

Kansas Kin

A semi-annual publication of Riley County Genealogical Society
May 2021 Vol. 59, No. 1



LEWIS WALLACE

CO B

26 USCI

1835

JUN 2 1912

Newly Erected Tombstone for LEWIS WALLACE, Exoduster and Soldier

Photo courtesy of Marcia Schuley



Riley County Genealogical Society

2005 Claflin Road

Manhattan, Kansas 66502-3415

Phone: (785) 565-6495

Library Hours:

Tuesday 10:00 pm—4:00 pm

Thursday 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Wednesday and Saturday 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Sunday by Appointment

www.rileycgs.com

info@rileycgs.com

Membership: Membership is open to individuals at all levels of genealogical experience. The membership year is January 1 — December 31. Memberships received after October 1 will get the balance of the year free with a paid membership for the following year. **Dues: \$30 per calendar year.** For a full list of member benefits, go to:

<https://rileycgs.com/about.php>

Click to join or renew online.

<https://rileycgs.com/onlineJoin.php>

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

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

Board of Directors

President	Barry Michie
Vice President	Charlene Brownson
Recording Secretary	Virginia Beddow
Treasurer	Patrick Gormely
Financial Advisor	Patrick Gormely
Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Beddow
Past President	Judy Regehr
Building and Grounds	Pat Murphy
Computer Support	Patty Wadick
Historian	Darlene Hagen
Kansas Kin	Judy Regehr
KCGS & FGS Representative	Cheryl Lewis
Library	Marilyn Kerkelie
Membership	Charlotte Shawver
Public Relations	Nancy Williams
Publications	Jan Lange

Library Staff

Head Librarian	Marilyn Kerkelie
Acquisitions	Marcia Schuley
Ancestral Chart Recorder	Darlene Hagen
Genealogy Research	Sherry Butler
	Marcia Schuley
Library/CA Scheduler	Wann Towers
Supplies Purchaser	Darlene Hagen
Periodicals	Kay Stith
Periodical Filer	Wilma Harris
Pub Distribution	Dorothy Dickerhoof

Librarians & Computer Assistants

Lynne Addair	Virginia Beddow
Sherry Butler	Dorothy Dickerhoof
Carrie Ellis	Paula Ellis
Dub Gunter	Darlene Hagen
Wilma Harris	Vickie Holverson
Marilyn Kerkelie	Jan Lange
Cheryl Lewis	Carolyn Mayo
Margaret Parker	Ginny Peterson
Marcia Schuley	Joan Smith
Kay Stith	Wann Towers
Doreen Towne	Theresa Wilson

Inside this issue....

President's Letter	4
Family Heirloom Series: by David and Judy Regehr	5
Pvt. Lewis, Co. B. 26 th Regiment, United States Colored Troops, Infantry by Marcia Schuley	6
Lewis/Louis Wallace Exoduster 1835 – 1912 by Nancy Williams	10
New Books at the Research Library by Virginia Beddow	11
A young woman writes home from college in 1941 by Mary Siegle	14
Where Did They Go? A True Story from May Day, Kansas, by Sherry Butler	18
Letters to our most immediate ancestors — our mothers	22
A Tribute to our mothers	23
In Memoriam	25
Surname Index for This Issue	26
100 Years Ago by Sherry Butler	
<i>Kansas Kin</i> Submission Guidelines	Inside back cover

*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

This May 2021 *Kansas Kin* edition continues articles of historical, research, family heirlooms 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.

My what a year this has been. Many of our normal activities have been on indefinite hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but as we approach the end of the pandemic things will slowly come back to the “new normal.” We do however have normal open hours at the RCGS library, following masking and distancing requirements. Also the special 1st Friday special topic workshops for members continue, special webinar research events, and beginners workshops with the University for Man (UFM). Also starting soon are special long-distance workshops from the National Genealogical Society of which the RCGS is a member. In addition, the monthly 3rd Friday morning Round Table at the Bluestem Bistro, Aggieville, open to all is beginning to get off the ground again, initially by ZOOM. Pay attention to the e-mail FYI (For Your Information) notices.

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 plus county cemetery listings. Please check out our website: <http://www.rileycgs.com>.

Wishing you all the best and look forward to supporting your research needs for the rest of this year and beyond.

Barry Michie

President, RCGS



Family Heirloom Series

Cradle from Russia

David Regehr found this cradle in storage on his parents' farm near Inman, Kansas, in the 1960's. He recognized its value and donated it to the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, Kansas, where it is still kept.

The cradle was brought to Kansas in 1879 by David Regehr's great grandparents, Aaron and Maria Willems Fedrau. They brought the cradle when they immigrated to Kansas from South Russia.

The cradle is woven wicker with removable wooden rockers and a wooden base. It measures 16 inches high, 32 1/2 inches long and 23 inches wide.

Mennonites and Mennonite Furniture

Mennonites have spiritual roots in the 16th century Reformation in Europe.

They emerged from a desire to radically separate the congregation of believers from the dictates of the state, through the act of adult baptism. The name 'Mennonite' refers to followers of Menno Simons, a sixteenth century Netherlands priest, who became a leading figure among the Anabaptists for his em-



Cradle made in South Russia and imported to Kansas in 1879

phasis on the congregation and on the doctrine of pacifist Christian witness.*

Dutch Mennonites migrated from the Netherlands to Poland in the 16th century, then further to Russia in the 18th century and then across the ocean to the Plains of North America in the 19th century.

During this time these Mennonites developed a recognizable style of artisan-made furniture. This cradle is a part of this tradition and is included in the book, * *Mennonite Furniture, A Migrant Tradition (1766-1910)* by Reinhild Kauenhoven Janzen and John M. Janzen, Intercourse, Pennsylvania: Good Books, 1991.

David and Judy Regehr

Pvt. Lewis . Co. B. 26th Regiment

United States Colored Troops, Infantry

In researching *The Exodusters of 1879 and Other Early Black Pioneers*, Marcia Schuley and Margaret Parker discovered fourteen Civil War black veterans in Manhattan. One of these veterans was buried without a headstone. The authors sought to remedy that situation. Using historic newspapers, census data from *Ancestry.com* and governmental records, they reconstructed the life of Lewis Wallace to preserve his history. Nancy Williams, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and of Riley County Genealogical Society, undertook the requisition of a military headstone.

For 108 years, Lewis Wallace, a veteran of the Civil War, lay in an unmarked grave in Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan, Kansas. But no longer. In November of 2020, thanks to patriotic volunteers from several agencies, a headstone was placed on Wallace's grave.

Wallace first appeared in Riley County in the 1880 U.S. Census. He was 50, single, born in Mississippi, and lived on Riley Street as a boarder with Martha Coffey. Coffey was a widow, 55, who worked as laundress and was also born in Mississippi. Since the education of slaves was prohibited in the South, they, like the majority of the Exodites, were illiterate.

In the 1885 Kansas State Census, both Coffey and Wallace stated they had 'come to Kansas' from Mississippi. She was born in North Carolina, he in Virginia, both were widowed. They were a part of the mass migration named "The Exodus," which resulted in approximately 20,000 freed slaves, primarily from Louisiana,

Mississippi and Texas, leaving to seek a better future in Kansas. It was on April 24, 1879, that two railroad cars arrived in Manhattan with 104-120 Black refugees.¹ What contributed to this uprising and disruption of their lives?



The era of Reconstruction in the South lasted from 1865 to 1877. During these years, federal troops occupied the states of the former Confederacy to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing Southern states' re-entry into the Union. Though the protection these troops provided to African-Americans was often minimal, it had been better than nothing. President Rutherford B. Hayes ended Reconstruction in 1877 and pulled the U.S. Troops out of the South. This gave the white ruling class of the South free reign to terrorize and oppress freed blacks without interference from the U.S. Army or anyone else. Murders, lynching and other violent crimes against Blacks increased dramatically. It was likely at this point that many African-Americans began to feel that leaving the South forever was their only real chance to begin new lives. Movement to parts further west, such as Kansas, began almost immediately after the end of Reconstruction.²

Kansas held several positives that drew the migrants. Logistic and geographic fac-

...One of these veterans was buried without a headstone. The authors sought to remedy that situation.

tors were one. Kansas could be reached by steamers or trains to St. Louis, then on to Kansas City. The roles of anti-slavery activists like John Brown gave Kansas a respected reputation. And, the work of Benjamin “Pap” Singleton in recruiting freed slaves to Kansas, especially from Tennessee, was recognized from his many posters and articles. However, hopes for Homestead land and ‘forty acres and a mule,’ were only myths at this time. All the good free land had been taken and there were no Federal subsidies. While some migrants had savings, most had little to nothing.

In April of 1879, 1,000 destitute African-Americans arrived in Wyandotte City (present-day Kansas City, Kansas, then population 4,612). Governor St. John prevailed upon the owner of the Kansas Pacific railroad, Jay Gould, to transport them across the state. In Manhattan an executive committee, with Mayor Pipher as Chair, and Dr. E.L. Patee, Secretary, agreed that the migrants “have fled from their Egypt [sic] of bondage and oppression into the land they have been taught to believe is the Canaan of freedom. They should be given the chance to earn the birthright of every American citizen.”³ Lewis Wallace stepped up to the rights of a citizen, while contributing to his community.

For former soldiers, the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) was a welcoming organization and an unsegregated one. Wallace is listed as one of those veterans examined for a pension in 1891. He is on the roll of Lew Grove Post No 100 G.A.R. on December 32, 1892 (*Ancestry.com*) and is active in the G. A.R Memorial Day services up to 1911.⁴ The G.A.R. initiated this event in 1883, then called Decoration Day. It involved a march by G.A.R. members up Poyntz to Sunset Cemetery, ac-

For 108 years, Lewis Wallace, a veteran of the Civil War, lay in an unmarked grave in Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan, Kansas. But no longer.

companied by fife and drum, and many patriotic speeches.⁵

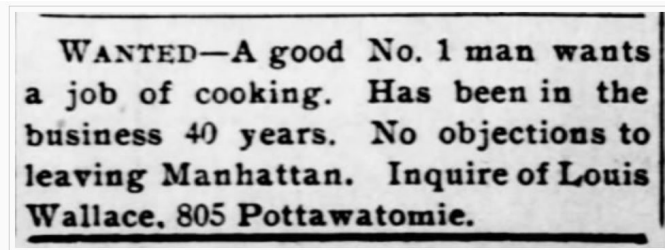
Lewis Wallace was a member of the Republican Party...the party of Lincoln. In 1897, he was a representative to the Republican county convention in Manhattan from the Fourth Ward, the predominately black neighborhood south of Poyntz.⁶ He was also active in the Mount Zion Baptist church. When the church divided into two groups and disputed the use of the church building, a fight ensued and Louis Wallace, “who had only one tooth” lost it in the battle.⁷ He was fined three dollars for inflicting injury on a member of the opposite group, while defending his side’s right.

Wallace’s integrity and courage was attested to in the local news. “Mrs. Laura Booker writes from Miss. to Lewis Wallace (after Martha Coffee’s death) expressing her satisfaction with his action in reference to his care of the Martha Coffee Property.”⁸ In 1909, the *Manhattan Mercury* reported that Lewis Wallace was passing the house of Andrew Lewis when he saw smoke pouring out. Wallace rallied the neighbors and they managed to put out the fire. “Had not Wallace passed by when he did, Uncle Andy would probably be homeless today.”⁹

Wallace is listed as a ‘laborer’ in the censuses of 1880, 1885, 1900, 1905 and 1910, as recorded in *Ancestry.com*. But as his health failed, he tried to return to his earlier occupation and placed an ad in the August 27, 1911 *Manhattan Nationalist*.

Continued on next page.

Apparently he had no results for on Octo-



WANTED—A good No. 1 man wants a job of cooking. Has been in the business 40 years. No objections to leaving Manhattan. Inquire of Louis Wallace, 805 Pottawatomie.

ber 31 of 1911, the *Nationalist* carried a listing for the sale of his personal goods, providing a poignant picture of the man's plight.

From this date, Wallace is seen on the



For Sale—On account of failing health I will sell cheap my heavy gold-plated Elgin watch, a large family Bible good as new, cost \$12, a gasoline 2-hole stove in good order, 1 12-inch pallet knife, confectionery tools, ornamenting tubes and syringe, a cake design book with 12 ornamenting icing tubes, nickel-plated. Inquire of Louis Wallace, 805 Pottawatomie St.

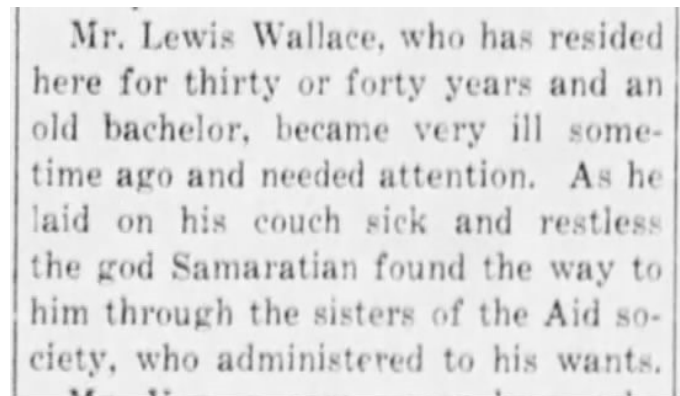
pauper lists appearing in the newspapers, including *The Manhattan Republic* on 19 January of 1911 where he is listed with others receiving goods from the Higgenbotham store.

Wallace purchased the home of Martha Coffee, Lot 234 in Ward 5, in 1899, (*Mercury*, Sept 20, 1899) and owned it free of a mortgage up to the 1910 census. In this census, he is listed on "Elpers Street", which is actually El Paso Street.

In the April 27, 1911 issue of the *Manhattan Republic*, an unusual story was told. It seems that a mysterious stranger came to Manhattan and asked the deputy coun-

ty clerk if there was someone in town who needed assistance. The clerk thought first of Louis Wallace and described him this way: "a colored man who served in the war and received a pension up to the Cleveland administration, when, through a technicality, he was deprived of his aid; as his health is exceedingly poor he has to depend a good deal on outside assistance for his living." The clerk gave the man Mr. Wallace's address but he thought it was too far and instead asked the clerk to give Mr. Wallace the \$5 he handed to him. No one ever determined who this Good Sanitarian was.¹⁰

The regard in which Wallace was held is shown in the response of the Women's Aid society to his illness. Correspondents in Manhattan provided articles to the *Afro-American Paper* in Topeka.¹¹



Mr. Lewis Wallace, who has resided here for thirty or forty years and an old bachelor, became very ill sometime ago and needed attention. As he laid on his couch sick and restless the good Samaritan found the way to him through the sisters of the Aid society, who administered to his wants.

At the time of his illness, Wallace was living at 820 Pottawatomie Street. An address search on the 1912 Manhattan newspapers revealed that the property was owned by the Cruise family. Tom Cruise, wife and two sons had come on the train from Mississippi April 24, 1879.¹² It is assumed that Wallace did the same. They shared the same church, GAR and political memberships as well as a lifetime friendship.

Although Wallace was listed as a 'pauper,' the Sexton of Sunset Cemetery

in Manhattan verified that his plot was paid for by the City and he was not buried in the pauper plot. Headstones for veterans in private cemeteries were available at no cost from 1873¹³ but somehow, no request was placed for Lewis Wallace. That is no longer the case and Wallace's service is now recognized by his Union headstone.

Louis Wallace, an aged negro, died Saturday of heart trouble at 822 Yuma street. Deceased was an ex-slave and well known in this county, where he had resided for a number of years. He leaves no known relatives.

By Marcia Schuley



Riley County Genealogical Society researchers Marcia Schuley and Nancy Williams standing by the new headstone for Louis Wallace in Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan, Kansas.

Endnotes

- ¹The Industrialist, Manhattan, Kansas, April 26, 1879
- ²Arrington, Todd. Homestead National Monument of America, "Exdusters," <https://www.nps.gov/home/learn/historyculture/Exoduster.htm>.
- ³The Manhattan Nationalist, Manhattan, Kansas, May 2, 1879.
- ⁴The Manhattan Enterprise, Manhattan, Kansas, May 25, 1911.
- ⁵The Manhattan Republic, Manhattan, Kansas, June 1, 1883.
- ⁶The Manhattan Republic, Manhattan, Kansas, July 16, 1897
- ⁷The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, Kansas, June 10, 1908.
- ⁸The Manhattan Nationalist, Manhattan, Kansas, April 10, 1891.
- ⁹The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, Kansas, 26 August, 1909.
- ¹⁰Schuley, Marcia and Parker, Margaret. *The Exodusters of 1879 and other Black Pioneers of Riley County, Kansas*. Manhattan, Kansas: Riley County Genealogical Society. Page 113.
- ¹¹The Topeka Plaindealer, Topeka, Kansas, 10 May 1912
- ¹²The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, Kansas, April 24, 1929.
- ¹³The National Archives "Headstones Provided for Union Civil War Veterans" (<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/union/veteran-headstones.html>)



Lewis Wallace enlisted in the Army during the Civil War in the summer of 1864 as a private in Co. B, 26th U.S. Colored Troops Infantry and was discharged at the end of the war in 1865.

