Digital image. Privately held by Charles Mudge, Lloydminster, Sask. Canada. 2020
- 2) *Platt House to Become RCGS Library*. "Kansas Kin" Quarterly. (Riley County Genealogical Society), (May 1980) 24.
- 3) Kansas, Riley County. Deed Record. Book 101. P 409. 31 Oct 1904. Jennie S. Platt to Anna Neider, NE ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼, Section 12, Township 10, Range 7.
- 4) Curs burial. Riverside Cemetery, Waterville, Marshall, KS. Ancestry.com. U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1602-Current [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.
- 5) Curs-Neider (Neider) Marriage. Ancestry.com. *Kansas, County Marriage Records, 1811-1911* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.
- 6) Riley County Genealogical Society. *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*. Manhattan, Kansas. (Walsworth. Marceline, Missouri, 1976), 356.
- 7) *Sunset Cemetery*. (Manhattan, KS). *Tombstone Inscription and Sexton Records, 1860-2008*. Section 1.29.
- 8) Joseph Neider, 1843-1918, burial Hilltop Cemetery, Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, Colorado, USA, memorial # 28489200, FindAGrave.com, accessed electronically, 27 October 2020. Also, Anna P. Neider, 1853-1928, memorial # 28489199. Tombstone photo on this site.

One Hundred Years Ago — Abilene Kansas *Weekly Reflector*, November 4, 1920

FEWER FARMS IN DICKINSON This County Shows Smaller Loss Than Others, However Dickinson county has but 61 less farms this year than it had in 1910, according to census reports, though in many counties in the state there are several hundred less farms this year than there were ten years ago. Although the United States gained 88,496 farms during the past ten years, Kansas lost 10,554 in that period. The census figures were	made public yesterday. The total farms in the United States aggregate 6,449,998 as against 6,361,502 in 1910. Kansas now has only 165,387 farms as compared to 177,841 in 1910. The showing for the United States is not encouraging. The Kansas showing amounts to a tragedy. Only one county in the eastern half of Kansas—Bourbon—shows any gain in the number of farms. All the rest in the eastern half show losses. Eighteen counties in the western part	made slight gains. Meade county has the same number today it had ten years ago—842. Most cities have made substantial gains during the past ten years, but the rural population has decreased in most localities at the rate of about 100 persons per township in the same time. —Born to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Lutton of Chicago, a boy, Nov. 1. Mrs. Lutton formerly was Miss Nellie Graves of this city.
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New Books at the Research Library

By Virginia Beddow

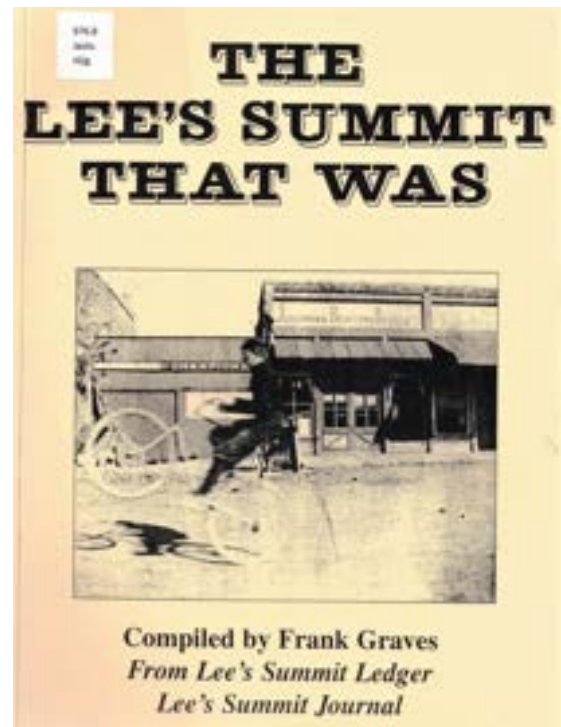


Fort Riley and Its Neighbors: Military Money and Economic Growth, 1853-1895. William A. Dobak. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1998.

