



THE SUNFLOWER

Reno County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 5
Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-0005

ISSN 1048 - 048X



Volume 29, No. 3

August 2007

The Reno County Genealogical Society of Hutchinson, Kansas was founded in 1978 for the purpose of fostering genealogical research, promoting the exchange of information and encouraging the deposit of genealogical and historical materials in established libraries and archives. Membership in the Reno County Genealogical Society is open to anyone interested in genealogy. Dues are \$12.00 per year, per family from January 1 to December 31 each year. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month [except December / noted otherwise] in the Children's Reading Room of the Hutchinson Public Library, 9th and Main, 7:00 – 9:00 P. M.

RCGS 2007 Officers

President	Ruth Filbert
Vice President *	Karen Burgess
Treasurer	Jim Stoecklein
Recording Secretary	<i>OPEN POSITION</i>
Corresponding Secretary	Jo Heller

[* Includes Program & Membership Chair]

RCGS Email: RCGS@cox.net

RCGS Web Site:

<http://rootsweb.com/~ksrcgs>

KCGS Web Site:

<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/kcgs>

RCGS 2007 Committees

Historian	Rita Lingg
Obit Coordinator	Kathleen Dankanyin
Publication Sales	Sandy Wedman
Quarterly Editor	Gale Wall
Research Chairman	<i>OPEN POSITION</i>
Web Coordinator	Gale Wall

Help Wanted - Open Positions

The Sunflower is published quarterly by the
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[PERSI] of the Allen County Public Library Foundation

The Sunflower welcomes your articles and photographs on your Reno County ancestors.

- Email to: RCGS@cox.net
- Mail to: RCGS - P. O. Box 5 - Hutchinson, KS 67504-0005
- Assistance is available in formatting your submissions
- Submissions are subject to editing and space availability

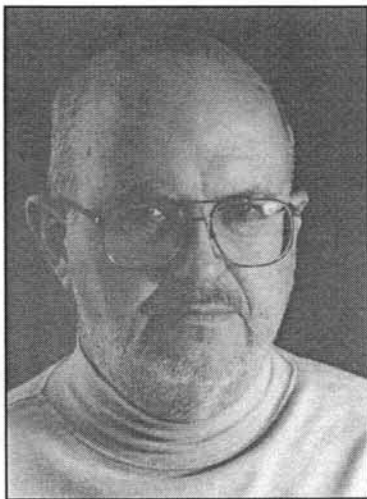
Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due by</u>
Feb	12/5
May	3/5
Aug	6/5
Nov	9/5

The Reno County Genealogical Society is a member of the Federation
of Genealogical Societies and the Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies.

NEWS & NOTES - DATES TO REMEMBER

- Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference - Ft. Wayne, IN - August 15 - 18, 2007
- Kansas State Fair Entry - Genealogy in Fine Arts - August 15th
- Marriage books update: Marriage records prior to 1964 are once again available at the courthouse. We'll keep you posted on the availability of all records as soon as that information is known.
- October 11, 2007 - Native American Program - Robert Winter Owl Vann of Huntsville, Texas will present a program featuring 1) Climbing the Family Totem Pole 2) Geographical Migrations of Native Americans 3) Federal, State and Local Government Records for Indian Research. Sponsored by the Kansas Genealogical Society in Dodge City. For more information visit their website: <http://www.dodgecity.net/kgs/>



Seeing Kansas Through Its Newspapers by Tom Eblen

Tom Eblen recently retired after 15 years as the General Manager and News Adviser for the University Daily Kansan, the daily student newspaper of the University of Kansas. He continues to be active with the Kansas Press Association, which he served as President in 1987 - 1988.

JOIN US August 20, 2007

Hutchinson Public Library - Children's Reading Room

This program is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, a non-profit organization with over 30 years of experience promoting understanding of the history, traditions, and ideas that shape our lives and build community.