Lewis/Louis Wallace Exoduster 1835 – 1912

By Nancy Williams

Lewis Wallace was born in Virginia in 1835. He enlisted in the Army during the Civil War in the summer of 1864 as a private in Co. B, 26th U.S. Colored Troops Infantry and was discharged at the end of the war in 1865. He was considered an “Exoduster.” A former slave whose home was in Mississippi and came to Kansas and settled in Manhattan by the 1880 census. More than likely, he came with a group of Afro Americans from Louisiana and Mississippi including the Cruise, Woods, Hickman, Mitchell and Coffey families along with others. Lewis lived with Martha Coffey as a boarder for over five years, until he was able to have his own place, 822 Yuma Street. Lewis was a religious man and was well liked by the community, per newspaper articles. He barely made ends meet, but the merchants and members of the Manhattan community hired his help in many ways. They were pleased with this work. He never married and his parentage is unknown. He became a member of the Lew Gove Post No. 100 G.A.R. on December 31, 1892. He passed on June 6, 1912 of heart trouble and is buried in Sunset Cemetery. He was buried as a pauper and the cost was absorbed by the city of Manhattan. No headstone was obtained at the time of burial for reasons unknown.

The Riley County Genealogical Society published *The Exodusters of 1879 and Other Black Pioneers of Riley County, Kansas, 2019*, Authors Marcia Schuley and Margaret Parker. In this book is an article about Lewis Wallace and other black Civil War Veterans and with further research, a

The headstone for Lewis Wallace was placed in Sunset Cemetery in late October 2020.

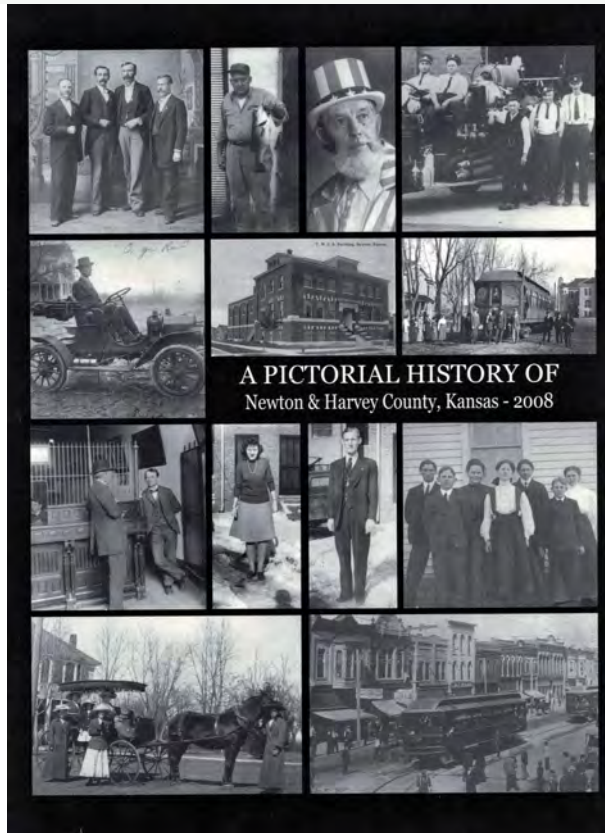
headstone had not been placed at Mr. Wallace’s grave. With research, the other Civil War veterans had headstones at their place of burial at Sunset Cemetery. Ms. Schuley and Ms. Parker contacted a member of the Polly Ogden Chapter, NSDAR, for assistance in obtaining a headstone from the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. for Mr. Wallace. In order to complete the paperwork needed for the headstone, additional research was obtained from a local historian and the Polly Ogden Chapter member for proof of his service during the Civil War.

His volunteer enlistment papers were found, service records were obtained, Post records were obtained, his medical records during the Civil War and discharge paperwork. His Lew Gove Post #100 membership was listed in 1891 and 1892. Census records show Mr. Wallace in Manhattan during 1880 and census years following until 1910. With all records complete and signatures obtained from a local American Legion member, Dave Fisher and Manhattan Cemetery Sexton, this Claim for Standard Government Headstone was completed and faxed to the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. on August 31, 2020.

The headstone was placed by Mr. Michael C. Mohler, Cemetery Sexton, City of Manhattan Parks and Recreation in late October 2020. (See cover photo.)

New Books at the Research Library

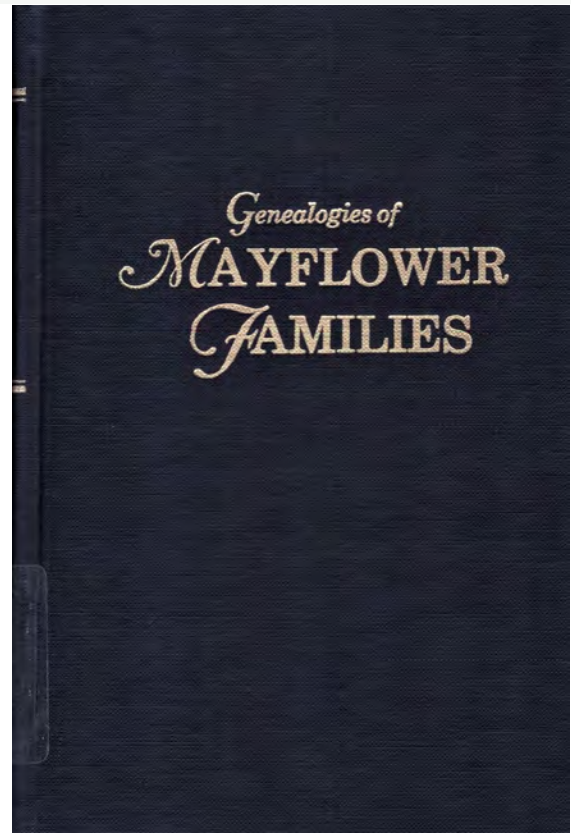
By Virginia Beddow



A Pictorial History of Newton & Harvey County, Kansas – 2008. Compiled by Kenneth Knepper and Carolyn Hatting. Marceline, Missouri: D Books Publishing, Inc. 2008.

This book was a special project made by the newspaper, *The Newton Kansan*. The primary purpose was to preserve old photographs that might otherwise have been lost. Staff members examined hundreds of photographs to select pictures that represented Newton's rich heritage. Captions were written from information supplied by the owners of the photographs.

This ninety-six page book includes a one-page historical introduction.

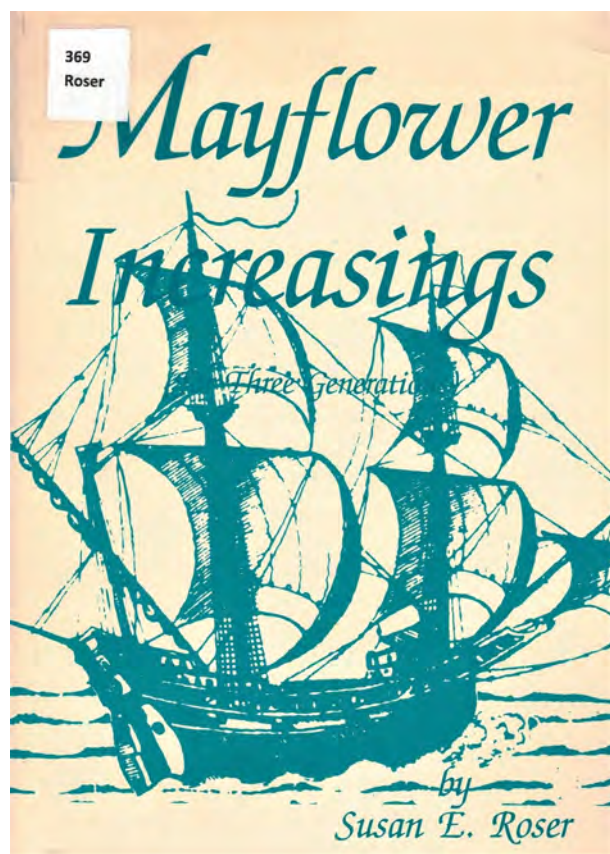


Genealogies of Mayflower Families From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol II, Gibbs – Parker. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1985.

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register is the flagship journal of American genealogy and the oldest in the field, focusing on authoritative compiled genealogies. The genealogies in this volume were selected and introduced by Gary Boyd Roberts.

Robert's three volumes contain all *Mayflower-related* compiled genealogies and notes published in the *Register* through 1983. Twenty of the twenty-three Mayflower sires are represented by articles on their English origin, life, children, or agnate progeny. This book is indexed.

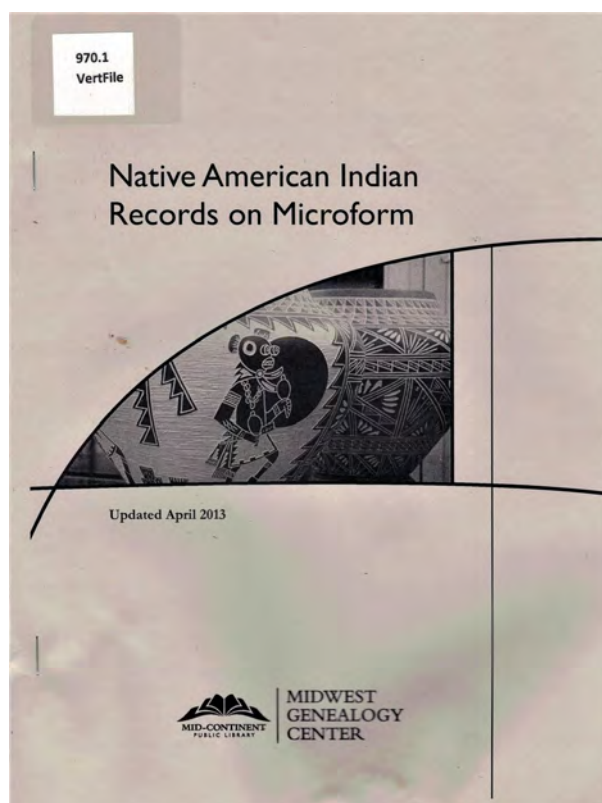
New Books, continued



Mayflower Increasing: Three Generations. Susan E. Roser. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1989.

In her preface, the author writes, “this present work is an attempt to revise and expand the Landis book, to provide an accurate and reliable summary of all that is presently known about the passengers of the Mayflower for the first three generations in America—names, dates, places, spouses, children, etc. While each and every name and date included in the work does not have a source citation, as was originally intended, the 1,700 citations that are provided will hopefully lay a solid foundation for the families presently lacking documentation.”

The families are arranged alphabetically. This 159 page book includes a spouse index.



Native American Indian Records on Microform. Updated April 2013. Independence: Midwest Genealogy Center, Mid-Continent Public Library.

This listing of titles is organized by tribes and provides the film cabinet number and roll number of microfilms available on interlibrary loan from Mid-Continent Public Library.

Additions to the Family History Collection

The Family of Frank Elias Simons and Jessie Eugenia Parker, Who Were Married in the Elbow Community of Blue Township in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, and Their Descendants and the Family of Frank Simon's Father Seth R. Simons and Louisa Hunt and of Louisa Hunt Simons and Her Second Husband

Family History Collection, continued

John Davis. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

This 70 page book includes an index of the descendants of Louisa Hunt, Seth R. Simons Senior, Louisa Hunt Simons, and John Davis to this narrative.

Ratliff, Mallon, Boller Family in the Kansas Flint Hills: Ogden, Manhattan and Ft. Riley, 1857-1985. Edwin Michael Rosser. Submitted 2021.

Rosser assembled facts and events to tell the story of these pioneer homesteaders, their children, and the historical context. The notebook is organized into five chapters, with the first chapter containing the family genealogy and narrative. Included in the other four chapters are newspaper clippings, research correspondence, documents, Platt maps, photographs, and explanatory articles. There is no index.

Boller Mallon Family Records, 1729-2016. Notebook of research into Boller family.

New Indexes to Newspapers

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in the St. Marys Star Valley Ho! During the Period of 1 January 1976 Thru 30 June 1977 at St. Marys, Pottawatomie County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in the St. Marys Star During the Period of 5 April 1973 Thru 26 June 1975 at St. Marys, Pottawatomie County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury Chronicle During the Period of 2 May 1954 Thru 18 November 1954 at Manhattan, Riley

County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 2 January 1973 Thru 31 May 1973 at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 November 1973 Thru 31 March 1974 at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 June 1973 Thru 31 October 1973 at Manhattan, Riley County Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 23 March 1960 Thru 30 September 1960 at Manhattan, Riley County Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 September 1959 Thru 22 March 1960 at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 2 October 1960 Thru 30 June 1961 at Manhattan, Riley County Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 January 1963 Thru 30 June 1963 at Manhattan, Riley County Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Continued on page 25

A Young Woman Writes Home from College in 1941

By Mary Siegle

My mother, Mary Ann Montgomery, (later, McCoy) was a sophomore at Kansas State College when the United States entered World War II. The rest of her college career was at a K-State impacted by the war—as was every part of American society at that time. Although not to the extreme extent experienced last spring (the complete emptying of the campus *due to Covid*), worldwide crises and conflict transformed the College in ways that, looking back, we see responded to the needs of the times, as now.

Wartime Kansas State is front and center in the 1944 Royal Purple yearbook she edited. With the enlistment or draft of so many male students, regular enrollment was severely reduced. In their place, men who were enrolled in Army Specialized Training (A.S.T.) platoons and the Army Air Force (A.A.F.) took over Van Zile Hall (normally a women's dorm) and fraternity houses. Many student activities were reduced or cut with budgets a fraction of what they had previously been. Mary Ann sat on the Apportionments Board, and her own Royal Purple was allotted less than half of the student activity fees the yearbook had received the previous year. Those reduced dollars were supplemented by including pictures of the A.S.T. and A.A.F. platoons and individual pictures of any military man willing to pay \$1.00. They also sold them copies of the yearbook for \$4.08, with a free 7x10 copy of the platoon photograph to anyone buying the book.

By her senior year, the military presence on campus was the “new normal” for Mary Ann and her fellow co-ed students, who had matured into that wartime setting, but in December of 1941, she was just 19 years old, living in the Pi Beta Phi house, when she wrote the following letter—to her parents and younger sister, Tess (sometimes affectionately called “Ted”) in Salina the day after war was declared.

Transcript of the letter:

Mon. afternoon

Dec 8—1941

Dear family,

Well, we're in a WAR! We just heard it officially declared. Doesn't that word just send shivers down your spine? Up until now somehow the war has seemed like something very remote and only to be studied about in Current History class. But sud-

denly, here it is and we're right in the midst of it here. Army trucks went by here very early this a.m. on their way to Fort Riley. Half the boys in school want to quit and go join the army or navy. I'm surely getting tired of hearing bulletins and yet I've never been so glad before to have my radio. I wouldn't turn it off for anything. This is my afternoon off from school, so I'm just doing little things that can be interrupted when there is another bulletin.

Do you think that we'll really be in the midst of it here in the middle of the country? Most people don't think so, but I bet they'll build munitions factories and other big defense works here since it is in the middle. Then this'll be the place they'd want to bomb if the country is invaded.

I don't know how anyone's going to study with all this going on. Maybe it's just war hysteria, but this campus is certainly disrupted. Who would have thought that we'd be in war for Christmas? Everyone kept saying that it was a crisis, but certainly didn't think a thing like war would happen so suddenly. Did it all go so quick in the last war? Joan Schmidt, here at the house, just got back from California a week or two ago where she said good-bye to her brother who graduated from here last year. He's now on his way to Hawaii, and is she worried! Do you suppose that this will cancel Auntie Ann's Christmas visit?

Please save the papers about all this. I have one from when England first went to war and I think it

Mon. afternoon
Dec 8 - 1941

MARY ANN MONTGOMERY
PI BETA PHI HOUSE
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Dear family,
Well, we're in a WAR!
We just heard it officially
declared. Doesn't that sound
just send shivers down your
spine? Up until now, somehow
the war has seemed like
something very remote and
only to be studied about in
Current History class. But
suddenly, here it is and we're
right in the midst of it here.
An army truck went by here very
early this a.m. on their way to
Fort Riley. Half the boys in
school want to quit and go
join the army or navy. I'm
surely getting tired of hearing
bulletins and yet I'm never been
so glad before to have my radio.
I would not turn it off for any-
thing. This is my afternoon
from school, so I'm just doing
little things that can be
interrupted when there is a
Bulletin.

Do you think that we'll
really be in the midst of it here
in the middle of the country?

Letter from Mary Ann Montgomery to her family in 1941 — written the day after World War II started. (See transcript of entire letter.)

would be a good idea to save one or two about this.

(I guess I'll have to use another sheet as I have lots more to say.)

Letter continued from previous page

Last night about 15 of us went to the dinner for those with "B" averages at the nine weeks period. Mrs. Packer had a very nice dinner for us. She also had invited Mrs. Farrell, Dean Moore, Mrs. Torrey, Miss Knittle and Mrs. Holton who is a very active alumna, wife of Dean Holton, dean of summer school. She's a swell lady, too. Afterward, we all sat around and read an "Extra" about the war and discussed such things as rising food prices and whether or not it was a good idea for Bill Packer to join the army right away. I assure you that it was a very intellectual conversation.