Fort Riley stands today overlooking the Kansas River because army quartermasters in the 1850s thought that small steamboats could deliver supplies cheaply there. Civilians came to help build the fort and stayed to bid on the quartermaster's contracts for feed.

"The first forty years of Fort Riley's history and the century that has followed exemplify the interplay among federal activity, local interests, and market forces that has characterized the entire history of the American West."

That is Dobak's concluding statement after tracing economic development of Fort Riley and the surrounding communities.



The Lee's Summit That Was--From Lee's Summit Ledger and Lee's Summit Journal. Compiled by Frank Graves. Independence, MO: Two Trails Publishing. 1924.

Many of the pages in this book are excerpted from one of the newspapers. Entries include Ads, Buildings, Businesses, Houses, Maps, Newspapers, Churches, Schools, City Directory, Business Directory, and a street directory. Some photographs are included in this 56 page book.

As he points out in his preface, this book is not a typical account about the American Army in the nineteenth century.

This 241 page book includes some illustrations, maps, end notes, sources cited, and an index.

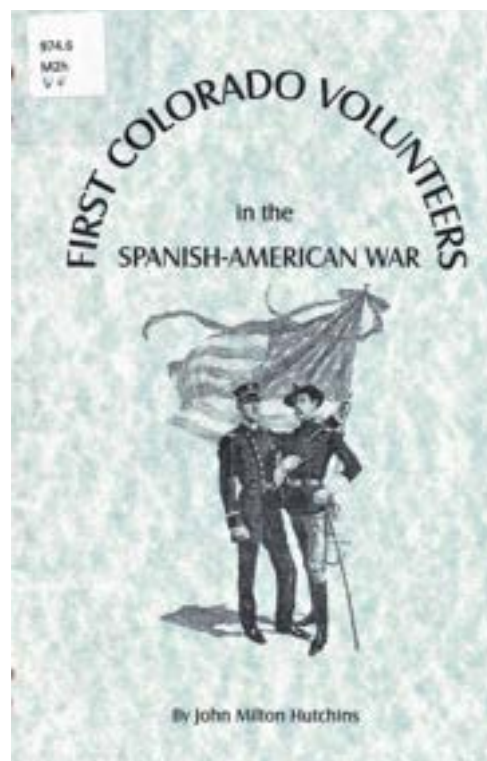
New Books, continued



A List of Graduates of the High School Located in Westmoreland Kansas for the Years 1904-1987. Westmoreland High School Alumni Association. 1987.

This booklet is a boon for anyone researching someone who may have graduated in Westmoreland. The school has been known by four names: Pottawatomie County High School in 1904 and 1905; Westmoreland High School, District #10, 1906-1918; Westmoreland Rural High School, 1919-1966; Westmoreland High School, Unified School District#323, 1967-1987.

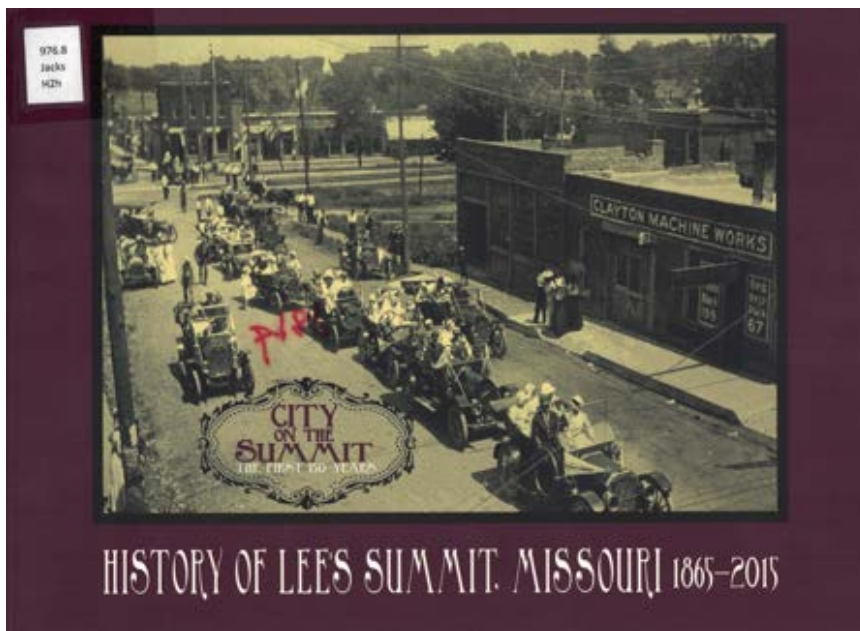
Each graduate is noted as deceased, no further invitation, or a home address for 1987. If a woman was married, that surname is supplied. The faculty for each year is also noted.