RCGS 2007 PROGRAMS

- 1/15 - Tour of the Kansas Room [2nd floor of HPL] by Cheryl Canfield
- 2/19 - Family Health History by Rita Lingg
- 3/19 - Preparing a Kansas State Fair Genealogy Entry by Keith Burgess
- 4/16 - Immigrant Origins by Marilyn Finke, Archivist, National Archives - Central Plains Reg.
- 5/21 - Documentation & Citing Sources by Ruth Filbert
- 6/18 - Census on the Internet [HPL computer lab] by Cheryl Canfield
- 7/16 - Internet Resources & Web Sites by Karen Burgess
- 8/20 - Seeing Kansas Through Its Newspapers by Tom Eblen / Kansas Humanities Program
- 9/17 - Creative Ways to Display Your Family History by Ruth Filbert & Gale Wall
- 10/15 - Celebrating Family History Month - Join us at the Delos V. Smith Center, 101 W. 1st, 6:00 pm.
Potluck - bring your favorite dish to share
Bring a family item to share for "show & tell"
- 11/19 - Book Review & Genealogical Magazines by Ruth Filbert
- December - No meeting - Happy Holidays!

EDITOR'S NOTE



Where has the time gone to? I haven't accomplished as much as I'd hoped to by now, but life happens. Our family said goodbye to Uncle Les Wall in July. He will be missed!

This is my 4th issue of *The Sunflower*. Feedback has been positive but I'd like to know if there are other topics you'd like to see covered. Of course, your help is very much welcomed and appreciated. If you'd like to author/write/research a topic or column please let me know.

Our society is in need of volunteers to serve in board positions. Please review the list located on the masthead [page 58]. A copy of the job description can be emailed to you upon request. Please consider serving your fellow members and volunteer for one of the jobs! You do not need to wait until our November elections to express your interest to help. We need to fill the positions as soon as possible so that other board members are not doing multiple jobs.

Ruth is planning our event at the Kansas State Fair and will need volunteers to help with set-up, pass out hand-outs, breakdown and other tasks. More details can be found in her message on page 60.

In September Karen Burgess and the Board will begin planning our 2008 programs. Please submit your suggestions. We want to plan programs that are of interest to you. That is hard to do if we do not hear from you.

We'll see you in November! Gale Wall

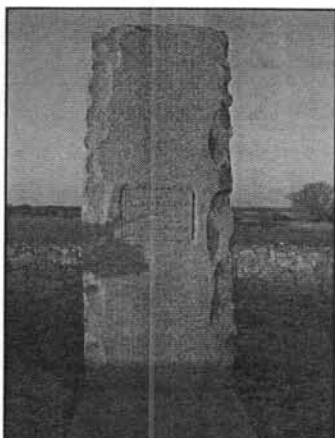
NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Basgall, Shirley
 Bredfeldt, Connie - Hutchinson, KS
 Brown, Cordelia - Lawrence, KS
 Brown, Jeff & Kathy - Salmon, ID *
 Brown, Regan - Austin, TX *
 Harrington, Marguerite - S. Elgin, IL
 Heller, Jo - Hutchinson, KS
 Huntsman, Frank & Alice - Hagerstown, MD *
 Johnston, Marilyn - Hutchinson, KS
 Vanover, Anne - Tucson, AZ

Welcome!

***Note: Don't miss our E-News - make sure we have your email address. Send it to rcgs@cox.net**

ON THE COVER



A memorial erected in memory of President Warren G. Harding and his visit to Hutchinson in 1923.

It is located just Northwest of Penwell-Gabel Cemetery [formerly Memorial Park] on what is commonly known as Rayl's Hill [West 4th Avenue].

Photographed by Gale Wall



KCGS 2007 CONFERENCE



Our thanks to the Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies for another great conference. Speaker Tony Burroughs gave a very informative and entertaining program on 1) The Nature of Genealogical Research 2) Farmers, Tenant Farmers & Share Croppers 3) Six Phases of African American Genealogy 4) Creating Order Out of Chaos.