This a.m. I got up at a quarter 'til six and went to six thirty Mass.

My dress (or the one that may be mine) hasn't come yet but will probably come this afternoon. I can hardly wait to see it. Thanks for the letters. No, I won't keep the dress unless I really like it.

Ted, the little doll was just 50 cents. I'll bring it when I come home in 2 wks.

Have you got our flag out? They're telling everyone to fly the flag today, but we don't have one or don't have a place to hang it.

It's all very exciting and I feel awfully patriotic, but isn't it scary?

Love,

MA.

Army Men

Do You Want Your Picture in the Kansas State Yearbook?

The yearbook staff would like to include a picture of each soldier stationed at Kansas State College in the 1944 Royal Purple. Here is a plan for your consideration.

1. We would like to take group pictures of the entire unit in groups of about sixty each. These would be studio pictures similar to the ones shown on page 125 of last year's book. The Royal Purple will pay the photographer for the photograph.
2. We would like to include as many pictures as finance will allow of your activities, such as intramural teams, social events, classroom scenes, dining hall, barracks, and campus views showing men in uniforms.
3. Any soldier can purchase a copy of the book for self or parents for \$4.08, sales tax included. Each man buying a book will be given free of charge one 7x10 photograph of the group in which his picture appears.
4. Individual pictures in class section, if desired, (see pages 241 to 319) are \$1.00 if taken before Nov. 1, after that date \$1.25. The Studio Royal will be open Sunday mornings to take class pictures of service men.

1944

Royal Purple

Phone
3272

Office
105 Kedzie

Clipping from Mary Ann Montgomery's scrapbook showing a way to raise money for the *Royal Purple* and perform a service for Army Men. Royal Purple, 1944.

Eisenhower O. K.'s \$18,200 Allotment

Student Fees Drop \$25,800;
Fund Goes to 11 Organizations;
Athletics Get 49 Percent

By Margaret Reissig

President Eisenhower has approved the action of the Apportionment Board in allotting \$18,200 from the students' activities fees for the use of 11 Kansas State activities during the 1943-44 school year. Because of the decrease in enrolment this fall, the allotment dropped \$25,800 from the apportionments made last year which amounted to \$44,000.

Forty-eight percent goes to athletics taking \$8,736 of the total. Last year this department was given \$21,600 with only a one percent increase over this year.

Student Publications were next on the list drawn up by the Apportionment Board. The two school publications, the Royal Purple and The Collegian will receive \$3,896.80 and \$1,042.86 re-

spectively. Although the Board allotted the Royal Purple an increase to 32.4 percent, the yearbook received \$12,230 last year which is more than double the amount being given this year. The Collegian will use 5.73 percent of the total; last year \$1,830 was given to the newspaper.

Student members of the Board are Charles Jakowatz, president, Mary Ann Montgomery, and Roy Milleret, Prof. R. I. Throckmorton, of the agronomy department and Prof. H. W. Davis, head of the English department are fac-

ulty members of the Board.

May Cut 20 Percent

The allotment for this academic year was approved subject to a possible reduction of as much as 20 percent on or before February 15, 1944. Because of the possibility of further reduction in enrolment, a restriction has been placed on the expenditures before the above date, limiting activities to 80 percent of their allotments. This will permit the Board to reduce the appropriations if the student activity fund receipts for the second semester do not meet expectations.

Any student paying the activity fee for one semester of the present college year and not attending Kansas State the other semester may obtain the 1944 Royal Purple by paying an additional \$2 plus tax, the President announced in a letter to Charles Jakowatz, president of the Apportionment Board.

Manhattan Theatre took fourth place in the list with 2.72 percent or \$495.04, a reduction of \$859.96 over last year. Band and Orchestra dropped from the 1942-43 figure of \$1,550 to \$445.90 or 2.45 percent.

Activities Dropped

Several activities were dropped from the list, Judging Teams including the crop, livestock and meats dairy and dairy products teams; Engineers' Open House; and the rifle team. These groups received \$1,685 last year.

The activities as listed and approved by the President are:

Activity	Pct.	Est. Amt.
Athletics	48.00	\$8736.00
Royal Purple	32.40	5896.80
Band & Orch.	2.45	445.90
Student Gov. Assn.	2.47	449.54
Student Celebrity Series	2.136	388.76
Manhattan Theatre	2.72	495.04
Collegian	5.73	1042.86
Debate & Oratory	.822	149.60
Home Ec Hospital-ity Days	1.35	245.70
Accounting	1.10	200.20
Publicity Fund	.822	149.60
	100.00	\$18,200.00

Below - Roy Milleret, Mary Ann Montgomery, Charles Jakowatz, H. W. Davis



Page from Mary Ann Montgomery's scrapbook showing a newspaper clipping with her sitting on the K-State Apportionments Board during World War II. Note the budget cuts as student fees drop due to the war. Pictured are Roy Milleret, Mary Ann Montgomery, Charles Jakowatz and Prof. H. W. Davis.

Where Did They Go?

A True Story from May Day, Kansas

By Sherry Butler

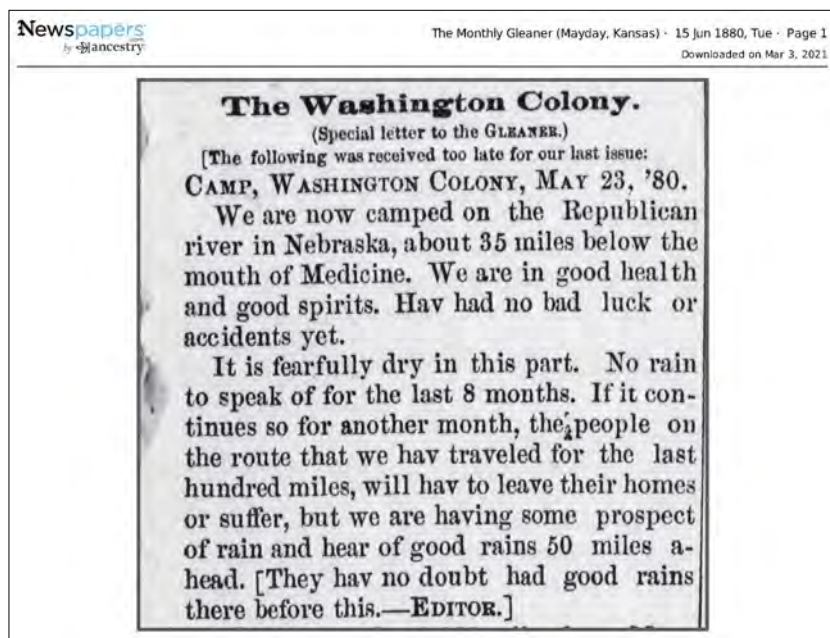
Reading a newspaper clipping, while answering a research request for RCGS, caught my attention. I will explain.

A lady requested items via our website for the surname Keech. This one caught my eye. It was

taken from member Sy Ekart's, many compilations. It appeared in *Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items printed in the News Gleaner at May Day, Riley County, Kansas during the Period of 1 June 1880 Thru 26 November 1880*. I located the following names, in the 15 June paper, on page four:

J.L. Brown went with the Washington Colony. S.H. Brown went with the Washington Colony. Chelsey <sic> Sharp went with the Washington Colony. D. Keech went with the Washington Colony. John Shoaf went with the Washington Colony. John Fordyce went with the Washington Colony.

Who were these men? I had never seen an article citing a group of men, heading to the Washington Colony. The first step was to determine, when the Washington Territory was formed, and when it became a



state. To my surprise, early on this territory took in the northerly portion of present-day Oregon, all of Idaho as we know it, some of both Montana and Wyoming. However, by the time these Kansas men were off to the

“colony”, it only encompassed the area we know today as the state of Washington.

My next step was to utilize the subscription site, *Newspapers.com*, which has become one of my “go to” steps in doing research. A search for “Washington Colony and 1880 in Kansas” newspapers surprised me. An article in the *Kansas Daily Tribune*, published in Lawrence, Kansas, 16 Mar 1880, mentioned the man to contact for information on the Washington Colony. “W.M. Miley, began working up the Washington Colony idea in December 1879, and had filed articles of incorporation”. There were offices in Topeka, Atchison, Lawrence, and Leavenworth. Many more details can be found this way.

After emailing our society's client, and sharing bits of information on this find, she mentioned Mrs. Keech, the wife of a D. Keech, was living with her children in

Cheyenne, Laramie County Wyoming, in the 1880 Census. However, this family was also enumerated in the 1880 Census for Riley County Kansas. All these dates seemed to be conflicting. My next find was in the 1880 Census for the Wyoming location. The other five citizens of Riley County appeared on another page, in succession, as if the enumerator visited one and down the way was the next, etc. Or was it possible, the census taker thought it good to go ahead and list them even though the date was after the census should be completed? Might they be trying to inflate the number of citizens in their fair city? We may not ever learn the answers to these questions.

I will give you a brief sketch of the travelers who left most likely about early May. It took a while for news to reach the newspapers and often, an item contributed would have a date two weeks or more prior to publishing.

J.L. Brown, Dr. Joseph Leonidas Brown

The Laramie County Wyoming, census record of 1880, page 63, listed J.L. Brown, a physician, and his family. From these names I located a tree on Ancestry.com, matching the names. He was Dr. Joseph Leonidas Brown, born in 1828, Springfield, Illinois. He married Mary Do-cia Adams in Bates County MO in 1859. From the birthplaces of their five known children, we can ascertain the couple lived for about four years in Nebraska, then briefly in Missouri and their last two children were born in Kansas, likely Riley County. Later I located a Territorial Census for Thurston, WA Terr. There he was a physician. Their three youngest children resided with them. Both Dr. Brown and wife died in Delphi, Thurston County and were buried there. His death occurred in October 1910.

Who were these men? I had never seen an article citing a group of men, heading to the Washington Colony.

S.H. Brown, Sidney Hampton Brown

S.H. Brown and family were in the 1880 Census, on page 63 also. Hours were spent attempting to follow this family. Only after doing a census search for all the named children from 1880, was I successful in locating his tree on Ancestry. Sidney Hampton Brown was born in October 1843, Saline, Saline County IL, the son of Samuel and Sarah Brown. He was a Civil War soldier, entering with an Iowa County. Sidney married Rebecca Pe-thoud, 1871, Gage County NE. They were parents of a large family, the first four, all boys, were born in Kansas.

After the journey to Cheyenne, and enumerated with the rest of the Washington Colony, they moved on to the state of Washington. In 1900 census, they were in Block Lake, Thurston County where they appear to have remained until their deaths. Sidney "Tib" Hampton Brown died in 1914, Waddell Creek, WA and his wife passed away there in 1923. Both are buried in Union Cemetery, Tumwater, WA, along with some of their offspring.

John Fordyce/ Fordice

Based on the 1880 Territorial Wyoming record, John may have been born about 1855, Ohio. He was listed with his parents, Daniel and Margaret Fordice in Cheyenne, as well as his wife and two small sons, Oscar and T. Elmer. The boys

Continued on next page

We are now about 180 miles from May-Day and will reach fort Mcpherson, on Cottonwood in about 4 days.

I do not know the exact strength of our party at this time as we hav had quite a number join us since we left Clifton and hav not had any official report. There is quite a number gathered at Kearney and other points that will meet us at Cottonwood.

We are moving under strict military orders and expect to be able to take care of our selves. More anon. J.L.BROWN, M.D.

were born in Kansas between 1876 and 1878. Another Ancestry tree agrees with this information, and lists John and wife Emma's seven children. They do use the Fordyce spelling. We learn they may have moved to Oregon as early as 1881. It appears his parents either preceded John or followed him to OR. The last children were born in WA. This "traveling man" by 1930 was living in Beverly Hills, CA with a son. In 1935, he died in Mendocino, CA, but was buried in Puyallup, WA.

D. Keech, Dorr Keech

The following biographical information was contributed by Keech descendant, Julie Wychor. It was she that ordered research through our society, which prompted this article. I thank her for sharing the following.

Dorr was born to Daniel T. and Eliza King Keech, 28 May 1851, in Wayne Township, Erie County Pennsylvania. He was the second born, and second of three sons, and had four sisters. The Keech family had land in Harbor Creek, Erie County prior to them leaving for Kansas.

Dorr's sister, Nettie Keech at 17, kept a diary in 1872, where she wrote they traveled by train from PA to at least Missouri, leaving PA 1 April 1872. Based on her di-

ary, she feels Dorr may have remained in PA briefly to work. Nettie said Daniel and Eliza, her parents, went on ahead to May Day, Kansas with the children joining them later. Daniel, Dorr's father, place a complaint in the *Manhattan Nationalist* newspaper dated 17 May 1872, "against Class Barq <sic>, for abandoning his homestead, and dated 22 April 1872".

Dorr's father Daniel disappeared between 1873 and 1875, so Dorr

helped his mother and siblings work her homestead claim. We find Eliza Keech, Dorr, and his younger siblings in the Cheyenne 1880 Census, on page 21. Oddly, they are also indexed on the 1880 US Census in Fancy Creek Township, Riley County Kansas.

The *Riley Independent* newspaper, Riley, Kansas of 13 May 1880 stated "Mrs. E. Keech and family have started for Washington Territory". Around the same time Dorr also went to the Pacific Coast with the Washington Colony. The *Manhattan Mercury* newspaper of 26 August 1885, stated "Dorr returned to Riley Co". In 1910 Census he was living in Saratoga, Carbon County Wyoming and working as a prospector. A 1921 land record for a tract in Carbon County appears in the GLO records. He was in the 1930 Census, Saratoga, Carbon County Wyoming, living in a boarding house, listed as a servant/boarder, but listed his occupation as a cook for a hotel. He was single and 70 years of age. A death certificate on Ancestry.com, for "Don <sic> Keech", age 87 years, died 21 September 1938, Saratoga, Wyoming.

William Chesley Sharp, aka Chesley Sharp

The book by RCGS, *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*, containing the biographical sketch of the Lemarr/Lemars, named Chesley as the husband of their daughter Elizabeth Catherine, who was born in 1835, Platte City, MO. Since her parents, Thomas and Nancy Lemar homesteaded “near the headwaters of Fancy Creek”, we can see what drew Chesley to this area.

From census records this man was born about 1855, in Tennessee. Later records dispute his age, stating his 1841 birth. After his marriage in 1868, I have noted from birthplaces of their children, they lived briefly in NE and Kansas before he was listed leaving with the Washington Colony.

An Ancestry tree lists several children born in Kansas with three being infants who died and were buried in Marshall County Kansas. In the CO 1880 Census, a daughter, age 10 and son, age 2, are living in their household, both born in NE. A possible relative, Thomas Lamar resides with them and gives MO as his birthplace.

By 1900 Census, Chesley and family are in Blaine, Bellevue County Idaho, where he and his wife are now using their formal or first names, Wm. C, and Eliz. C. She states she has had 11 children and six were then living. Four children are with

them, three having been born in Idaho. Wm. Chesley Sharp died in 1917 and his wife E. Catherine in 1910. Both are buried in Bellevue Cemetery.

John H. Shoaf

John may have been the only other single man who left with the group reported in the *May Day News Gleaner* of 15 Jun 1880. He managed to make the 1880 Census count in both Riley County and Cheyenne. In May Day, he was living with his parents, Frederick and Christina Shoaf, the eldest of six children.

He may also have been the first to return. I quote from the *Monthly Gleaner*, May Day, Kansas, 24 September 1880, issue which states, “John Shoaf, who left with the Washington Colony in Spring, has returned”.

Among Kansas marriage records online was one for John, who married Lou Kearns, 7 Mar 1889, Washington County Kansas. From the birth dates and places of their eight children, it appears they lived in Oklahoma Territory from 1892 – 1898. Two later births were in Spokane County WA, where they lived, and John farmed about 30 years in Duncan Twp.

Perhaps some of our *Kansas Kin* readers know of others who “went with the Washington Colony. If so, we would enjoy hearing their stories.

A bit of state history: Kansas was already a state in 1880 while Washington was still a colony.

Washington was named a state in 1889. Washington State was originally called "Columbia", but the name was changed to "Washington" in honor of George Washington and to avoid confusion with the nation's capital, the District of Columbia.

Kansas became a state January 29, 1861.

Letters to Our Most Immediate Ancestors — Our Mothers

By Sherry Butler, Judy Regehr, Barry Michie

A Chat with Mom

Mom – over the past year I’ve tried to think of why you never mentioned living through the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918. It was in our hometown of Ashton, Iowa, where it lingered into 1919. You were 15 that year- did you experience the loss of a friend, or classmate then? I’ve been curious about your sister, my Aunt Eva. You often told of her being ill for several weeks and her isolating in the upstairs of my grandparent’s home. Here it is, a century later and I am only now trying to put this puzzle together.