First Colorado Volunteers in the Spanish-American War. John Milton Hutchins. Denver: Fairmount Cemetery. 1998.

For the Centennial Commemoration Observation at Fairmount Cemetery May 25, 1998 this publication was produced. Hutchins' account begins with the sinking of the battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor. He gives a complete account of the First Colorado Volunteer Infantry from the mobilization of the Colorado national guard and militia to its deployment to the Philippines to the unit's return to Denver, Colorado Sept. 14, 1899.

This 16 page booklet includes a diagram of the city of Manila and some photographs. There is no index, but many names of the 1046 enlisted men and 46 commissioned officers are mentioned within the history so that a study of the book might be helpful to a researcher.



History of Lee's Summit, Missouri 1865-2015. Lee's Summit Historical Society Book Committee. Marceline, MO: Walworth Publishing Co., Inc., 2015.

The goal of the Historical Society of Lee's Summit was to produce a history of Lee's Summit with pictures and informative stories never before collected in one volume.

Seven chapters take the reader from pre-historic times through 2015 into the future. Pioneers faced many hardships including the lawlessness of the Border Wars, the divisions of the Civil War, and the following economic downturn.

Aided by the completion of the railroad and founded by a true visionary, William Bullitt Howard, Lee's Summit soon became the largest shipper of agriculture products and livestock on the Pacific Railroad in Missouri.

Through their research the writers discovered pictures and records that came to light for the first time in years. This 217 page book contains end notes and index.

More New Books

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in the St. Marys Star During the Period of 4 December 1958 to 30 November 1961 in St. Marys, Pottawatomie, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley County Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in the St. Marys Star During the Period of 7 December 1961 Thru 31 August 1967 at St. Marys, Pottawatomie County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley County Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in the St. Marys Star During the Period of 7 September 1967 to September 24 1970 in St. Marys, Pottawatomie, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley County Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in the St. Marys Star During the Period of 4 October 1970 to 20 March 1973 in St. Marys, Pottawatomie, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley County Genealogical Society. 2020.

A Bavarian Family Comes to America: The Umscheid Family of Pottawatomie County, Kansas

By John Manning

The American immigrant has long been viewed as a noble figure. When examining their lives and their motivations for coming to America, we should also consider their sacrifices, their courage in making the decisions that they made, and the trials they endured to fulfill their dreams. For some, the plains of Kansas were a place where these dreams could be fulfilled. For Johan Lorenz Umscheid and his family, immigrants from Germany, the dream became real.

Living in the low wooded mountains along the northern bank of the Main River in Bavaria might seem like an idyllic location found in a Grimm brothers' legend. Sandstone laden soils and the densely forested lands would also be a challenging location to raise a family, especially in the 1800s. The village of Großheubach is a small community located in this present-day district of Lower Franconia near Miltenberg. In the central part of Germany, Großheubach sits on the north side of the Main River in the Spessart or low mountains. Soil conditions and the mild climate

has made the region a productive area for winegrowing as far back as the 11th century.