Visit his website: <http://www.tonyburroughs.com>

Left: Tony receiving his Early Settler of Kansas certificate for his ancestor Preston S. Brooks, from KCGS Certification Chairman Emma Crites.



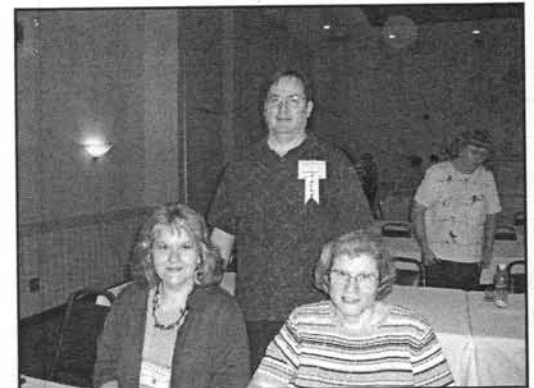
Left: Getting settled and finding a seat.



Right: Tony visiting with the ladies at the sign-in table.



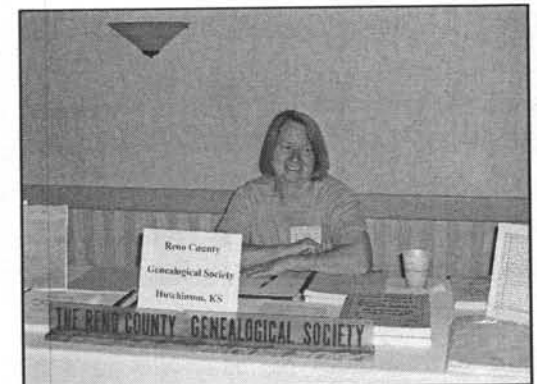
Left: The Reno Co. group with speaker, Tony Burroughs. RCGS won the competition of having the most attendees.



Right: The Harvey County folks.



Left: Ruth Filbert presents an award



Right: Karen Burgess at the RCGS table

PIONEERS & SETTLERS OF RENO COUNTY

A Biographical History of Central Kansas, 1902

Carson M. Bay



One of the most extensive farmers and stock raisers of Reno County is C. M. Bay, who resides on section 18, Roscoe township. He has depended entirely upon his own resources from early manhood and has met difficulties and disasters; but the word defeat does not appear in his vocabulary, and with undaunted spirit he faces every situation and makes conditions result to his own benefit, where a man of less resolute purpose would be utterly disheartened and discouraged. Within the last three years he has become the owner of the extensive property interests which he now enjoys and his stock raising enterprise is represented by seven hundred head of cattle of good grades upon his ranches.

Mr. Bay was born in Gallia, Ohio, in 1858, a son of Joseph N. and Emily Campbell Bay, both of whom were also natives of the Buckeye state. The father, a farmer by occupation, removed with his family from Ohio to Monroe County, Iowa, and now resides in Clark County, that state, engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock raising. He is a prominent citizen of the locality and a leading representative of the Masonic fraternity. In his family were four children, of whom two are now living: C. M., who is the eldest, and Samuel E., a farmer of Roscoe township, Reno County.

During his infancy Mr. Bay was taken by his parents

to Iowa, and there he was reared to manhood upon the home farm, acquiring his education in the public schools of the neighborhood. His mother died when he was only seven years of age, but he continued with his father until seventeen years of age, when he left home to make his own way in the world. He began farming on this own account on a tract of eighty acres in Wayne County, Iowa, and after two years sold that property and with his capital purchased two good teams and wagons, with which he started for Kansas in 1878. On arriving in Reno County he traded one team and wagon for the southwest quarter of section 19, Roscoe township - a tract of raw prairie land, on which he built a sod house. Immediately afterward he began improving the farm, remaining thereon for two years. He also took up a timber claim, on the same quarter, on which he planted about eleven acres of catalpa trees, from which he has sold for the last three years as fence posts to the value of five hundred dollars each year.