2020 and into 2021, Covid has been a challenging time – yet we have so much to be thankful for, modern medicine, and now a vaccine. Since you have been gone, I’m thrilled to tell you both your grandchildren are married, and I’m a grandmother of four now. I am eagerly awaiting a healthier time, so I can see all of them once again. But like you did a century ago, we will overcome.

Sherry

**Wouldn't you love to step
back in time and take a
walk with Your mama?**



Dear Mom,

I wish you could come over this Mother’s Day. I have so much to talk over with you. One thing that has really been on my mind lately is how you dealt with old age. How did you keep going and smiling so long? I really need some pointers.

In the family we have a lot of changes. Jonas is 16 and almost 6 feet tall. He is “into” hiking, climbing and his Ultimate Frisbee team. (I could explain that to you!) I’m so sorry you didn’t get to meet Jonas, your first great-grandson. He arrived just a few days after you left us. Isaac is 14 and is approaching Jonas’s height fast. He loves art and his cats. I wish I could show you his artwork. He eats so much that the family can hardly keep up with the cooking.

Mom, thanks for leading the way for all of us. We still think about you — your energy, your optimism, your ability to beat us all at any table game we chose. (Oh well, Jonas has taken your place at that now). You are still here with us in spirit – and we thank you!

Judy

Hilda Ediger
Voth



Dear Mom:

Lucille Elaine nee Dampier Michie. 1907-1999

We lost you in 1999 and remember you on Mothers Day, birthdays and other events. Your kids want to know if you have been able to be reunited with the mother you loved so very dearly and lost when you were only eleven years old ...a trauma with consequences for the rest of your growing up years into adulthood.

We want to let you know that your start of the family history project in the 1960's to discover "who your people are" continues. You would be very glad to know that following up your search for your earliest

immigrant ancestors has turned up a most interesting ancestress, Cicely (maiden name probably Reynolds). Cicely undoubtedly was a young orphan girl who came to Jamestown from England about 1610 with other relatives. She married and outlived at least four husbands, losing them to Indian raids and illness. She also is known for the first recorded breach of promise suit in the colonies stemming from her breaking off an engagement with the local minister – a suit she won!. Like you, she was quite a self-possessed strong woman, a survivor who would not be pushed around. You would be very proud of her, given your feminist leanings.

Barry

A Tribute to Our Mothers

By Virginia Petersen and Virginia Beddow

By Virginia Petersen

I credit my mother, Jane Dodge Works, for my love of genealogy. Mom was one of 19 Dodge cousins who gathered their families every other year in the 1980-90s for reunions at the Sedalia Community Church north of Manhattan, which their ancestors had helped found and build. Since I lived more than a thousand miles away, it took a number of years before I made it to one of the reunions, but that reunion was the start of my interest in genealogy. We visited the home sites of her grandparents, and afterwards she shared with me a memory book she had compiled. Over the next twenty years we talked often about her family history, as I maintained and grew the Dodge family history and database, but we never revisited those early home sites, nor did I get a good feel for

where they were located.

Her father, W. P. Dodge, was the only grandparent I knew, and while I have fond memories of him coming to live with us in the cold winter months (to escape the wood burning cook stove and outhouse he used the rest of the year) I deeply regret never asking him about his early life. He could have answered many

Cont. on next page

Jane Dodge
Works



A Tribute to Our Mothers

Jane Dodge Works, continued

of my more burning questions regarding things that pre-date my mom, and that she either didn't know about or had forgotten by the time I asked her.

If I could talk to Mom today, I'd ask about some of the information I recently received from the estate of her older brother Bob. His story of how she got her name (after her brother Dick's favorite teacher) and the name her Dad used to call her when she was a newborn both would be topics for a new discussion. His report that she had a date with my dad at K-State, at a much earlier time than I realized, invites a new conversation as well.

I think Mom would be thrilled to learn that I've retired to her home town, and that I've spent a great deal of time researching the early history of her grandparents in the newspapers and land records of both Kansas and Illinois, locating their homes, and pinpointing all the properties they acquired and sold in the mid to late 1800s – prompted by the family story about losing a farm in a bet on a horse race! I would love to share with her some of the information I've gathered, as it fleshes out stories she told – and in some cases changes them.

Mothers are so special, and I am truly blessed that mine gave me the gift of a love of family history!

I think Mom would be thrilled to learn that I've retired to her home town, and that I've spent a great deal of time researching the early history of her grandparents

A Tribute to Our Mothers

By Virginia Beddow

Many of us would use the word "unselfish" to describe our mothers. One unselfish act of my mother ultimately resulted in a ring that I wear.



The diamond ring illustrates the unselfish act of a mother.

"After her death the ring went to my sister Lisa and then upon her death the ring became mine as a daily illustration of Mother's unselfishness." Virginia Beddow.

As a result of a divorce, my mother moved with her mother, Mary Burgess Dill, and younger brother Paul James to the corner of Ninth Street and Third Avenue in Terre Haute, Indiana. Two houses, a large garage, and a gas station were all owned by Orin and Nora Burgess. After Orin's death in 1925 this property provided the secure place to which Orin's daughters and their families "came and went" during the years, especially the depression years.

Mary Burgess Dill worked wherever she could, including census taker in 1930. One job required her to live onsite and her children could visit only on Sunday afternoons.

Miriam found love and strength with her Great Grandmother Newman, Grandmother Burgess, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Shortly after her high school graduation in 1939, she had the opportunity to return the love. For graduation she received from her Grandmother Burgess a family diamond ring--all that her grandmother had to give. When her grandmother became ill, Miriam quickly gave back the ring to cover the medical expenses.

The only reason that I know about her unselfish act occurred during my junior high years when my Great Aunt Ruth Burgess Shook gave Mother eight dia-

Many of us would use the word "unselfish" to describe our mothers. One unselfish act of my mother ultimately resulted in a ring that I wear.

mond chips for my father to make into a ring. When I asked Mother why the chips were given to her instead of one of Ruth's daughters, she explained that her Aunt Ruth wanted to replace what Mother had given up. My parents used one chip for a ring for me and the other seven became the ring for Miriam.

After learning the story, the ring became a tangible symbol of Miriam's unselfishness that she exhibited throughout her life. After her death the ring went to my sister Lisa and then upon her death the ring became mine as a daily illustration of Mother's unselfishness.

In honor of one of our most important ancestors — our mothers — we wish a
Happy Mothers' Day to all living mothers!

New Books. Continued from page 13.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 July 1963 Thru 31 December 1963 at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 January 1964 Thru 30 June 1964 at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and

Other Items Printed in The Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 July 1964 Thru 31 December 1964 at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2020.

In Memoriam

Avis A. Duncan Bidwell

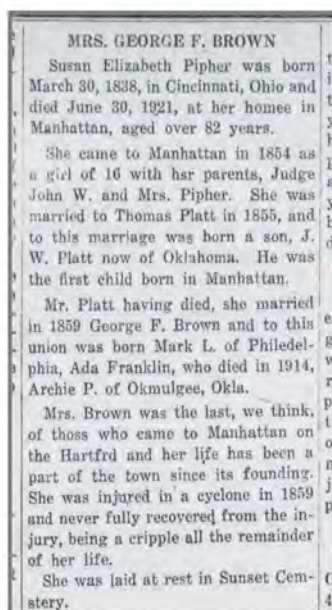
Mabel Goehring

Surname Index for This Issue

Adams, Mary Docia 19
Beddow, Virginia 11, 24
Bidwell, Avis A Duncan 25
Booker, Laura, Mrs. 7
Brown, Mrs. George F. 26
Brown, J L 18
Brown, John 7
Brown, Joseph Leonidas, Dr. 19
Brown, Mary Docia Adams 19
Brown, Rebecca Pethoud 19
Brown, S H 18
Brown, Samuel 19
Brown, Sarah 19
Brown, Sidney Hampton 19
Burgess, Nora 24
Burgess, Orin 24
Burgess, Paul James 24
Burgess, Ruth 25
Butler, Sherry 18, 22
Coffee, Martha 7, 8
Coffey, Martha 6, 10
Cruise, Tom 8
Cruise 10
Dampier, Lucille Elaine 23
Davis, H W 17
Davis, John 13
Dill, Mary Burgess 24, 25

Dodge, Bob 24
Dodge, Jane 23
Dodge, W P 23
Ekart, Sylvester 13, 18
Farrell, Mrs. 16
Fedrau, Aaron 5
Fedrau, Maria Willems 5
Fisher, Dave 10
Fordice, Daniel 19
Fordice, John 19
Fordice, Margaret 19
Fordice, Oscar 19
Fordice, T Elmer 19
Fordyce, Emma 20
Fordyce, John 18, 19, 20
Hickman 10
Holton, Mrs. 16
Hunt, Louisa 12
Goehring, Mabel 25
Jakowatz, Charles 17
Kearns, Lou 21
Keech, D 18
Keech, Daniel T 20
Keech, Dorr 20
Keech, Eliza King 20
Keech, Nettie 20
Knittle, Miss 16
Lemar, Lamar, Thomas 21
Lemar, Lamar, Nancy 21
Lemarr, Lemars, Elizabeth Catherine 21
Lewis, Andrew 7
McCoy, Mary Ann Montgomery 14
Michie, Barry 4, 22

Michie, Lucille Elaine Dampier 23
Miley, W M 18
Milleret, Roy 17
Mitchell 10
Mohler, Michael C 10
Montgomery, Mary Ann 14, 16, 17
Montgomery, Tess 14
Moore, Dean 16
Packer, Mrs. 16
Parker, Jessie Eugenia 12
Parker, Margaret 6, 10
Patee, E L, Dr. 7
Petersen, Virginia 23
Pethoud, Rebecca 19
Pipher 7
Regehr, David 5
Regehr, Isaac 22
Regehr, Jonas 22
Regehr, Judy 5, 22
Reynolds, Cicely 23
Rosser, Edwin Michael 13
Schmidt, Joan 15
Schuley, Marcia 6, 9, 10
Seivert, Eva 22
Sharp, Chelsey 18
Sharp, Chesley 21
Sharp, Elizabeth Catherine Lemarr 21
Sharp, William Chesley 21
Shoaf, Christina 21
Shoaf, Frederick 21
Shoaf, John 18
Shoaf, John H 21
Shoaf, Lou Kearns 21
Shook, Ruth Burgess 25
Siegle, Mary 14
Simons, Frank Elias 12
Simons, Louisa Hunt 12
Simons, Menno 5
Simons, Seth R 12
Singleton, Benjamin "Pap" 7
Torrey, Mrs. 16
Voth, Hilda Ediger 22
Wallace, Lewis, 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Willems, Maria 5
Williams, Nancy 6, 9, 10
Woods 10
Works, Jane Dodge 23



100 Years Ago....

The last person who came to Manhattan on the Hartford died June 20, 1921, Mrs. George F. Brown.

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

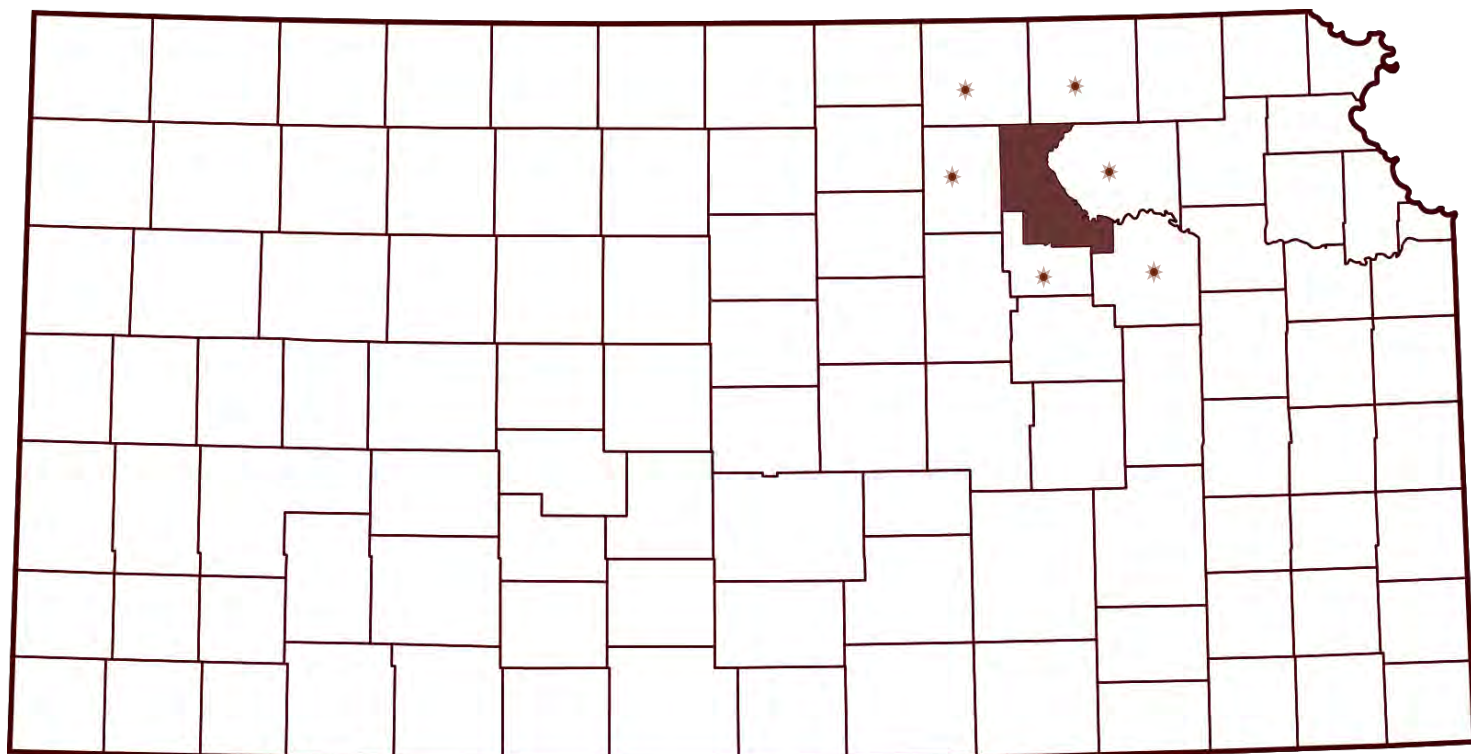




Riley County Genealogical Society
2005 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-3415

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Manhattan, KS
Permit No. 4

Kansas Kin, May 2021, Vol. 59, No. 1



Kansas Kin

A semi-annual publication of Riley County Genealogical Society
November 2021 Vol. 59, No. 2



INQUIRE HERE FOR MISSING PERSONS

**Missing Persons Desk, Emergency Flood Center, Kansas State
Student Union during the Flood of 1951, Manhattan, Kansas**

Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum



Riley County Genealogical Society

2005 Claflin Road

Manhattan, Kansas 66502-3415

Phone: (785) 565-6495

Library Hours:

Tuesday 10:00 pm—4:00 pm

Thursday 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Wednesday and Saturday 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Sunday by Appointment

www.rileycgs.com

info@rileycgs.com

Membership: Membership is open to individuals at all levels of genealogical experience. The membership year is January 1 — December 31. Memberships received after October 1 will get the balance of the year free with a paid membership for the following year. **Dues: \$30 per calendar year.** For a full list of member benefits, go to:

<https://rileycgs.com/about.php>

Click to join or renew online.

<https://rileycgs.com/onlineJoin.php>

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

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

Board of Directors

President	Barry Michie
Vice President	Charlene Brownson
Recording Secretary	Virginia Beddow
Treasurer	Patrick Gormely
Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Beddow
Past President	Judy Regehr
Building and Grounds	Pat Murphy
Computer Support	Patty Wadick
Financial Advisor	Patrick Gormely
Historian	Darlene Hagen
Kansas Kin	Judy Regehr
KCGS & FGS Representative	Joan Smith
Library	Marilyn Kerkelie
Membership	Charlotte Shawver
Public Relations	Nancy Williams
Publications	Jan Lange
FYI	Doreen Towne

Library Staff

Head Librarian	Marilyn Kerkelie
Acquisitions	Marcia Schuley
Ancestral Chart Recorder	Darlene Hagen
Genealogy Research	Sherry Butler
	Marcia Schuley
Library/CA Scheduler	Wann Towers
Supplies Purchaser	Darlene Hagen
Periodicals	Kay Stith
Periodical Filer	Wilma Harris
Pub Distribution	Dorothy Dickerhoof

Librarians & Computer Assistants

Lynne Addair	Virginia Beddow
Sherry Butler	Dorothy Dickerhoof
Carrie Ellis	Paula Ellis
Jeanette Gelroth	Dub Gunter
Darlene Hagen	Wilma Harris
Vickie Holverson	Marilyn Kerkelie
Jan Lange	Cheryl Lewis
Carolyn Mayo	Margaret Parker
GINNY PETERSEN	Marcia Schuley
Joan Smith	Kay Stith
Wann Towers	Doreen Towne
Theresa Wilson	

Inside this issue....

