



THE
SUNFLOWER
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Women of the Prairie

Early in the history of Reno County, pioneer women came to a land with few comforts. Most of them followed their husbands to this untamed land in their quest for a better life, and endured great hardships as they carved out their home. Others came to find their own adventure. Today we are indebted to them for their effort in making Reno County what it is for us today.

Death of Mrs. Lentz

She Was Pioneer Woman of Reno County

Mrs. Katherine H. Lentz died at her home, 407 B West, this morning at 6:50 o'clock. Death was due to paralysis. She took sick almost a week ago.

Mrs. Lents was the wife of Andrew J. Lentz, and had lived in Reno county about 37 years. She moved here from Abbyville with her husband, a year ago last April.

Mrs. Lentz was born Katherine H. Height, in Pennsylvania, daughter of Simon & Sarah Hannah (Belles) Height. She was 79 years of age the twelfth day of last May. She was married May 16, 1852, to Andrew J. Lentz. Besides her husband, seven children are living. They are Mrs. Harry Fenn and Mrs.



Olive Rutledge, of Hutchinson, Mrs. May Davidson, of Stafford, Mrs. Jennie McIver, of Abbyville, and Charles and William Lentz, of Abbyville, and Frank Lentz, of Arlington.

Mrs. Lentz was a member of the Watch Tower faith. The funeral will be held at Abbyville Friday morning at 10 o'clock. Burial will be in the Abbyville cemetery. *The Hutchinson News, Wednesday, December 10, 1913. Page 10.*

Bessie Jackson

Died at the residence of T.H. Jackson, north Main Street, Hutchinson, December 8, 1878, at six o'clock P.M., Bessie Turner Jackson. Funeral services took place next morning at ten o'clock. During Bessie's sickness she clearly exhibited all the traits of a Christian and passed away without a murmur. In recording the death of this interesting and promising lady we are peculiarly impressed with the same truth that neither worth nor merit can avail against the insatiate demands of death. When death calls neither our fondest hopes or friendships dearest ties can interpose to stay his uplifted arm and save the lovely victim from the grave. By this dispensation of Providence an interesting lady is cut down in the morn of life and numerous friends were called to weep over the last remains of her whose memory will be retained and cherished to future years solemn and mournful to the soul. *The Hutchinson News. Thursday, December 26, 1878. Page 3.*

Pioneer Woman Dead

Mrs. Daniel Ashton, a pioneer settler of Nickerson, died this morning. She leaves a husband, two daughters, and two sons. *News, Sat. Jan. 7, 1911. P. 11*

THIS ISSUE: RENO COUNTY PIONEER WOMEN

Mrs. Seth Woods

The wife of Mr. Seth Woods, of this city, died on the 4th of this month. She leaves little children of her own and some of Mr. Wood's children by a previous marriage. All of this loss, none but God can know. *The Hutchinson Herald. Saturday, October 12, 1878. P 3.* Later - Died, In Hutchinson, October 31, Lucy, infant daughter of Seth Wood. *The Hutchinson Herald. Sat. Nov. 9, 1878. P 3.*

Mariah Hunt

Mrs. Mariah Hunt died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. G.W. Cook, in Nickerson on last Wednesday morning, and was interred in the cemetery east of there on Friday. Mariah Davis was born in New York, July 29, 1818, and was married in 1939 to Judge B.T. Hunt of Ohio, with whom she led a happy life until his decease in 1873; since then her spirit has longed for release, that it might join his in that blessed clime beyond the sins, sorrows, and doubtings of earth. She led a Christian life and rose triumphantly to a higher degree of being. *The Hutchinson Herald, Saturday, April 5, 1879. P 2.*

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Jones, of Nickerson, the widow of the man who died of the small pox northwest of town about a year ago, died last Saturday and was buried on Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Jones belonged to the Christian Church. Her funeral was preached by Rev. D.M. Moore, at the Methodist Church at one o'clock and a large number of people followed the remains to the cemetery. *The Hutchinson News, Thursday, August 14, 1879. Page 3.*

Emma Saxon Jackson

A young lady by the name of Emma Saxon Jackson, of Loda township, this county, died at the Reno House on the 7th of this month. She was buried here, but the next day she was disinterred by her friends and moved to the Sego grave yard. *The Hutchinson Herald. Saturday, April 19, 1879. Page 3.*

Clarissa A. Conn

She Was Pioneer Woman of Hutchinson

Mrs. R.E. Conn died at her home at 310 First Avenue East last night, at 6 o'clock. A stroke of paralysis, on February 8, from which she never recovered, was the cause of her death.