In 1880 Mr. Bay purchased four hundred and eighty acres in Roscoe township on sections 28 and 29, and took up his abode on the northwest quarter of section 29. There he erected another sod house, in which he lived for a year and then removed to his present location on section 18, Roscoe township. In 1882 he erected his present residence, hauling the lumber from Hutchinson. In 1883 he removed from the farm to the town of Kingman, renting his land, and there engaged in the land and loan business, handling much property and carrying on an extensive business. He was also active in promoting various enterprises which proved of value in promoting general prosperity as well as individual success. He remained in Kingman until 1890 and from 1884 until 1887 prospered, making one hundred thousand dollars, but during the financial panic of 1887-1888, when there was a marked depreciation in the value of all kinds of property and because he had to make payment of some twenty thousand dollars of security debts, and in addition, losing thirty-eight thousand dollars in various corporations, he lost all in the general crash, saving only from the wreck of his fortunes the timber claim on the southwest quarter of section 19, Roscoe township. In 1891

PIONEERS & SETTLERS OF RENO COUNTY

he retired to the farm and again took his place behind the plow. Gradually he gained another start and engaged in the raising of grain and stock. In 1895 he purchased one thousand head of cattle, which he kept three years and then found the venture unprofitable. Since then he was been largely engaged in buying and selling land and in cultivating his fields and dealing in live stock. He now has thirty-six hundred and eighty acres. He cultivates about sixteen hundred acres and therefore annually harvests large crops. He also has about seven hundred head of cattle upon his place and among the leading and most extensive farmers and stock raisers of the county he is numbered. When disaster has overtaken him, with renewed courage, his trouble serving as an impetus for greater diligence, he has taken up the work of retrieving his lost possession, and, with unfaltering spirit, he has once more gained a place among the leading and prosperous business men of Reno County. Undoubtedly he possesses business ability of a high order, together with executive force, keen discernment and marked powers of management.

Mr. Bay was married in Iowa, September 27, 1876, to Miss Maggie J. Sloan, a daughter of H. R. and Charlotte Gibson Sloan. She is a native of Ohio and with her parents went to Iowa, where the family were numbered among the early settlers. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bay five children have been born: Lottie F., an accomplished lady well known in Hutchinson and vicinity, who is now the wife of Emmet Hutton, one of the proprietors of the American Steam Laundry, of Hutchinson; Clyde and Delmer, at home; and two who died in infancy.

Like many other settlers in pioneer times Mr. Bay frequently did freighting between Wichita and Medicine Lodge, Lake City and other points, during the winter months, in order to bring in some ready money. He is numbered among the early settlers, whose labors contributed in large measure to the development and progress of the county and he is yet actively interested in all movements for the general good. In politics he has always been a stalwart Republican, but has never aspired to office, and has never consented to serve in public positions, save on the school board. In his fra-

ternal relations he is an Odd Fellow, belonging to Kingman Lodge, No. 99, and he also has membership relations with the Modern Woodmen Camp at Pretty Prairie. His example should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what can be accomplished even in the face of great difficulties, when one has the will to dare and to do, and when labor is guided by sound business principles.