A Special Message from the Editor	4
Family Heirloom Series By Doreen Towne	33
The 1951 Flood in Manhattan Kansas as Seen Through the Eyes of a Young Woman by Mary Siegle	34
The 1951 Flood Affected All of Kansas By Roy Bird	39
Finding A Lost Relative By Sy Ekart	45
New Books at the Research Library By Virginia Beddow	49
A Tribute to Sylvester Ekart, 90th Birthday Wishes to Sy! By Marcia Schuley and Judy Regehr	54
Are you ready for your family Christmas? By Judy Regehr	54
Can MtDNA Tests Be Useful in Genealogy Research? By Judy Regehr	55
In Memoriam	56
Surname Index for This Issue	58
<i>Kansas Kin</i> Submission Guidelines	Inside back cover

*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.*

A Special Message From the Editor

Dear Readers of *Kansas Kin*:

I'd like to thank everybody who has contributed to the production of *Kansas Kin*. We've had some wonderful articles! Thank you, authors! I'd like to extend a special thanks to the *Kansas Kin* Editorial Board, who apply their talents to each issue, with articles and ideas:

- Virginia Beddow
- Sherry Butler
- Barry Michie



Margaret Parker indexes each issue and does a meticulous job of proofreading. Theresa Wilson scans the new book covers and any other visuals that we need. Doreen Towne sends a special copy of the *FYI Bulletin* each time *Kansas Kin* is published. We have received various photos from the Riley County Museum and Historical Society.

Here's where we need your help: What would you like to see in *Kansas Kin*? The Editorial Board of *Kansas Kin*, will be meeting to consider carefully our mission. We will take direction from the 2021 NGS Conference. We'd also like your input. Our stated Mission is:

*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.*

Please send us your ideas: (Send to jvregehr@yahoo.com)

1. How can *Kansas Kin* better facilitate family history research?
2. What kinds of articles are interesting and useful for your genealogical pilgrimage?
3. Would you be willing to contribute an idea or an article for future issues of *Kansas Kin*?

Judy Regehr, Editor

We would like your ideas for *Kansas Kin*!

Family Heirloom Series

As a child I remember playing with this odd-looking contraption that sat in my grandmother's flower garden in Douglass, Butler County, Kansas. It was fun to fill the bowl with dead blooms and spin the wheels as fast as we could, grinding them up into bits. I thought it was a flower "flour" grinder and sometimes that interpretation still comes out of my mouth!

The Enterprise Model No. 12-1/2 coffee mill was one of the most popular coffee mills used for grinding large amounts of coffee. It was manufactured between 1886 and 1898 and stood 42 inches high and had 25-inch diameter wheels and weighed about 140 pounds. The main components were of cast iron, and these mills became a status symbol for general store owners who could afford them.

Many of these mills were painted bright red or green, and some even had gold painted details added to dress them up and give them a fancier appearance. In addition, some had elaborate flower motifs adorning the wheels to make them attractive for women shoppers.

When my dad passed away in 2014, I found the coffee grinder in his hobby shop and was curious about its existence. I already knew that my grandparents, Jim and Viola Dennett had operated a grocery/general store in Gordon, Kansas, in the 20's, and the 1925 Kansas Census showed that they were proprietors of a retail store



The Coffee Grinder served in the Gordon, Kansas, grocery store. It now resides in the Douglass Historical Museum in Douglass, Kansas.

in Walnut Township in Butler County. They served that little community for over 20 years.

The coffee grinder was now in my possession, but what should I do with it? It seemed appropriate to place this treasured item in the local town museum since my grandmother was one of group of women who was instrumental in starting the museum. The bright red coffee grinder now sits proudly in the little general store display at the Douglass Historical Museum in Douglass, Kansas.

Doreen Towne

The 1951 Flood in Manhattan, Kansas, as Seen Through the Eyes of a Young Woman

By Mary Siegle

My mother, Mary Ann Montgomery, whose 1941 letter home from K-State appeared in the last issue of *Kansas Kin*, was married in 1950 to John H. (Jack) McCoy. In July of 1951, at the time of the '51 flood, she was seven months pregnant with her first child (me). At that time, Mary Ann and Jack were living at 1123 Kearney Street—an area of town that was not flooded. On Saturday, July 21, she wrote a letter to her parents in Salina, describing the situation in Manhattan.

She wrote her letter from the house in rural Pottawatomie County where Jack's mother and two of his brothers were living. My cousin, Patty (McCoy) Ruthstrom, told me that house was now underwater--about where the spillway would be now--a mile or so north of where she lived, which is at the intersection of Dyer Road and Rocky Lane. The house where Grandma and Uncles Jim and Cecil were living was safe from the flooding in '51, she said, sitting up on a rise, looking over the Blue River Valley. Getting there from Manhattan on July 15th, Mary Ann and Jack had a much longer drive than usual, due to roads and bridges being closed.

Roads were affected in spots all over the state. Lists of closed roads in editions of the *Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle* from July 1 through 11 showed closures on US and State routes in various directions out of Manhattan. The July 12th issue, at the height of the flood, was two pages produced on the Kansas State College press

as a joint effort of the *Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle*, the *Manhattan Tribune-News*, and the *Kansas State Collegian*.

From page one of that July 12 issue: "Since the Mercury-Chronicle is under water and The Tribune-News has had its power out most of the day, Pres. James A. McCain offered the college press facilities to get out a combined newspaper. Staffs of the three newspapers are cooperating, mechanical staffs of the three papers are setting the type, and the cost is being shared by the three newspapers. Copies are being distributed free to every home that is not under water."

Mary Ann would have particularly appreciated that, having graduated from K-State in 1944 with a degree in journalism, and worked in that field during the years between college and marriage.

In her letter, Mary Ann mentions Jack cutting wheat. That was on farmland just north of present-day Lake Elbo where he and his six brothers grew up, and which he and his brother Don had recently bought in '49 from his grandmother's estate. His "day job" was teaching at K-State. The college played a major role in many aspects of Manhattan's response to the flooding, some of which Mary Ann describes in her letter below.

Following is the letter that Mary Ann Montgomery wrote in 1951 describing the flood in Manhattan, Kansas. Photos to illustrate the flood are from Riley County Historical Society & Museum.

Sat.

Hi —

This is a long overdue letter. We're back out in the country at McCoys temporarily while Jack finishes cutting wheat. Jim & Cecil take turns helping him as all their crops are gone anyway, & Don is on the road again. We couldn't get here because of high water earlier. We first came out here last Sun. eve. They cut Mon. & Tues. — then it rained. So Wed. a.m. we went back to town by a much shorter route than we came by. (Because of closed roads, bridges out etc. it was over 100 miles coming from Manhattan out here!!) By Friday a.m. it had dried sufficiently that we came again — by now only a slightly longer than usual route.

About the flood—it really was awful. On Poyntz (main street) it got as far west as the west end of the City Park—that's almost up to where you turn onto



Poyntz Avenue in Manhattan, Kansas. Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum.



West end of City Park with boats carrying people. Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum.

Poyntz from the highway. It was well over the desk at the Wareham hotel & got into the Gillett—and you know how high that is with all those steps leading up to it. It got as far as 8th or 9th street on most streets south of Poyntz (We're between 11th & 12th.)

The current was so strong that we saw it wash front steps right off from porches. Stuff from stores floated everywhere—especially since all the plate glass fronts were shattered. Quite a lot of houses in the slum end of town were washed clear away.

A fellow stood with a walkie-talkie at 14th & Poyntz & directed boats where to go to rescue folks. They'd

Continued on next page.



Wareham Hotel on Poyntz Avenue. Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum.



Debris from department store floating on Poyntz Avenue. Photo courtesy of Riley Co. Historical Society & Museum.



Evacuee beds in Nichols Gym on K-State campus. Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum.

bring them out by boat as far as the boat would go & then load them by ladder onto a flat trailer pulled by an army truck. The truck took them up to the campus. A couple helicopters rescued numerous business men from tops of downtown buildings. They had stayed a bit too long trying to move records & stock.

The town wouldn't have been nearly so well off without the college. They had evacuees in the stadium, gym, fieldhouse & frat houses—fed them at the cafeteria. For a while KSAC & KSDB fm were all the communication we had. Then college switchboard handled some emergency calls. College power plant supplied all the power the city had for quite a while. College dairy bottled milk for all the city's dairies & college experimental bakery made bread for all the evacuees. Protestant Union services Sunday were in college auditorium. Episcopalians went to Danforth chapel. We had masses in hospital chapel.

Jack went to headquarters to volunteer for flood work several times. Each time they already had enough help. I think evacuees already on campus got there first. We finally did loan our big oscillating fan to telephone co. when they called for fans to

help dry out equipment. We probably won't have phone service for 2 more weeks. Boiling water was a horrible nuisance so we were glad to escape out to the country. Their well here was nowhere near flood-water.

Jack & I have now each had 2 in our series of 3 typhoid shots. About everyone in town is taking them whether or not they were in the water because you can get it from others. For a while they got our city water by pumping water from 3rd Street & running it thru filters.

You should see the downtown area now—it is truly a ghost town. It couldn't look worse if all the stores had been gutted by fire. All glass fronts are gone. You can see clear thru most buildings and there is nothing there but piles of rubble. Everything floated out or jammed up in corners. Refrigerators & deep freezes etc. have been found far away from here. Some things of that nature floating around helped break store fronts, I guess. Many lost all their records—accounts receivable etc. Smelly muck & mud is over everything. Trucks are carting away furniture that looks like kindling, new (?) shoes & clothes etc. that remained in buildings.



Food lines at K-State University Dairy during the flood. Photos courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum.

Many businesses, banks etc have temporary headquarters in with other firms in Aggieville.

Oh, yes, the papers are printing on the College press, too. When we left town Friday of this week there still were 1200 evacuees at the College plus others in private homes.

I have an awful time trying to help around here. Both my mothers are about the same—always saying “Take a nap—sit down & rest—lie down” etc. The old dog Sport is really my pal—follows me around—even watches me take a shower in the

basement.

Got your letter, mommie, while we were at home. Oh, you!! That dollar for the phone call!! What will we do with you? Furthermore it only cost 65¢.

This pencil is getting dull, and I don’t believe there’s a pencil sharpener around. Better quit while I can still address the envelope. Will mail it when we go in to church. We can get in the normal 6 mile route now.

Love, M.A.



Make-shift communications used to direct boats. Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum.



Tribune offices. Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society & Museum.

1951 Flood in Manhattan, Kansas



Waters rose between 4 and 8 feet throughout much of the business district of Manhattan, Kansas, during the summer 1951 flood. Photo courtesy Roy Bird.



The 1951 Flood Affected All of Kansas

By Roy Bird

Kansas in 1951 was in for a dramatic change. Just when it seemed Kansans had seen all there was to see--World War I and the ensuing agricultural boom; the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl; and World War II--Mother Nature had a surprise in store for the whole state. Natural disasters were common to Kansas. Prairie fires, grasshopper plagues, even earthquakes, caused setbacks. But by far the most common events were climate-related. In July 1951 there was a change known historically as the Great Flood of 1951. Those who lived through it just called it the '51 flood.

Spring floods are always a concern in Kansas. Floods are not as frequent in the west. But in 1951, overflowing washes, streams, and major rivers impacted the state from Oakley in the west to Kansas City, from Iola in the southeast to the Nebraska border. Most Kansans think of their own towns when they consider the '51 flood. This is natural because that's what they experienced, or what they had been told by family, friends, and neighbors.

Deep in recorded history was the 1844 Kaw River flood. There was no settlement of Kansas; not a town nor homestead, only a few agencies and missions to the American Indians. Only pioneers traveling in ox-drawn wagons along the Oregon Trail provide information. An account by pioneer James Clyman in June 1844 says the Kansas River flood waters stretched in a lake from bluff to bluff. According to Clyman it was "8 or 10 miles wide" on June 13, 1844.

Other floods occasionally affected Kansas. Often these were on small tributaries, and the broader, deeper channel of the Kaw River could take the overflow within its banks. But the floods of other streams could sometimes lead to overflow of larger rivers. One was in the early 20th century. The 1903 flood was stronger than anything since 1844 and affected more people, property, industries, and transportation than any before or until 1951. There was much more that could be damaged as farmers settled and cities grew. America was rebuilding during a return of drouthy years of the "Dirty 30s." We were at war in Korea. The relative prosperity for farmers of these changes were curtailed by the return of drought. It was hard to imagine floods in the near future.

Prayers for rain rose in 1950 and early 1951. They were answered with what was called the "heaviest and most prolonged rains in all our history." The weather seemed improved in April with early greening fields but there was a preview of coming disaster in western Kansas in May. As far west as Oakley in Logan County, streams overflowed and a couple bridges were swept away by dangerous flash floods and high water. Further east Big Creek in Ellis County had long been a problem as far back as the flood of General Custer's camp at Fort Hays. But

Continued on next page

In July 1951 there was a change known historically as the Great Flood of 1951. Those who lived through it just called it the '51 flood.

the water in May 1951 produced the most damage until then. According to an article by the Kansas Board of Agriculture, "Just a month before the flood, they were optimistic." The article says that as late as June 1951, "There was still no real threat of a flood." Kenneth S. Davis wrote in his book, *River on the Rampage*, "In Manhattan, where the annual precipitation averages 30 inches, 21-28 inches fell in May and June alone. What happened in Manhattan happened in most of the drainage areas of the Republican and Smoky Hill. . . It happened all up the valley of the Blue. . . ."

Mother Nature was about to release her fury on the entire state of Kansas. It would be a flood of biblical proportions. In Logan County west of Oakley, the Smoky Hill rose rapidly and washed out a bridge. White Woman Creek near Ness City overflowed. The rains in April and May caused the Big Blue River to overflow, and Marysville saw the results. There was repeated flooding on other small rivers including the Marais des Cygnes at Ottawa; the Neosho nearly de-

stroyed the town of Neosho Falls and inundated Iola; the Cottonwood in Marion and south of Emporia and the Neosho north of Emporia; and the Saline and Solomon in Salina, and up and down the valleys of both rivers, as far north as Beloit and Bennington were affected.

There was a brief sunny spell around the Fourth of July, though the air was warm and humid, perfect conditions for severe thunderstorms. And they came just as the Kaw River reached bankful!

Four consecutive nights from Monday July 9 through Thursday July 12 saw steady downpours and heavy rain up and down the Kansas River. As much as 20 inches fell on those nights. On the night of July 10, five rivers reached flood stage. On July 11, taxis, trucks, busses, and vehicles of all kinds began to evacuate North Topeka.

Farmers and ranchers along nine rivers moved livestock and machinery to high ground as the landscape-changing flood dumped fouled clay and inarable sand throughout the river valleys.



6. RAILROAD YARD IN ARGENTINE DISTRICT

Submerged railroad cars in 1951 in the Argentine District of Kansas City, Kansas.

The Argentine District is south of the railroad tracks, between the current Highways 635 and 69.

Photo courtesy of Roy Bird.



Flooded depot at Ottawa. Photo courtesy of Roy Bird.

On those four consecutive nights of steady downpours and extremely heavy rains, chiefly up and down the Kansas River valley and watershed, up to 20 inches fell centered over Herington in Dickinson County. On one memorable night a 6.5 inch deluge fell over all of eastern Kansas.

Fortunately, the flood had been threatening for more than two months, so while more than a half million Kansans fled their homes, loss of life was low. Evacuations were the order of the day as some left for nearby states never to return. Many spent nights in armories, high school gyms, and churches. Later the federal government helped with temporary trailer accommodations.

Just as farmers had taken what they could to high ground, businessmen tried to rescue as much as they could from stores and enterprises. They soon ran into another problem--sightseers!

Black Friday was the worst day of the '51 flood. Kansans saw unforgettable things that day. Yet, what are often best remembered are things that happened after the water went down.

In Topeka, a trainload of rocks and

stones parked on a railway bridge to prevent the spans from swaying and pulling away from bridge pilings--not only that bridge but also another were lost anyway. At least 400 head of horses destined for Hill's dog food packing plant stampeded in downtown Topeka until a local saddle club rounded them up.

In Kansas City even residents on high ground filled bathtubs so they would have fresh water when the flood receded. In almost every town from Hays to Ottawa and Lawrence, boats plied the streets rescuing victims or residents who spent a couple nights in trees or upper floor rooms.

On Thursday July 12 the North Topeka dike broke. The Marion city power plant was underwater and food and medicine had to be brought from McPherson via helicopter. The Cottonwood River overflowed from Cottonwood Falls to its junction with the Neosho at Emporia. Hanover on the Little Blue and Marysville and Blue Rapids on the Big Blue suffered the same fate.

Some 350 passengers were trapped on the famous *El Capitan* luxury rail liner west of Emporia, and 15 more were stranded because trains could not run.

Continued on next page.



Boat floating on a street in Hays. Photo courtesy of Roy Bird.



Kansas City wreckage after the flood receded. Photo courtesy of Roy Bird.

Water was eight feet deep in Burlington and the Neosho River there was 12-15 miles wide. Further along that river flood water surrounded the Iola power plant. Oil storage tanks floated on the water. Water reached the bottom of roofs in Iola, with spilled oil floating on top ruining most residences. Ottawa was under martial law after a tidal-wave 51-foot flood crested 23 feet above the Marais des Cygnes. Telephone and electric poles and lines were underwater or swept downstream. The Marais des Cygnes was nine miles wide there.