Johan Lorenz Umscheid, the son of Michael Adam Umscheid, and his wife, Maria Eva Breitenbach, was born on 31 July 1814 at Großheubach, Bavaria and grew up as one of eight children in a devout Catholic family. Johan's father was, at various times, a shepherd and a farmer.

Bavaria and the region around Großheubach underwent political and religious turmoil during Johan's lifetime. At the time of his birth, Bavaria was undergoing a secular transition of its governance processes. This territorial restructuring reallocated the ecclesiastical (religious) states



Map showing Grossheubach in Bavaria, Germany. The Umscheid Family came from Grossheubach to Rock Creek Valley in what is now Pottawatomie County, Kansas.

and the imperial cities into new cities and government districts. While the numerous cathedrals, castles, and estates of the area were retained by the archbishops, upper-class hereditary landowners, and supporters of the crown, the typical family had few opportunities to improve their lives. They lived their lives in close communities dominated by their local churches, with large families, and with minimal impact from the societal changes, unless it directly intersected their lives. This was the constant challenge Johan, his family, and neighbors faced as they went about their daily tasks, made worse by conditions of poverty and limited opportunities.

Despite the political and social upheaval, or perhaps, to try to find some measure of happiness, Johan married Maria Anna Schmitt on 23 April 1838 at Großheubach, Bavaria, most likely at the Saint Peter Catholic Church which was established in 1247. They began their family with the birth of their son, Ignatius, born in 1839. Unfortunately, Ignatius died in 1846. From 1840 through 1851, four daughters and one other son were born, all of who lived through adulthood.

During these years, Johan and his family remained in [Großheubach](#) and made their living through farming. Unfortunately, tragedy struck the family when Maria died on 17 November 1853 at the age of forty. In December 1860, Johan Lorenz made the fateful decision to uproot his family from their home and immigrate to the U.S.. His children accompanied him: Augusta, 21; Magdalena, 18; Julia, 13; Maria, 10; and Vincent, 9. The family departed Le Havre, France, on the passen-



Le Havre Harbor circa 1860

ger ship “Nuremburg,” and arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 23 March 1861.

In 1854, several settlers from Großheubach, Bavaria settled in the Rock Creek Valley in what is now Pottawatomie County, Kansas. It can be assumed that letters and other correspondence made its way back to the Bavarian community extolling the opportunities and farming prospects of the Kansas prairie, and it may have been this information that helped the Umscheid family decide to move to America.

The distance from Großheubach, Bavaria to Le Havre, France, is approximately five hundred miles. While there is no evidence of how the family traveled that distance, there were only two options; to travel by wagon or by train. Most immigrants made the trip in wagons to the port of embarkation at Le Havre. Travel to the French coast by wagon would have been done so

In December 1860, Johan Lorenz made the fateful decision to uproot his family from their home and immigrate to the U.S.. His children accompanied him:....

as not to waste the precious savings that had been pulled together for the voyage. It is also likely that the Umscheid family would have joined a caravan of other Großheubach emigrants, which made the trip much safer. The passenger manifest of the ship “Nuremburg” lists several other travelers with the “Umscheid” surname also coming from Bavaria, making it plausible that there were acquaintances or neighbors also making the trip. Traveling together to the port would have also provided safety and familiarity in foreign surroundings. Poor roads and inclement weather would have caused the parties to move slowly, making it likely that the trip from Großheubach to Le Havre would have taken at least three weeks.

Upon arrival at the port of Le Havre, the family would have additional challenges in preparation for their voyage to the U.S. Most immigrants would have to arrange to book their passage on the ships. As this could take some time, the travelers would join to multitudes of others waiting to leave the port. This could result in waiting for days or weeks, requiring the families to stay in lodging houses or outdoors. The cost of traveling to New Orleans was approximately the same fare as traveling to New York. The family departed La Havre on 02 February 1861 after

arranging to travel in the steerage section of the ship. Traveling from Europe to New Orleans during this time of year would have been cold and damp, with everyone on board subject to the rolling seas.