Sego Cemetery - Loda Township

Carson M. Bay 4/26/1858 - 7/4/1916

Maggie Jane Bay 3/6/1858 - 11/29/1947

James Victor Bay 4/6/1880 - 2/9/1882

Clyde M. Bay 4/19/1883 - 11/28/1961

Delmar E. Bay 1/11/1886 - 10/4/1965

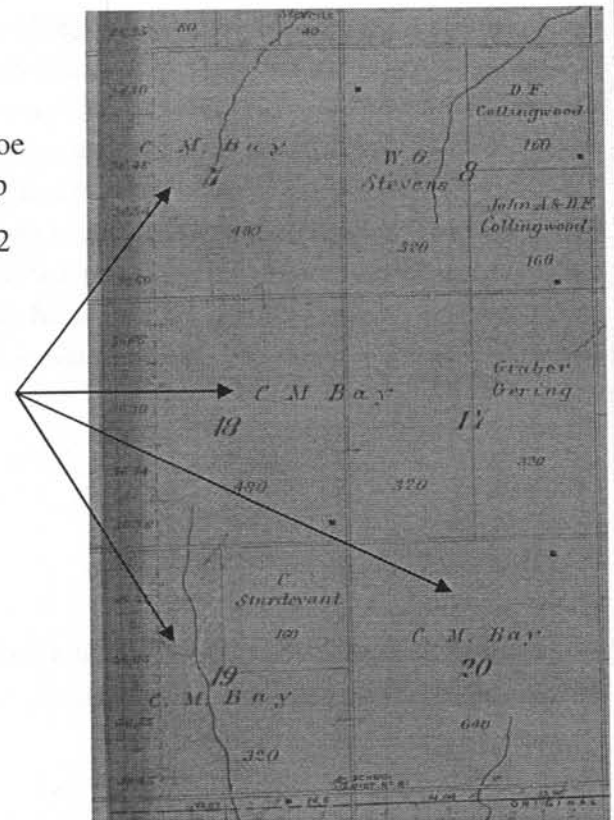
Lawrence Walter Bay 4/14/1897 - 3/8/1899

Eastside Cemetery

Lottie Bay Hutton died 1/25/1953

Emmett Hutton 12/10/1863 - 1/21/1947

Roscoe
Twp
1902



VETERAN IN RENO COUNTY



The Last Soldier Ceremony

Sons of Union Veterans
Cpl Patrick Coyne Camp No 1
Honoring Lt. Col. Henry Hartford
Eastside Cemetery - May 24, 2007

Henry is the grandfather of John Henry Hartford, hereditary member of the Kansas Commandery of the Military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.



Henry Hartford was born February 8, 1837 in Ireland, the eldest son of William and Martha Leslie Hartford. Martha was born September 15, 1812 and died in Reno County in 1908. Henry's father owned a coach factory in Coleraine and died after an illness of consumption leaving the widowed mother running a boarding house. Henry followed his younger brother, William Hartford, Jr., to New York City in 1858 and found employment there.

In April 1861 Henry and William answered Lincoln's First Call [his family still has Henry's first call medal] crossing the river into New Jersey and enlisting as Privates in Company K, 1st New Jersey, U. S. Volunteers. Henry mustered out at the expiration of the term on July 31, 1861 and reenlisted on August 31, 1861 as a 1st Sgt in Company F, 8th New Jersey Infantry, USV. He worked his way through the ranks by serving in Companies E and C, Commissioned 2nd Lt. on December 10, 1862, 1st Lt. on October 30, 1863, Cpt on June 11, 1864, Major in December 1864 and Lt. Col. On April 2, 1865. He was discharged in October 1865 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Following the war Henry went back to New York City where he worked for a fore runner of Dunn and Bradstreet. In 1867 Henry, with brother William, sister Elizabeth and mother Martha moved to Leavenworth, Kansas where the men started a food brokerage business called Hartford & Brother. Elizabeth married a Civil War veteran from Missouri, George Cooter. George was a blacksmith and later became a successful banker in Hutchinson. Another sister, Susan, eventually came to this country but married and stayed in New Jersey. In 1872 Henry, William and Martha, along with the Cooters, moved to Reno County. They had a dugout in the middle of section 18, township 22 and range 4, which allowed them all to claim homesteading a quarter. In 1874 Henry served one term as Sheriff of Reno County, was a stockman, raising Shorthorn cattle and Berkshire hogs. He was successful and owned over 1,000 acres of ground when he retired.

Henry married Alice Elizabeth Thomas in Medora on February 28, 1879. Alice was born May 5, 1854 in Jennings County, Indiana and died February 1, 1935 in Hutchinson. Henry died October 4, 1919 in Hutchinson.