Beloit, Concordia, Clay Center, Wakefield, Junction City, Salina, Solomon, Abilene, and numerous communities between were inundated. Kansas City stockyards and rail yards were both underwater.

Everywhere in Kansas non-water disasters occurred because of the flood. Fires on the oil surface simply burned themselves out because the firefighters could not reach through the deep water. Loud booms could be heard as gas lines exploded or buildings collapsed. Walls of sandbags as much as 20 feet high were everywhere.

Driftwood from small planks to giant uprooted cottonwood trees settled where the fast-moving current let them rest. Cars were buried, buildings were filled, and as much as three feet of sticky stinking mud covered farm ground. All manner of debris was buried in disgusting silt. Dead livestock could be found anywhere, even on the upper floor of a home in town.

The stench of the now standing water, sewage from waste disposal plants, dead animals, rotting vegetation, and oil from gas stations, storage tanks, and ruined vehicles covered much of the state. Smoke from untended fires hung heavy.

Disease and medical issues, posed problems. Many hospitals ran on portable generators, and fuel for them, vaccines, other medical supplies and food came in on helicopters. Tetanus and typhoid fever vaccines, and even quinine ran desperately low.

With standing water all around, there was none potable. There was no electricity, no telephones, no sewers for flushing toilets, no gas, nor any other utilities. And store's inventories floated away, spoiled, or were buried in deep mud or sand. Traffic by rail or by auto was limited as tracks and gradings, as well as all local highways, were checked for washouts, sudden sink holes, or missing bridges.

Politicians, journalists, and engineers asked what happened and how it could be prevented in the future. The US Army Corps of Engineers proposed a series of dams and reservoirs for flood control (though many believed it was for Missouri and Mississippi navigation). Debates over the dams went back and forth. Especially when some of Kansas's best bottom farm land and even whole towns would disappear underwater again--this time in



"Everywhere in Kansas non-water disasters occurred because of the flood." This scene was in a north Topeka store after the flood receded. Photo courtesy of Roy Bird.

manmade lakes.

In the Big Blue valley especially, the proposal was dubbed "Big Dam Foolishness." Yet the work meant that the military and federal money would continue in Kansas, many new civilian heavy construction jobs, and important infrastructure would help the Midwest. What's more, the new president was Dwight D. Eisenhower, who grew up in Abilene, one of the flooded towns, and a life long soldier. Overall, over 20 dams were completed between 1954 and 1971.

For decades the question of effectiveness lingered. Would all this construction really prevent future flooding the likes of 1951? The test finally came in 1993, 42 years after the great flood. All of the Mississippi and Missouri River valleys--including the Kaw--saw some of the greatest flooding ever.

The dams and reservoirs worked the way they were intended. Floodgates at Tuttle Creek Dam were opened for the first time ever, and the immense flow of water washed away a channel and excavated what we now know as the "Little Grand Canyon." The water in 1993 literally rose higher in Kansas than the crest of the 1951 flood. If not for dams, reservoirs,

Continued on next page.



Sign protesting the building of Tuttle Creek Dam north of Manhattan, Kansas. Photo courtesy of Roy Bird.



Tuttle Creek Dam north of Manhattan under construction. About 1958. Photo courtesy of Roy Bird.

dikes and levees, there would have been a flood of even greater destruction. More homes, more industries, more businesses, more infrastructure and technology would all have been destroyed. Today, few reminders remain of either watery event.

Yet how soon can we expect another flood? What will it be like? Have we prepared enough for it?

Because the next great flood will come.



Pillar at the confluence of Kansas and Missouri Rivers at Kansas City. The plaques mark 1951 and 1993 (higher) flood levels.

Finding A Lost Relative with the Help of Ancestry.com

The Story of George Anthony Eckert

Lost in 1920 and Found in 2020

By Sylvester C. Ekart

Bismarck, North Dakota

Background. In the 1970's, while developing the history of the John Eckert (1812-1892) and Barbara Rose Reiter Eckert (1823-1902) family of Blue Township in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, it was learned from John Erwin Eckert (1898-1989) that his older brother George Anthony Eckert (1891-1976) had been last heard of in 1920 living in Missouri. John Erwin and his father John Joseph Ekart (1861-1947) had spent a considerable amount of time, money and effort to locating George Anthony with no positive result. John Erwin stated that while visiting in Missouri and looking for George Anthony, he was addressed as George by a local man. George Anthony was thought by the family to be working for a pipeline company or a railroad (1). They also believed that George Anthony had been married a second time. In 1972, while visiting George Anthony's youngest brother Arthur Sylvester Eckert 1904-1985 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Arthur informed my father Clarence L. Ekart 1907-1984 and I, that he understood George Anthony had been killed in a railroad accident (1).

The Eckert family had immigrated from Bohemia, Austria, in 1866 via New York to Kansas. At this point, it will be helpful for the reader to understand that the spelling

of the name in Bohemia was Eckert. However in America that spelling and Eckert and Ekart have been used by members of the family. At the time the Eckerts lived in Bohemia it was a part of Austria. Then in the late 1930s, it became the Sudetenland, a part of Germany. Today it is a part of the Czech Republic.



Barbara Rose Ekart, nee Reiter 1823-1902, grandmother of George Anthony Eckert.

John Eckert and his wife Barbara Rose Eckert, nee Reiter and sons John Joseph and Anthony and daughter Frances arrived at New York on the Vessel Baltic on 9 June 1866 (2). They traveled to Kansas by train and wagon and then arrived at John's younger brother George Eckert's home a mile or so southwest of Flush, Kansas (2). The youngest member of the family, daughter Bridget Ekart who married David Malcolm Carlson, was born on 9 January 1867 in a log cabin on the George Eckert farm. The log cabin had been built by Stephen Hopkins from whom George Eckert had purchased the



John Joseph Eckart and Theresa Straub on their wedding day, November 18, 1890.

land. George Eckert, later spelling his name Ekart, and his wife Margaretha Eckert, nee Mareth, sons John and Andrew and daughter Anna had arrived at New York from Bohemia on the Vessel Othello on 13 September

1858. That fall, George Eckert settled near Brush Creek in Pottawatomie County. Then later that fall he moved to the Peter Noll farm northwest of Flush. While living on the Noll farm, Margaretha, Andrew and Anna became ill and died. With the help of Michael Floersch, they were buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Flush. In 1860, George Ekart acquired the land that is today the St. Joseph's Church farm and St. Joseph's Church and the Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School. In 1865, George Ekart sold the north part of the farm to Mathias Floersch. The south part of the farm was sold to the St. Joseph Parish. George and his son John Ekart (1849-1928) then moved to the Hopkins farm southwest of Flush (1).

In the summer of 2020, while searching on Ancestry.com, a marriage record for the missing George Anthony Eckert and Ulah Mae Coulter was located in Franklin County, Missouri (3). They were married on 22 April 1919, the second time for George Anthony. This led to additional searching and the family was located in 1920 in the census of Wyandotte, Wayne

County, Michigan. That census stated George Anthony's father was born in Bohemia and his mother born in Kansas. That information agreed with the known birth and European homeland record. The search revealed that George Anthony died on 22 November 1976 at Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan and Ulah Mae died on 11 September 1991 at Livonia, Wayne County (4). Both George Anthony and Ulah are buried in the Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan (7).

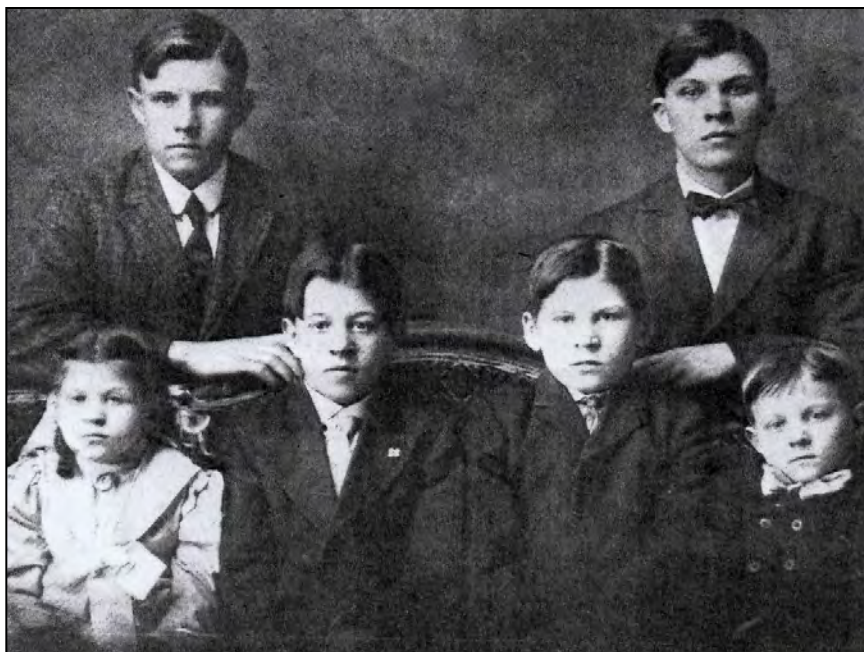
George Anthony Eckart was born on 11 October 1891 in Union Township, Potta-

Records show that George Anthony Eckart married twice.

watomie County, Kansas. He was first married on 15 December 1915 at Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas to Rose H. Roberts (5). John Erwin Eckart stated that George Anthony and Rose had a child. No official record has been located to confirm the birth of a child. On 5 June 1917, George Anthony was working in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at which time he registered for the World War I draft. In that record he stated that he was married and that he had served two years in the Kansas National Guard. No record of his having been divorced or separated from Rose Roberts has been located. The next record located is the marriage in Franklin County, Missouri in 1919.

A daughter Jean Eckert, aka Georgia J. or J. Georgia, is reported in the 1920 census and also in the 1940 census as Jean Wisner age 20 years born about 1920 to George Anthony and Ulah Eckert. George Anthony Eckert and Ulah Coulter

did have a daughter (born 5 March 1920, died 22 December 1982 in Dearborn Heights, Wayne County, Michigan.) Georgia Jean served in the U. S. Army from 1 September 1943 to 27 October 1945. She married Carl Conrad Stolp on 21 December 1944 in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, South Dakota. Carl C. Stolp was born 27 May 1916 at Springwells, Michigan and died on 3 July 1993 at Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. Carl Conrad was employed by Ford Motor Company in 1940 when he registered for the World War II Draft.



The children of John Joseph and Theresa Straub Eckart. Back row left to right, Lawrence and George. Front row left to right, Clara, Anthony, John Erwin and Arthur.

George Anthony's father was John Joseph Eckart (born 20 June 1861 in Schmolau, Weissensulz, Bohemia, Austria, and died 6 February 1947, at Kansas City, Missouri.) He is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Flush, Kansas. He was married on 18 November 1890 at Flush to Theresa Straub (born 6 April 1864, in Pottawatomie Township and died 23 December 1912 at Garden City, Kansas.) She is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery. The birth record from the Czech Republic gives John's birth year as 1860 and list his middle initial as "B" (6). Theresa Straub was the daughter of John Anton Straub and Martina Straub, nee Zoeller. The Straub family was from Grosshuebach, Bavaria, Germany and had immigrated in 1861 to Kansas.

When John Joseph and Theresa were first married, they lived in Union Township of Pottawatomie County. In 1906 the family moved to the Elm Slough area in Blue Township, Pottawatomie

County, then in 1909 to the Ashland area south of Manhattan in Riley County and in 1910 to Garden City, Kansas, where Theresa Eckart died on 23 December 1912. In the years following Theresa's death and up until about 1920, John and Theresa's children, at various times, stayed with my grandfather Anthony Eckart and with Bridget Eckart Carlson who was John's sister and who lived east of Manhattan in Blue Township. The family story is that John Joseph had a hard time dealing with the death of his wife Theresa. John went to Kansas City in 1920 and at that place worked for the St. Joseph's Girls Orphanage as custodian, driver and caretaker. While living in Kansas City, John occasionally came to Flush and Manhattan to visit my grandmother Mary Eckart, Bridget and David Carlson and the Straub family members.

George Anthony Eckert's siblings were: Lawrence Henry "Larry" Eckart (born 16

Continued on next page

November 1894, died 13 January 1978 in Tucson, Arizona.) He married Ciscelia Filburne (born 1908, died 18 April 1979.) Both are buried at Oakwood Memorial Park, Ottawa, Illinois. Lawrence and Ciscelia had no children.

Anton Joseph "Tony " Ekart (born 27 July 1895, died 31 January 1967,) married Goldie Emma Rose (born 1 April 1898, died 10 April 1990.) Both are buried at Valley View Cemetery, Garden City, Kansas. Tony and Rose had 2 daughters Dorothy Louise Ekart who married Oscar Louis Bekker and Wanda Jean Ekart who married Clarence A. Billinger; and two sons Robert Lee Ekart who married Shirley Ann Colburn and Leonard Anthony Ekart who married twice first to Mary and second to Tamara LuAnne Long.

John Erwin "Eck" Eckart (born 10 May 1898, died 9 March 1989,) married three times: first Thelma Gaines, second to Hulda and third to Goldie E. Yates. John Erwin, Hulda and Goldie are buried at Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Council Bluffs, Iowa. John Erwin and Thelma had a daughter.

Clara Bridget Eckart was born 5 September 1901 and died 30 March 1976 at Kansas City, Missouri. She is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Flush, Kansas. Clara never married.

Arthur Sylvester Eckart (born 15 March 1904, died 30 September 1985.) married Frances "Fannie " Weber (born 12 July 1906 in Germany, died 11 December 2000.) Both are buried at Saint Marys Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Arthur and Frances had no children.

The question that remains: Why did George Anthony decide to avoid contact with his father and siblings?

The question that remains and for which there seems no answer, why did George Anthony decide to avoid contact with his father and siblings from before 1920 until his death in 1976. At the time of George Anthony's death, his wife Ulah provided the information for his death certificate. She stated that George Anthony's parents were unknown. If Ulah did not know the name of George Anthony's parents, why had he withheld this information from even his closest associate, his spouse.

References:

- (1) *The Czech Immigrants from Bohemia (Sudentenland) to Rock Creek Valley (Flush) Kansas*, by Anna Marie Eckart Ebert and Sylvester Ekart, 1981.
- (2) *Czech Immigration Passenger Lists, Volume a4, 1991*, by Leo Baca.
- (3) *Missouri Marriage Records, 1906-2002*.
- (4) *Michigan Death Index, 1971-1996*.
- (5) *Vital Statistics State of Kansas, Probate Court of Hamilton County, Kansas*.
- (6) *Rodny (Birth) List, Bela Nad Radbuzou, Ceskoslovenska Socialisticka Republika, 1979*.*
- (7) *Death and burial records provided by the John N. Santeiu and Son, Inc, Funeral Directors, Garden City, Michigan*.

* Bela Nad Radbuzou is the Czech name for the German town of Weissensulz that is now in the Czech Republic, but at the time the Eckerts lived there was a part of Bohemia an area populated with people of German ancestry and that part of Austria.

Renew Your 2021 RCGS Membership!

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

Riley County Genealogical Society
2005 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502

New Books at the Research Library

By Virginia Beddow

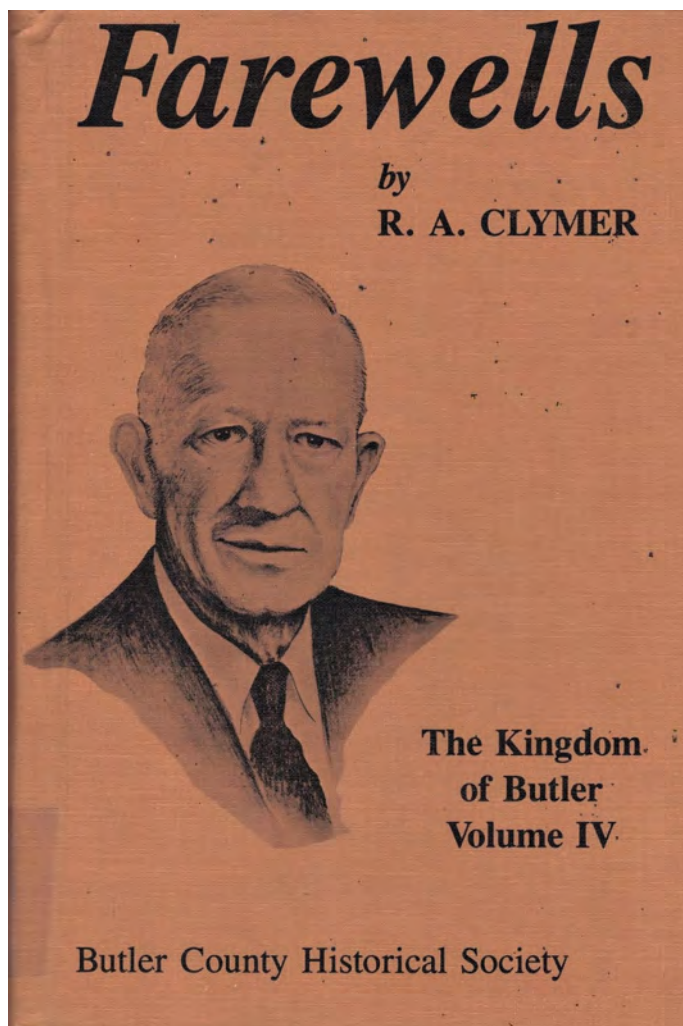


Farewells. R. A. Clymer. Edited by William Galvani. El Dorado: Butler County Historical Society. 1986.