The ship that the Umscheid family traveled on was the “Nuremburg.” It was built in 1854 in Williamsburg, New York, and launched before September 1854. The ship was built for the Le Havre to New Orleans emigrant trade, and its name was selected to appeal to German immigrants specifically. The master of the ship at the time of the Umscheid family’s voyage was Gustavus Schneidau, who had made the voyage from Le Havre to New Orleans six previous times. The arrival of the ship at New Orleans on 23 March 1861 was the last transatlantic voyage between the two ports by this ship. This was the result of Louisiana’s actions noted in headlines of a local paper on the day the ship arrived that the state approved and ratified the Constitution of the Confederate States of America. It was not long after this that the Federal blockade of southern ports, known as the “Anaconda Plan,” was implemented. Had the Johan Lorenz Umscheid family arrived any later in the year than they did, it is likely that the ship would have been turned away and sent back to Europe.

About the Author

John Manning, the owner of the Country School Genealogist LLC, has more than three decades of research experience. Retired after forty years as a US Army officer and Federal employee, John brings a wealth of knowledge to enrich the experience of genealogy research and family history storytelling. John writes, lectures, and consults on a variety of genealogy topics, including Irish research, military records, and immigration and naturalization records.

John is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG). His genealogy training and education include the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) Writing Logical Proof Arguments Practicum, and attendance at the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed), held at the National Archives in Washington, DC. Additionally, he has completed the Boston University Certificate of Genealogical Studies, the 18-month ProGen Study Group, and has attended numerous local, regional, and national genealogy conferences.

The family's travels continued as they most likely booked passage on a steamboat from New Orleans to St. Louis, Missouri. As few steamboats made direct trips to St. Louis from New Orleans, the family possibly had to book passage to Vicksburg or Memphis and from there to St. Louis. Once the family arrived in St. Louis, they would have had to book passage on a Missouri River steamboat to take them closer to Kansas. There would have been no shortage of steamboats going up the Missouri River. It has been noted that "...in 1859 the steamboat advertisements in the St. Louis papers showed that more vessels left that port for the Missouri River than for both the upper and lower Mississippi." In the mid-1800s, the city of Westport, Missouri, became a significant Missouri River port community and was a departure location for settlers moving west. Its proximity to established roads that would lead to Pottawatomie County makes it likely that this was the Missouri River port where the family arrived.

The railroad did not reach Pottawatomie County until 1867, so it is highly likely that the Umscheid family came to the Rock Creek Valley by wagon. There were three trails that led from the area near Westport, Missouri to Pottawatomie County. They were the California Trail located on the north side of the Kaw River, the military road which extended west to Fort Riley, and the Oregon Trail. All of these trails converged at the junction of the Rock Creek Valley and the Blue River close to where the Umscheid family finally settled.

Information is not available as to how or where the family started farming. It may be assumed that the established settlers in the County may have helped the Umscheid family to become set up, whether

through sharecropping or land rental agreements. Most of their farming efforts would have been focused on grain and stock raising. The verdant soils of the County were very tillable and, with adequate moisture, would have produced an abundance of crops. The land in Pottawatomie County was described as rolling, with soil being a black sandy loam dotted with abundant springs.

Sometime after he arrived in Pottawatomie County, Johan Lorenz Umscheid started using the name of John Lawrence Umscheid. Anglicizing his name may have been a way of assimilating into his new country.

No discernable date of death for Johan Lorenz Umscheid is known. Still, an application for probate of his estate was filed with the probate court of Pottawatomie County on 09 November 1863, indicating that he died before that date. He died at the approximate age of 49, and his place of burial is unknown. This Bavarian farmer who boarded the boat for America in 1861 could hardly have imagined the success that he, his family, and later descendants would realize as a result of his well-timed decision.