Children of Henry and Alice:

- Ethel W.
- Etta - a school teacher in Hutchinson
- Daile, married John Cain
- Harry Emmitt, married Leona Saunders Graves
- May Hartford - a school teacher in Hutchinson

Henry's GAR
uniform at the
Reno County
Museum



VETERAN IN RENO COUNTY



The Last Soldier Ceremony

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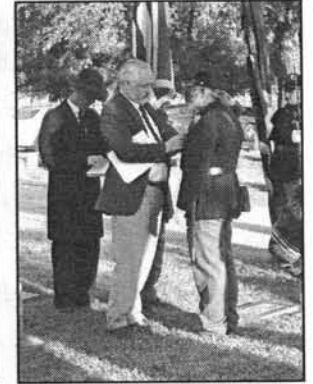
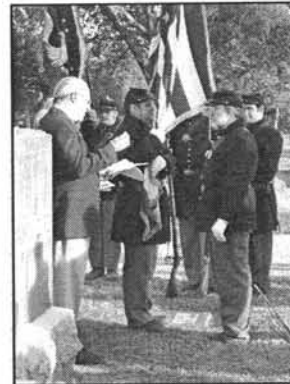
Eastside Cem. Hutchinson, KS



John Henry Hartford Grandson of Henry



Michael Gaskins, induction into the Sons of Union Veterans at the end of The Last Soldier Ceremony



For more information on the Department of Kansas Sons of Union Veterans: <http://suvcwks.org>

For more information on the SUVCW National Organization: <http://suvcw.org>

PHOTOS & POSTCARDS

WHO are these women?



Help Solve This Mystery

RCGS member, Nancy Moore, purchased this photo on Ebay because it carried the mark of a Hirst Photographer. Nancy is the great granddaughter of Hutchinson Photographer, Samuel Hirst, that was featured in the February 2007 issue.

After reviewing the photo Nancy believes the young woman 2nd from left on the back row is her grandmother, Lila Hirst Whitney. If this is true this would date the photo approximately 1902 - 1908. The mystery is "Who is this group of young women?" and "Where are they?"

Also, if you have old family photos that were taken by a Hirst photographer, Nancy is interested in obtaining a digital copy. If you don't have a scanner contact RCGS and we will help with this request.

If you can help solve this mystery, send an email to rcgs@cox.net.

Do you have a photo or postcard you would like to share?

HEIRLOOMS ~ FAMILY TREASURES ~ KEEPSAKES



Orphaned Family Keepsake

Years ago there was a Veterans Store in South Hutchinson. This cup was purchased there by the mother of RCGS member, Kathleen Dankanyin.

Kathleen heard it called a mustache cup. One of those that was used to lather up for shaving. Or, it could be some type of commemorative cup for when he was made a Mason? On the front of the cup are birds and flowers and the Mason symbol and the name O. S. Jenks. This could be a treasured item for a family member.

Turon Weekly - May 11, 1905

Orlo S. Jenks was born January 12, 1846 in Jefferson County, Wisconsin and died at his home in Turon, Reno County, Kansas, May 3, 1905. He was married to Hester L. Slack in November, 1878. To this union were born two children, but both died in infancy. He was converted and joined the United Brethren church in 1890, and served in the capacity of Sunday school superintendent continuously from that time until about two years ago when his health failed him.

He enlisted in the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry [sic] when he was but a lad of seventeen and served his country two and one half years. He came to Kansas in 1874 and resided in Reno County continuously ever since. In lodge circles he was very popular as an active and enthusiastic worker. He joined the Odd Fellow lodge at Lerado and was charter members of the Turon lodge when it was organized. He had been a member of Turon Camp No. 878 M. W. A., since March 1889, was a member of Magnolia Rebekah lodge and was made a Mason August 13, 1898.