This fourth book in the Kingdom of Butler series is a collection of thumbnail biographies from the editorial pages of *The El Dorado Times*. The editor selected about one third of the 1350 biographies written by Clymer from 1920 through May 1977. He

reports in the preface that “people commonly joked that they hoped they would pass away before R. A. did so that he could write their obituaries.”

This is not the typical thumbnail biography book that genealogy researchers



usually find. Galvani says that this book’s objective is to bring the wonderful journalistic pieces to light and illustrate the skills of the author “who stood in the first ranks of Kansas journalists.”

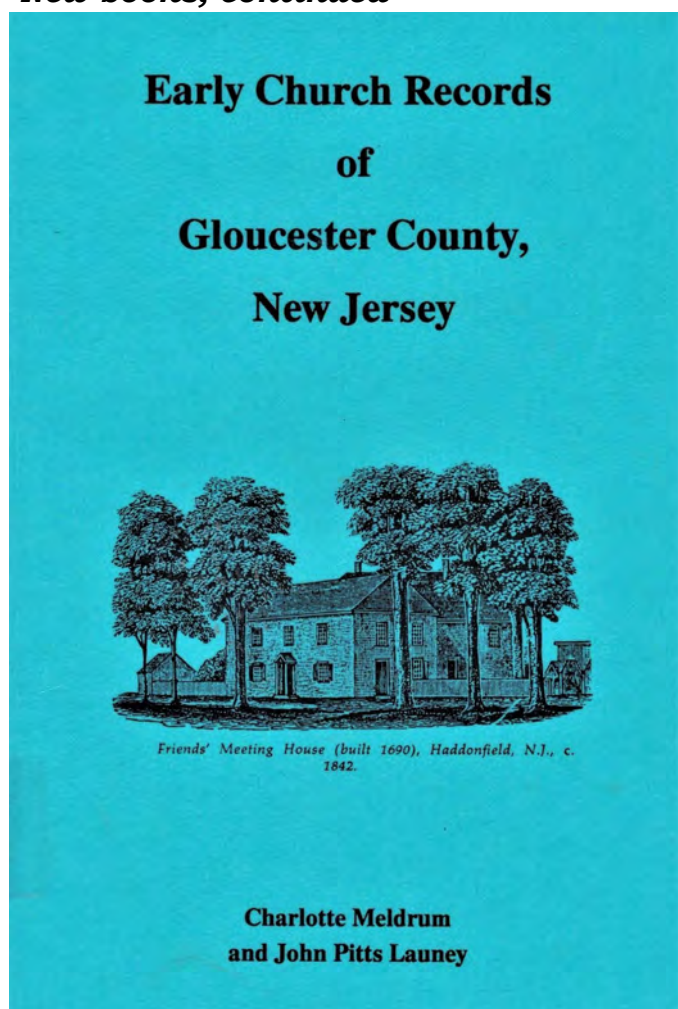
This 350-page book includes a preface by the editor, an introduction about R. A. Clymer, and an index of the biographies.

Our library has the other books in the series. They include:

- The Kingdom of Butler, 1857-1869
- A History of Butler County, Kansas
- The Kingdom of Butler: Her People
- True Tales of the Kingdom of Butler

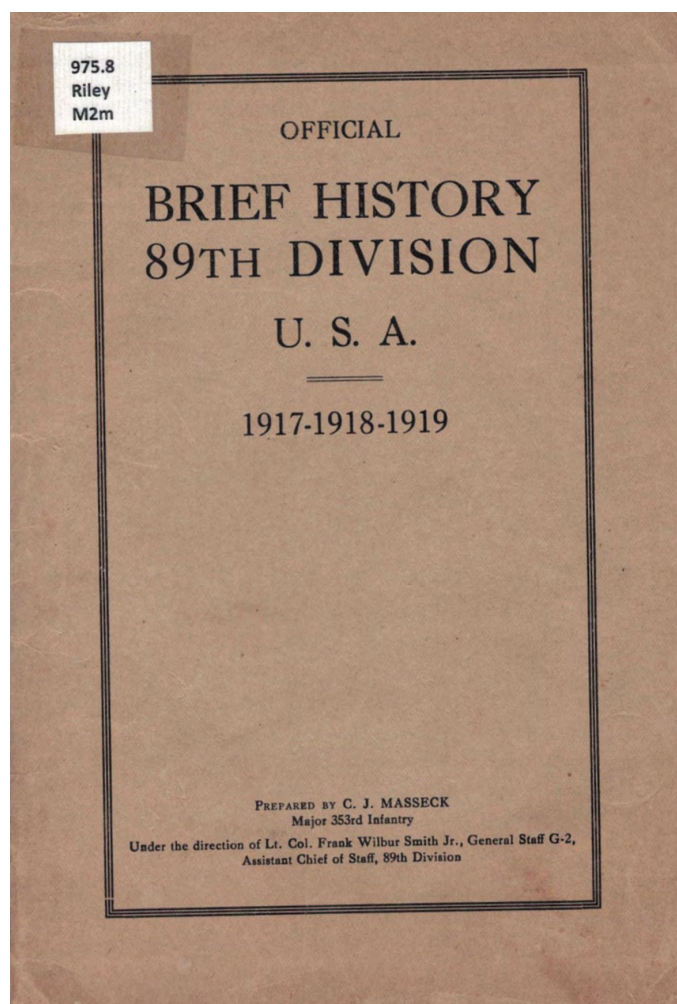
New books continued on next page

Visit the Riley County Genealogical Society Library
at 2005 Claflin, Manhattan, Kansas



Early Church Records of Gloucester County, New Jersey. Charlotte Meldrum and John Pitts Launey. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications. 1995.

An introduction of five pages gives an overview of the history of the congregations. The records that have been included vary. For example, the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting includes Births and Deaths, Deaths, Marriage Certificates, Second Declarations of Marriage, Going out in Marriage from minutes, and Certificates of Removal (1681-1750). The Register of St. Mary's Church, Colestown is simply the register plus the list of subscribers. Other congregations are the Moravian Register, West Jersey 1742-1794; Woodbury Monthly Meeting; and Congregation of the Episcopal Church of St. John. The marriages of Gloucester



Official Brief History, 89th Division, U.S.A. 1917-1918-1919. By C. J. Masseck.

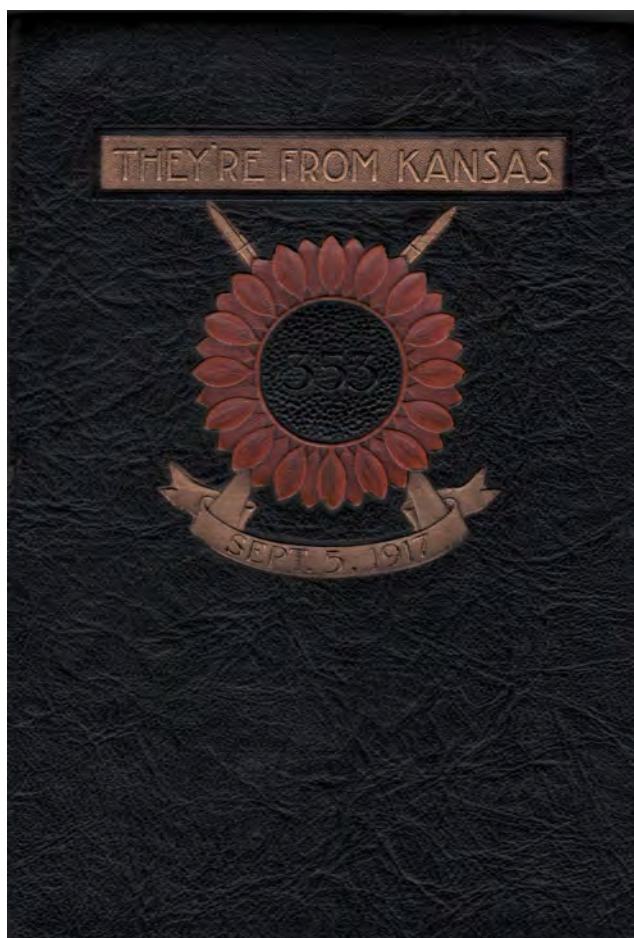
Chapter one: Camp Funston. Chapter two: Training in France. Chapter three: In the Trenches. Chapter four: St. Mihiel Offensive. Chapter five: The Meuse Argonne Offensive. Chapter six: Army of Occupation. Summary of Important Facts.

This 48-page book includes three foldout maps.

Continued from previous column

County from court records of New Jersey are also included.

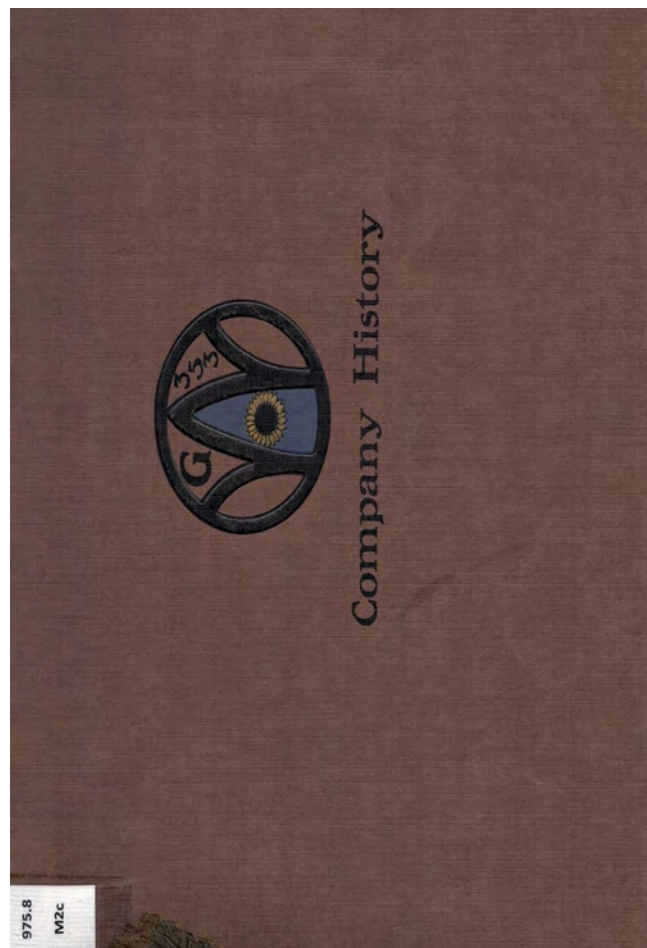
The 296 page book includes a table of contents and an index of names for all the records.



They're From Kansas: History of the 353rd Infantry Regiment, 89th Division, National Army. Historians: Capt. Charles F. Dienst, First Lt. Clifford Chalmer, First Lt. Francis M. Morgan, First Lt. Charles O. Gallenkamp, First Lt. Lloyd H. Benning, First Lt. Harold F. Brown, First Lt. Morton S. Bailey, and Second Lt. William J. Lee. Wichita: Eagle Press for The 353rd Infantry Society. 1921.

This history, dedicated to the men on the honor roll of the 353rd Infantry, is a compilation of accounts of the battalion and special company historians to achieve a continuous story. The suggestion for the history came from Colonel James H. Reeves, commander.

This 316-page book provides the full history with photographs, charts, and maps. A table of contents guides the reader through the thirty-two chapters.



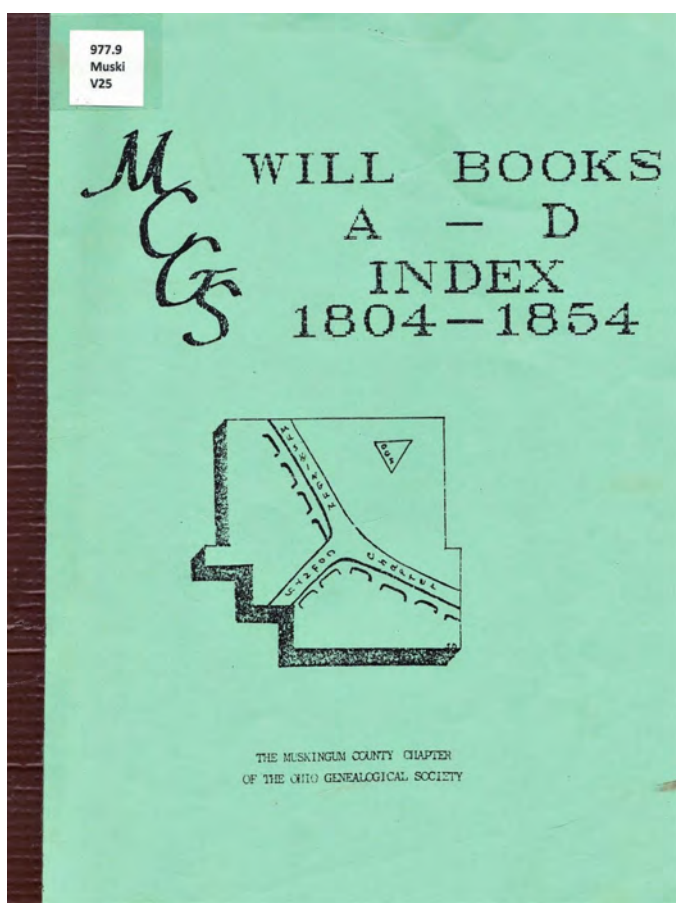
Complete History of Company "G": 353rd Infantry, 89th Division, A.E.F. Topeka: Crane. 1918.

This history of the company is designed like a scrapbook that includes two foldout photographs and some special features.

Company "G", 353rd Infantry, was organized at Camp Funston, Kansas, on September 8, 1917. The story begins with its formation and goes through its return aboard the *Leviathan* to Hoboken where the company would be sent to camps nearest their homes.

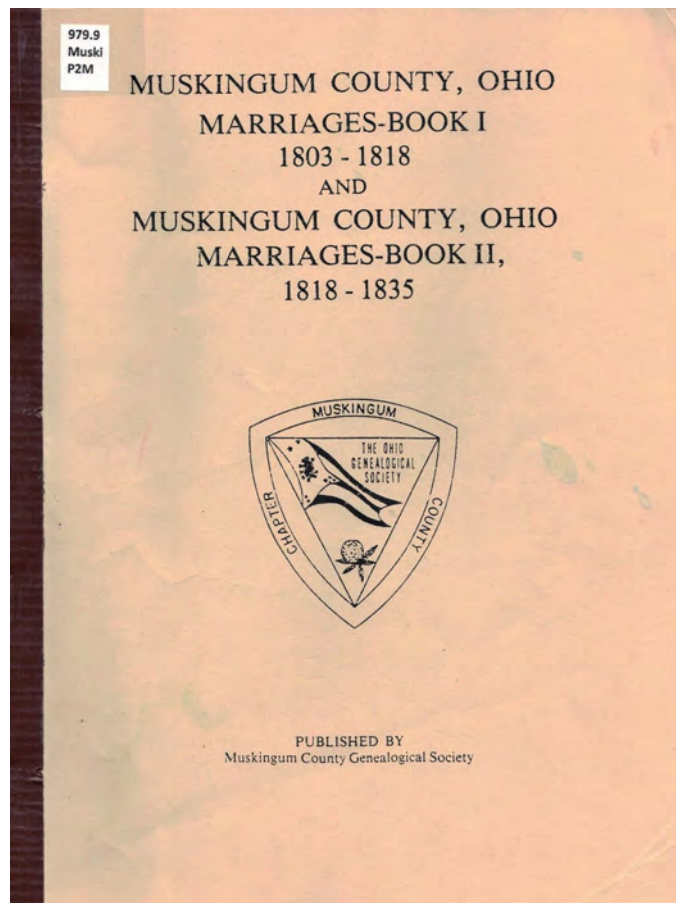
The story is 18 pages. "Famous Remarks of Famous "G" Company Veterans" range from "It's the early M.P. that gets the waffles" by Private Fondren to "A Captain is known by the company he keeps." The roster of all personnel with rank and future address is provided. Two fold-out photographs identify all men by name.

New books, continued



Muskingum County, Ohio, Will Book Index: Book A, 1804-1814; Book B, 1815-1831; Book C, 1832-1843; Book D, 1843-1854. Zanesville: Muskingum County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

All four will books (A—D) are bound in this one volume, but each of the four will books is indexed in separate lists.



Muskingum County, Ohio Marriages-Book I, 1803-1818 and Muskingum County, Ohio Marriages-Book II, 1818-1835. Zanesville: Muskingum County Genealogical Society. 1977 and 1984.

This 130-page book combines both marriage books. It contains multiple alphabetical lists that provide the names of the couple, the date, and the officiating officer. A list of the ministers licensed, 1818-1835, shows the county and date for each minister and in some cases identifies the religious affiliation.