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Are you ready for your grandchildren's Christmas?



Have you thought about the opportunity you have during the holidays to tell your family about genealogy?

Do your grandchildren know the answers to these questions:

- What were your grandparents' names?

- Where did your grandparents go to school?
- When did the family come to America?
- Where did they come from?

Make a Trivial-Pursuit-type game with such questions on cards to teach your family. Be creative!

An Idea from the Past

Consider a genealogical project from Elaine Olney. Discovered in a *Kansas Kin* from February 1989!

AN EXCELLENT 5-GENERATION PROJECT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF RCGS

At the October general meeting of RCGS, Elaine Olney presented a plan for members of our Society. This plan could culminate perhaps in a book that we could sell to raise money for the Society, or it could result in a collection of materials to be used in our own Library for research purposes. Read Elaine's description of the project and then begin helping by writing. You will be helping the Society, but the biggest gain will be your personal satisfaction.

WRITE AND PRESERVE by Elaine Olney

There is no greater thrill than digging into those obscure courthouse records and finding the name of an elusive ancestor. One feels like shouting aloud to those dusty old books, "Thank you." Now, your obligation has just begun. It is fun to do that research and make those discoveries, not quite so much fun to put the material in an organized format to hand down and preserve for future generations. All our research work can easily be lost if not organized and given to different family members and to a genealogical library. It is not as much fun to write it up, but the feeling of accomplishment is even greater.

I became quite overwhelmed when I first felt this obligation. I had discovered much new information that had taken years of work and I cringed at the thought of it being tossed into the trash. One cannot expect a family member or a genealogical library to take drawers of files and hundreds of family sheets and pedigree charts. The material must be condensed into a reasonable order readily understood by all. Not all of us have the ability to publish a book, but we can all organize our records and have copies made at a copy center, material bound and distributed. We must do this now, before it is too late. I hear the same argument that I have used. Let me find just a little more, just a little more evidence and proof. This argument is never ending, so I suggest we use a format that can easily be added to as we get more information. There is a simple way that we can all understand and I wish to help everyone interested to get started.

Format to Use

There is an accepted format for the vital records part of any family history, but that is not enough to preserve. We need to preserve facts of interest that turn a name into an interesting character that he is. Some material one may wish to keep confidential for just family members. This is fine. Let us have a first paragraph of vital information, a second paragraph of life facts, and third or more paragraphs for the sentimental recollections.

Let each of us do this for every number, in order, on our pedigree chart. This is a method that can be worked on as one has time, put away, and restarted, as time and inclination dictate. This method can be expanded to include pictures, signatures, copies of news items, etc. An appendix may be used to copy wills, Bible records, land records, whatever you deem important for each numbered person in your records. Do this for each person on your pedigree chart. If you do not have information on a certain number, go to the next one for whom you do have information.

The first paragraph should follow strict genealogical form. The vital records of wives will be included under their own numbers, so they need not be repeated under a husband's number.

Even # (male), s/o father and mother's maiden name, b. date and place, d. date and place, bur. place, m. date and place, wife's maiden name. Issue: Eldest child m. spouse's name; 2nd child, spouse's name; etc.

Odd # (Wife of the above. Husband's # plus 1), b., d. and bur.; m. give husband's name. There is no need to repeat the date as it is in the # above. Likewise there is no need to repeat the issue.

Example (From my husband's family)

#4. Robert Charles Olney, s/o John Hamilton and Sybil Rhoda (Weed) Olney, b 27 Jan 1896 Silt CO; d 21 Apr 1982 Lincoln NE, bur Lincoln Memorial Park; m 26 Apr 1921 Cincinnati OH, Lillian Jeannette Yunker. Issue: Robert Dudley m Dorothy Elaine Washburn; Richard Chadwick m Marjorie Millicent Stapleton; John Edward m Karen Elizabeth Belsham.