Mrs. Conn was 82 years of age. She was born at Chester, South Carolina. She is survived by her two children, Dr. J.L. Conn and Mrs. S.F. Raff.

Mrs. Conn had long been a member of the Presbyterian Church. The funeral will be held at the home, 310 First Avenue East, tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Rev. J.S. Blayney will conduct the services. Burial will be at Eastside cemetery. *The Hutchinson News, Hutchinson, Kansas. Tuesday, February 17, 1914. Page 10.*



Grandma Meyers Is Dead

Mrs. Jane Meyers, known as "Grandma" Meyers, one of the pioneer women of Reno county, died at her home in Lincoln township, in the Elmer neighborhood yesterday afternoon. She was 90 years old. The funeral will occur Sunday morning at 10 o'clock from the Elmer Methodist Church, Rev. W.D. Stevens officiating, and interment at the Elmer cemetery.

Mrs. Meyers was a native of Hull, England. She came to Canada with her husband soon after their marriage, later locating in Illinois. The family came to Kansas 35 years ago. She is survived by six sons and daughters: Mrs. Anna Lord, 207 Second avenue east, Mrs. Mary Reeves, Sheldon, Ill., Mrs. Elizabeth Swanson, Carlton, Neb., Mrs. Sarah Zumwalt, Mason City, Ia., Mrs. Emma Rexroad, Partridge, and W.H. Meyers, of Topeka. *The Hutchinson News, Friday, June 5, 1914. Page 10.*

Death Of A Pioneer Woman

Mrs. Nancy Briggs Was Early Settler in Lincoln Township

Mrs. Nancy Jane Briggs, the mother of Ben Briggs, died at the home of her son, 1 mile south of Darlow, this morning at 7:30 o'clock. She was one of the earliest settlers of Lincoln township.

Mrs. Briggs was 68 years of age. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Dunkard Church. The services will be conducted by Rev. John M. Via of Harmony Church. *The Hutchinson News. Wednesday, September 23, 1914. Page 5.*

**Are There Pioneers In Your Reno County Ancestry?
Tell Their Stories Here!**

PASSING OF A PIONEER

**Mrs. R. C. Stout Came Here in
June, 1871.**

CAME OVERLAND IN WAGON

Mrs. Rosetta Cordella Stout, who came to Reno county in June 1871, died at her home at 408 Third avenue east yesterday evening at 6:45 o'clock. Old age was the cause of her death. She was in her eighty-fifth year. She suffered no pain during her last illness but gradually lost strength. She had been confined to her bed for about three weeks.

Mrs. Stout was a pioneer woman of Reno county, arriving here with her family in the first colony of settlers that ever settled in the county.

The little band of settlers had driven from Viroqua, Vernon county, Wisconsin, in canvas covered wagons all the way to the Arkansas Valley. There were two families of Stouts, Ryder C. Stout, the husband of Mrs. Stout, and Sam A. Stout, A.K. Burrel, and family, the Meade family, J.N. Meyers, Tom Decker and family, now of Turon, and a cousin of the Stouts made the long trip overland. They arrived here early in June of the year. Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Stout and their sons A.J., and Will, located on a quarter section of land in section 4, which is just south of the Durand plantation, northeast of Hutchinson. The family lived there until 1878, when they moved to Hutchinson. Mrs. Stout had lived in her house at 408 Third avenue east for over thirty years.

Mrs. Stout was born in New York state on October 1, 1829. She moved with her parents to St. Joseph county in Michigan when but a small child, and later to Lenawell county, Michigan, where she was married at the age of 18 to R.C. Stout. The couple lived there until 1853, when they moved to Vernon county, Wisconsin, where they made their home until they came to Kansas.

R.C. Stout died April 8, 1893, at the age of 71. Mrs. Stout is survived by Chief Al J. Stout, of the fire department, and Will Stout. Mrs. Stout had been a member of the Methodist Church for years, in fact, ever since the Church was organized in Hutchinson she had been a member.