More new books

Gloucester County Marriages. Compiled by H. Stanley Craig. Merchantville, N. J.: H. Stanley Craig, Publisher. 1930.

There is no table of contents for the many sections, which include Marriage Records,

Licenses From New Jersey Archives, Vol. XXII; Marriage Records From County Clerk's Records; Marriage Records of Trinity P. E. Church, Swedesboro; Marriage Records of Haddonfield Friends' Meeting; Marriage Records of Woodbury Friends' Meeting; Marriage Records of Jeffrey

Clark, Esq., J. P. Marriage Records from the Journal of Thomas Clark; Marriage Records from Samuel Mickles' Diary; Marriage Records from Ann Whittall's Diary; Marriage Records from West Jersey Moravian Register. This 309-page book contains a 52-page index to women's names.

Ship Passenger Lists: New York and New Jersey (1600-1825). Newhall, CA: Carl Boyer. 1978.

This book is the second compilation of ship passenger lists that Mr. Boyer made. A Contents list guides the researcher through the many sources. The Indexes aid with specifics: Ship Names, Place Names, Personal Names, and Variant Surname Spellings. Eighty three pages of the 333 pages are indexes.

Federal Census Records for Residents at Mariadahl Children's Home, Cleburne, KS, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940.

Marysville United Methodist Church Marysville, Kansas. Lifetouch. 2012.

This pictorial directory is actually two in one. The people of the Marysville congregation are pictured as families and in their church activities. A second section pictures families and church activities of the Ekoto United Methodist Church.

Additions to the Family History Book Collection

Swedish Genealogical Research—Rignell Brothers, Nils & Erik (Eric). Roland Floberg.

Descendants of Henry Mallon (172-1873), Ulster, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Compiled and researched by Edna Margaret Mallon Pontillo.

Descendants of Christine Maria Hannah

Settgast: an Early Member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clark's Creek, Geary County, Kansas With Family Histories of Other Settgast Immigrants. Thomas G. Shane and Helen F. Bayer.

New Indexes to Newspapers by Sy Ekart

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Published in the Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 January 1965 Thru 30 June 1965 at Manhattan, Riley Co., Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2021.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Published in the Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 July 1965 Thru 31 December 1965 at Manhattan, Riley Co., Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2021.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Published in the Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 2 January 1966 Thru 30 June 1966 at Manhattan, Riley Co., Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2021.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Published in the Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 January 1967 Thru 30 June 1967 at Manhattan, Riley Co., Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2021.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Published in the Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 2 July 1967 Thru 31 December 1967 at Manhattan, Riley Co., Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley Co. Genealogical Society. 2021.

A Tribute to Sylvester Ekart

90th Birthday Wishes to Sy!

On November 17, 2021, Sylvester (Sy) Ekart will be 90 years old! For the last thirty years, Sy has read historical newspapers on a microfilm reader, and abstracted the births, marriages, deaths and life events of Riley County residents. His volunteer work has resulted in the creation of over 300 books that allow researchers to follow his text to the full accounts now available on *Newspapers.com*. He has donated both a print book and the digitized version each time, allowing Riley County Genealogical Society to sell the books to libraries and individuals, creating revenue for the Society.

In addition, Sy has researched the residents of his birthplace, Blue Township in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, and authored books of these families with full pedigrees and accounts of their lives. This issue of *Kansas Kin* includes an article written by Sy, "Finding A Lost Relative with the Help of [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), The Story of George Anthony Eckert, Lost in 1920 and Found in 2020." Sy has also contributed numerous other articles to *Kansas Kin*.

Sy is a lifetime member of the Riley County Genealogical Society.

Marcia Schuley and Judy Regehr



Sylvester (Sy) Ekart

Are you ready for your family Christmas?



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

Do your children and grandchildren know the answers to these questions:

- When were your parents born?
- What were your grandparents' names?
- Where did your parents and grandparents go to school?

- When did the family come to America?
- Where did they come from?
- Why did they come to America?

Make a Trivial-Pursuit-type game with questions like these.

Can mtDNA Tests Be Useful in Genealogy Research?

MtDNA or mitochondrial DNA is passed on unchanged from mother to daughter. MtDNA is found on the X chromosome.

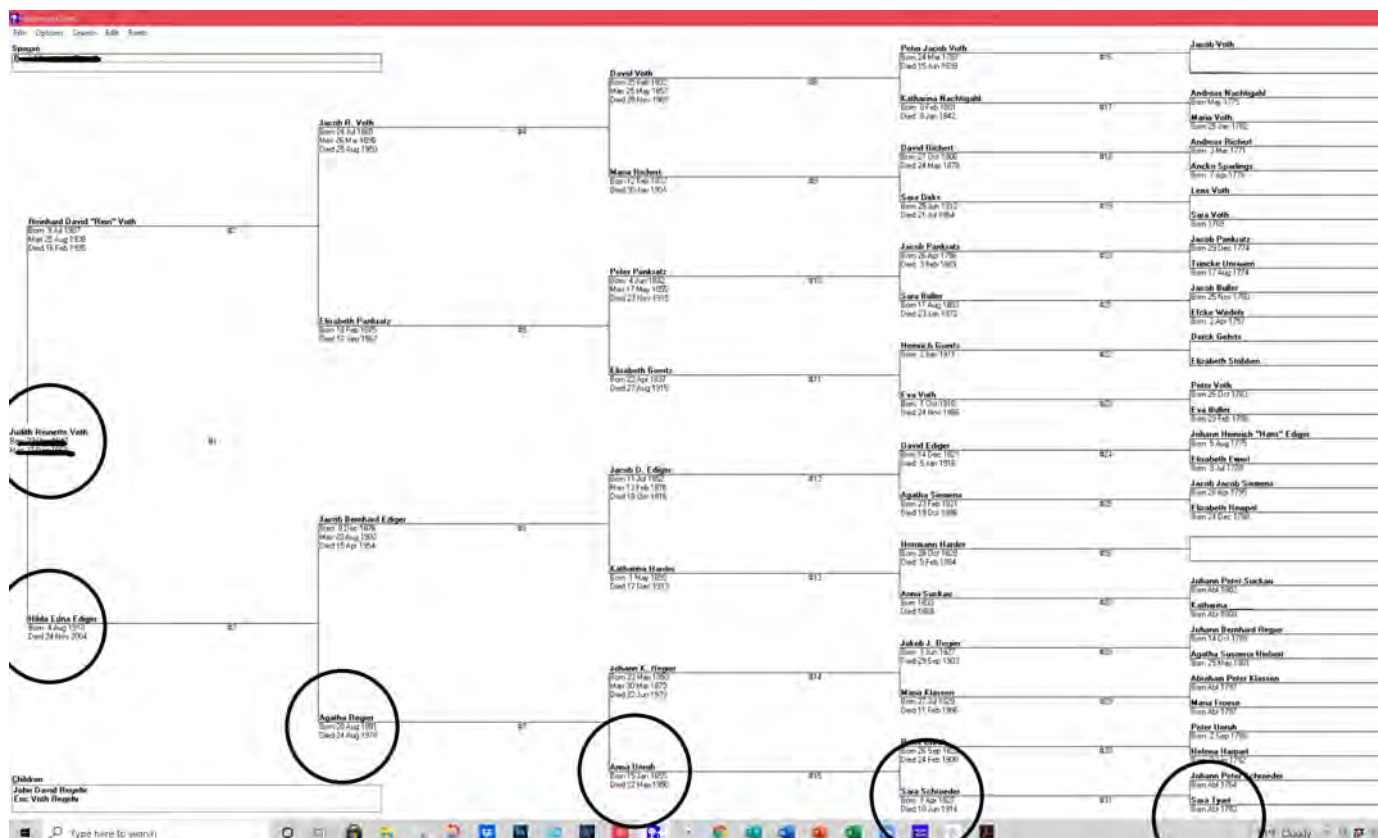
- Women have two X chromosomes.
- Men have one X and one Y chromosome, but they do not pass mtDNA to children.

Only women pass on the X chromosome to their children. In family trees, mtDNA is passed along the all-female side of the tree. See the example at the bottom of this page. The black circles highlight the mother's mothers of the tree owner. These circles trace an identical piece of inheritance called mtDNA, passed from mother to daughter unchanged.

If two women have the same mtDNA type, it means that they have a common female ancestor. However, the common ancestor could be thousands of years in the past. Therefore, mtDNA is of limited value in determining your relationship to another person. It serves mainly to give clues about your “deep” or ancient history — where your mother's mother, and so on, originated.

If you want to fill in gaps in your family tree back 3 or 4 generations, you will need to have a different genetic test called an “autosomal DNA test.” A future article will explain this test. To find out more about it now, follow this link.

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/speakers/tim-janzen/en>



A partial ancestral chart with black circles showing how mtDNA is passed unchanged from mother to daughter, but never passed on by the father..

In Memoriam

Cheryl Collins

Aruna Michie

Cheryl Collins

Cheryl Collins was born February 13, 1953. She graduated from Wichita Heights in 1971. She earned her M.A. in the History Department of Kansas State University. She initially did volunteer work at the Riley County Historical Museum and was offered the Archivist job there. Later she became Director of the museum, a job she held for many years.

Cheryl was active in state and regional museum and history organizations including serving on the Executive Committee of the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka.

In 1987, she and her husband bought the Ingraham House in Manhattan, Kansas, on Fairchild. It was built in 1867 and has been listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Cheryl's son, John, was born in 1988. She is survived by her husband, her son and his wife Tiffeny and daughter Sarah of Wichita, as well as several other relatives and many friends of all ages.

As Director of the Riley County Historical Society, Cheryl will be remembered for her willingness to serve, her smooth administrative hand, and her fund raising successes.

She always had ideas to make history come alive. She was one of the most knowledgeable historians in the county and was eager to share her expertise. She provided many informative programs for organizations across the county. Her cemetery tours, for example, made historical characters so relevant they almost seemed to speak for themselves.

Cheryl cooperated with the Riley County Genealogical Society in many ways. Her staff were always available to share historical photos and information. She presented numerous Sunday afternoon programs for the Society. She understood the importance of family history and artifacts. Cheryl was the "go-to" source for history of Riley County. She and her staff prepared many exhibits for local organizations such as the Manhattan Public Library and Flint Hills Discovery Center.

Her career ended much too soon. All of us who worked with Cheryl miss her and are sorry she left us so early. However, her legacy lives on in the Riley County Museum and in the hearts of the people whose lives Cheryl touched.

*Judy Regehr, Past President
Riley Co. Historical Society*

I served on the Riley County Historical Society Board for several terms. Working with Cheryl was rewarding and informa-

(Information from Cheryl's obituary on the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home web page and from personal experience.)

Aruna Michie

Aruna Nayyar Michie, 77, retired KSU Political Science faculty member, passed away 5 September 2021 at Good Shepherd Hospice, Manhattan. She is survived by son Chetan and spouse Barry Michie, President of the Riley County Genealogical Society. Aruna was born 9 August 1944 in the Naval Hospital, Bombay. Her parents were involved with the Indian Nationalist movement and knew all the top leaders. Her family history is replete with important people, events and connections for well over 200 years, a fascinating history her husband is still investigating. Her parents also instilled her with a deep social conscience that she retained throughout life.

Aruna attended Woodstock School in Landour, Uttarakhand, India, from first standard to graduation in 1962. Her undergraduate education was completed in 1966 from Smith College, North Hampton, Massachusetts. Finishing her undergraduate degree she returned to India where she became a local hire for the American Peace Corp as an associate director in the Northern Regional Office in charge of programs and volunteers in the state of Rajasthan. It was there she met Barry Michie, a volunteer. They were married in New Delhi at her parents' home 3 July 1968.

Newly married, both she and Barry entered graduate school together at Michigan State University, both earning their PhD degrees in 1986 based on fieldwork in rural India. They both found appointments at Kansas State University. Aruna had a remarkable career at Kansas State, mentoring junior and other faculty and students including those applying for and many winning

prestigious scholarships (Rhodes, Trumans, Marshalls) helping to put K-State on the map. She also received recognition for excellence in teaching. She served two terms as Faculty Senate President representing faculty to KSU administration and the Board of Regents, putting her weight behind winning changes to health insurance, family leave and the KSU Handbook for both staff and faculty. For a number of years she was an ombudsperson mediating disputes between faculty and administration. She touched many lives across K-State and is well remembered as someone kind, helpful and who readily stood her ground, making her point cogently, articulately and without rancor.

Aruna was proud of her Indian heritage, so indelibly part of her identity that she never gave up her Indian citizenship despite living in the US for fifty-three plus years as a green card holder. Never boastful nor a braggart about her family background she presented herself simply as herself, approaching everyone equally whether in village India or in the United States.

Barry Michie



Aruna, Barry, and Chetan Michie. Early 1986.

Surname Index for This Issue

Beddow, Virginia	32, 49
Bekker, Dorothy Louise Ekart	48
Bekker, Oscar Louis	48
Billinger, Clarence A	48
Billinger, Wanda Jean Ekart	48
Bird, Roy	39
Butler, Sherry	32
Carlson, Bridget Ekart	45, 47
Carlson, David Malcolm	45
Clyman, James	39
Clymer, R A	49
Colburn, Shirley Ann	48
Collins, Cheryl	56
Coulter, Ulah Mae	46
Davis, Kenneth S	40
Dennett, Jim	33
Dennett, Viola	33
Eckart, Anthony	47
Eckart, Arthur	47
Eckart, Arthur Sylvester	45, 48
Eckart, Ciscelia Filburne	48
Eckart, Clara	47
Eckart, Clara Bridget	48
Eckart, Frances Weber	48
Eckart, George	47
Eckart, George Anthony	47
Eckart, Goldie E Yates	48

Eckart, Hulda	48
Eckart, John Erwin	47
Eckart, John Erwin (Eck)	48
Eckart, John Joseph	46, 47
Eckart, Lawrence	47
Eckart, Lawrence Henry (Larry)	47
Eckart, Rose H Roberts	46
Eckart, Thelma Gaines	48
Eckart, Theresa Straub	46, 47
Eckart, Ulah	48
Eckert, Andrew	46
Eckert, Anna	46
Eckert, Barbara Rose Reiter	45
Eckert, Frances	45
Eckert, George	45, 46
Eckert, George Anthony	45, 46, 47
Eckert, Georgia J	46
Eckert, Georgia Jean	47
Eckert, J Georgia	46
Eckert, Jean	46
Eckert, John	45, 46
Eckert, John Erwin	45
Eckert, Margaretha Mareth	46
Eckert, Ulah Mae Coulter	46
Ekart, Anthony	47
Ekart, Anton Joseph (Tony)	48
Ekart, Bridget	45
Ekart, Clarence L	45
Ekart, Dorothy Louise	48
Ekart, George	46
Ekart, Goldie Emma Rose	48
Ekart, John	46
Ekart, John Joseph	45

Ekart, Leonard Anthony	48
Ekart, Mary	47, 48
Ekart, Robert	48
Ekart, Shirley Ann Colburn	48
Ekart, Sy	53
Ekart, Sylvester	54
Ekart, Sylvester C	45
Ekart, Tamara LuAnne Long	48
Ekart, Wanda Jean	48
Filburne, Ciscelia	48
Floersch, Mathias	46
Floersch, Michael	46
Gaines, Thelma	48
Hopkins, Stephen	45
Long, Tamara LuAnne	48
Mallon, Henry	53
Mareth, Margaretha	46
McCoy, Don	34
McCoy, Jack	36
McCoy, John H (Jack)	34
McCoy, Mary Ann Montgomery	34
McCoy, Patty	34
Michie, Aruna Nayyar	57
Michie, Barry	32, 57
Michie, Chetan	57
Montgomery, Mary Ann	34
Noll, Peter	46
Parker, Margaret	32
Pontillo, Edna Margaret Mallon	53
Regehr, Judy	32, 54, 56
Reiter, Barbara Rose	45
Roberts, Rose H	46
Rose, Goldie Emma	48
Ruthstrom, Patty McCoy	34
Schuley, Marcia	54
Settgast, Christine Maria Hannah	53
Siegle, Mary	34
Stolp, Carl Conrad	47
Stolp, Georgia Jean Eckert	47
Straub, John Anton	47
Straub, Martina Zoeller	47
Straub, Theresa	46, 47
Towne, Doreen	32, 33
Weber, Frances (Fannie)	48
Wilson, Theresa	32
Wisner, Jean	46
Yates, Goldie E	48
Zoeller, Martina	47

Greater Manhattan Community Foundation

Memorial Fund

The Greater Manhattan Community Foundation has established a memorial fund. If you would like to honor somebody in this way, see this link:

www.mcfks.org/community-memorial-fund.cfm

Giving a gift in honor or memory of a loved one to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation is a meaningful way to celebrate life.

In 2015, the Manhattan Community Memorial Fund was created to endow pooled memorial gifts in memory of loved ones having local roots or connections to the area. Through the combined gifts made to the foundation to

honor local loved ones, the money you donate will continue to grow.

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





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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Manhattan, KS
Permit No. 4

Kansas Kin, May 2021, Vol. 59, No. 1