When three years old, Robert moved with his family to Furnas County NE where his grandfather Olney had obtained a Tree Patent. He spent his youth on the farm and attended District #41 country school and then Orleans HS. He also attended Franklin Academy, University of Nebraska, and graduated from Eclectic Medical School in Cincinnati OH in 1919. Following graduation he spent the rest of his life practicing medicine in Lincoln NE. He was a member of many medical societies, The Masons, and The Scottish Rite.

Challenge

SET A GOAL FOR YOURSELF AND STICK TO IT. IF YOU WRITE UP ONE PERSON A WEEK YOU WILL HAVE 52 ANCESTORS PRESERVED BY THE END OF A YEAR--A GREAT START.

If you have questions about this or any suggestions, please contact me at the Riley County Genealogical Society.

Elaine Olney

MEMBERS DESIRING HELP WITH THEIR 5-GENERATION CHART PROJECT, SEE EDITOR'S NOTES, p.3 FOR DATES WHICH HAVE BEEN SET.

February 1989 KANSAS KIN 9



Online Genealogy Research Corner

Finding Your Female Ancestors

By Patty Wadick

Question time: How many of your brick walls and genealogy search challenges involve female ancestors and your maternal lines? Even finding our male ancestors hinges upon knowing the maiden names of their daughters when there are few records of her, and none that contain her maiden name.

Why can it be so difficult to trace women in genealogical records? Prior to the 20th century, most historical records were for and about men. Property was usually listed under the man's name, and men ran businesses and the government. Meanwhile, a woman typically changed her name each time she married, and children carried men's surnames to the next generation. Here are four research strategies that may help.

1. Know Your Names

Note the names of each woman's husband, children and siblings-and especially any unusual middle names, which could be the mothers' or grandmothers' maiden names.

2. Make a Timeline

A timeline puts your ancestor in historical perspective and points you to genealogical records. Begin the timeline with the woman's birth and end with her death. Between, write everything you know about her, including her marriage date and children's birth dates and places. Add events, such as migrations and hospitalizations, as you uncover them. Include significant

national occurrences, such as wars and epidemics, and local events you glean from county histories. Note important governmental laws and acts passed during your ancestor's lifetime.

3. Ask Around

Women are often the "communicators" in families, so talk to your older female relatives and schedule a visit to talk about your family. Ask each woman about her mother's maiden name, how she met her husband, what motherhood was like and favorite family recipes. Senior family members are often the best genealogy resources.

Missed your chance? Interview your ancestor's children, grandchildren, other relatives, friends and neighbors. Pay special attention to names, dates, places and unusual occurrences that could point your research in a particular direction.

4. Explore Records

Since there's no magical record set that focuses specifically on women, researching them in genealogical documents is more about strategy than anything else.

To determine which records to look for, examine your female ancestors' timelines and note events that may have generated records. Weddings mean marriage records; children may have birth and baptismal certificates; migrations could lead to land records.

Note social or religious groups, or frater-

nal benefit societies a woman might've belonged to through her church or community. Contact the main office to ask about historical records. If the organization no longer exists, a historical society or library archive may have its files.

You'll find more places to look for records in Christine Kassabian Schaefer's book, *The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy* (Genealogical Publishing Co.). It contains a state-by-state resource guide with important dates, laws governing your female ancestors' lives, and advice for finding records they left.

How many of your brick walls and genealogy search challenges involve female ancestors and your maternal lines?

Renew Your 2021 RCGS Membership!

It is time to get your 2021 Riley County Genealogical Society membership renewed!

You can renew by going to our website www.rileycgs.com or mailing your \$30.00 check to:

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2005 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

We look forward to serving you!

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Happy Thanksgiving!

We're sorry to miss the potluck and Annual Meeting at Zeandale this year. We'll see you there again in 2021.

Note that current Riley County Genealogical Society officers are continuing another year.

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 first of the month in April 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





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