The funeral of Mrs. R.C. Stout will be held from the home, 408 Third avenue east, tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Rev. J.W. Abel, of the First Methodist Church, will preach the funeral sermon. Burial will be at Eastside cemetery. *The Hutchinson News, Wednesday, March 18, 1914. Page 10.*

She Was Pioneer Woman

Mrs. Angeline O'Leary, one of the oldest settlers of Reno county, and well known as "Grandma" O'Leary, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Cogswell, at Darlow yesterday. She became sick about a week ago at her home near Castleton and was taken to her daughter's home. Mrs. O'Leary was nearly 68 years of age, having been born in Huron county, Ohio, November 12, 1846. She was married to Thomas O'Leary in April, 1869. The family moved to Kansas in 1877, settling on the old homestead in Castleton township. The family has lived there ever since. Mrs. O'Leary is survived by four sons and a daughter. They are: Mrs. George Cogswell, of Darlow; Richard C. O'Leary, of Pretty Prairie; and Walter O'Leary, of Castleton. Her husband died three years ago.

Mrs. O'Leary was a member of the Methodist Church, and W.B. Stevens, Pastor of the South Hutchinson Methodist Church, preached the funeral sermon at the United Sunday School building at Caastleton this afternoon. The burial was at Lone Star cemetery. *The Hutchinson News, Thursday, June 9, 1914. Page 2.*

Death of Pioneer Woman

The death of Mrs. A.L. Sooter of Greensburg occurred on New Year's day and marks the passing of another throne of the pioneers of Kansas.

She came to Kansas in 1873 and lived with her parents on a homestead nine miles south of Hutchinson for many years. She has lived in Reno county almost continuously until a few years ago when she moved with her family to Greensburg. For many years she lived north of Turon on a fruit farm. She is survived by her husband and eight children and four sisters, all of whom were with her when death occurred. *The Hutchinson News, Monday, January 11, 1915. Page 2.*

Funeral of Pioneer Woman

Mrs. Amy Hopping came to Reno county 43 years ago. She died at her home in Abbyville Sunday. With her husband, she came to Reno county in 1873, and settled on a farm east of Abbyville. She is survived by 3 children. Her husband died 2 years ago. *The Hutchinson News, Tuesday, July 4, 1916. Page 5.*

Pioneer Woman's Dress

The dress of the fashionable pioneer woman was usually made plain, with four widths in the skirt and the two front ones cut gored. The waist was made short, and across the shoulders behind was a drawstring. Enormous sleeves were worn, tapering from shoulder to waist, sometimes so padded as to resemble a bolster at the upper part and known as "mutton leg" or "sheep shank" sleeves.

Heavily starched linings often kept the sleeves in shape, or feathers were used, which gave the sleeves the appearance of inflated balloons from the elbow up. Many bows and ribbons were worn, but scarcely any jewelry. The low dress was soon superseded by the cotton gown, and a copperas colored neckerchief was worn around the neck. Often in summer weather when going to Church or other public assemblage the women walked barefooted until near their destination, when they would put on their shoes or moccasins. Many pioneer women never saw the interior of a dry goods store.

The pioneer woman manufactured most of the clothing worn by the family. Their own gowns were usually of "linsey woolsey." The chain was of cotton and filling of wool. The fabric was usually plaid or striped and in colors according to the maker's taste. The colors most often found were blue, copperas, turkey red, and light blue. In every cabin was a card loom and spinning wheel, regarded as necessary for the women as the rifle was for the men. Cotton was grown abundantly and woven into cloth. Rolls were spun on little and big wheels into two kinds of thread, one the chain and the other the filling.

Only the more experienced spinsters spun the chain and the younger ones spun the filling.



Two varieties of looms were used by the pioneer women. The frame of the side loom consisted of two pieces of scantling running obliquely from the cabin floor to the cabin wall. Some years afterward the frame loom, a decided improvement, came into use.

Men and boys wore jeans and "linsey woolsey" hunting shirts. The jeans were ordinarily colored either light blue or butternut. Sometimes the dressed skin of the deer was made into pantaloons. When a young man desired to look especially captivating in the eye of the maiden whom he loved, he wore fringed deerskin trousers.

Caps were made of the skins of the fox and wolf, wildcat and muskrat, tanned with the fur on. Both women and men wore moccasins, which in dry weather were excellent substitutes for shoes. In the earliest days there were no shoemakers, each family making its own shoes.

The Hutchinson News, Hutchinson, Kansas. Saturday, May 6, 1911. Page 13.

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RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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AS ALWAYS, YOUR RENO CO. SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOMED & ENCOURAGED