Mr. Jenks was a man who befriended everybody. He was ever ready to administer to the necessities of others regardless of the sacrifice by himself. He was a good man and was loved and respected by all good people. His death was caused from a partial stroke of paralysis by which he was stricken nearly two years ago. The funeral was held from the family residence Thursday morning, May 4, at 10 o'clock, conducted by Rev. U. S. Benson assisted by the various lodges, after which the remains were laid to rest in the Turon Cemetery.

Card of Thanks

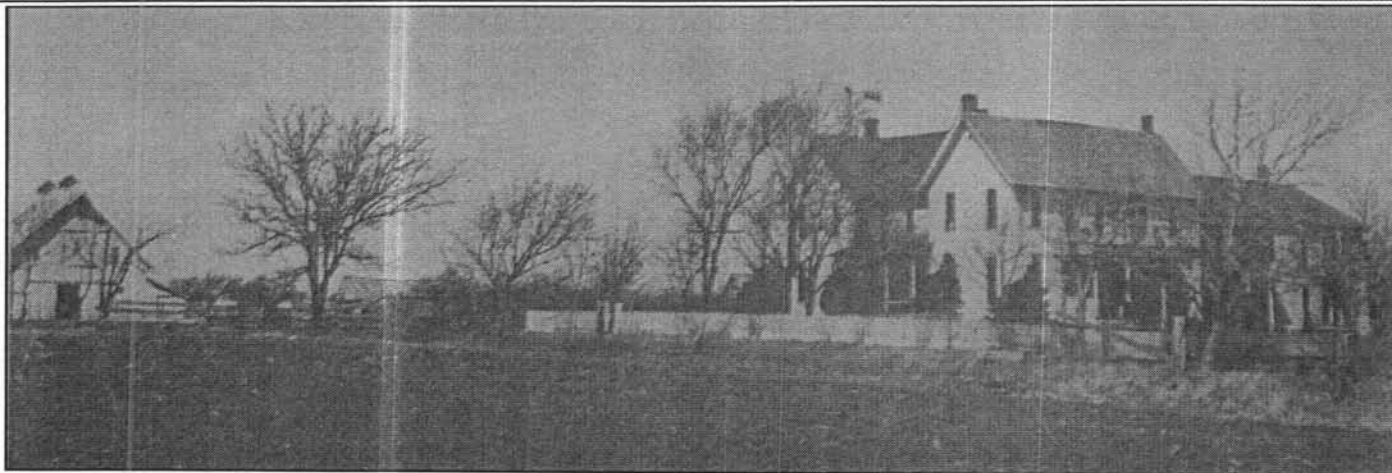
I desire to express my sincere thanks to the many friends for their kindness and help during the sickness and death of my husband. Mrs. H. L. Jenks

It is Kathleen's desire to unite this item with a family member. We'll keep you posted.

Note: Hester was born 12/28/1855 and died on 1/10/1940. She was buried at Eastside Cemetery. Her children, Hettie and Charlie are buried at Lerado Cem.

Share your family keepsakes!

RENO COUNTY POOR FARM



Gone are the days of the poor farm and sadly their history with it. Very few records exist today. Other than census records and the poor farm interments at Eastside Cemetery only one record has been located and that is the contract for G. M. Zimmerman as Superintendent of the poor farm for the year 1892-1893. [Photo page 71]

As early as 1887 newspaper articles note the need for a tax levy for a farm. Reno County was taking care of indigents on a case-by-case basis and it was expensive. It was determined the county would do better financially with establishing a poor farm where the inmates would be housed and taken care of. Most poor farms expected those able bodied to help with the farming and general care of the poor farm in order to make it self-supporting.

Our Poor Farm

The County Commissioners have finally purchased a farm to be used as a county poor farm. A description of this farm has been given in the former issues of this paper. In the past and at the present whatever paupers Reno County has had to support, have been scattered here and there and have cost the county great sums of money to have them taken care of. Under proper management the poor farm can be made self-supporting after the buildings have been remodeled, or enlarged and some stock is put upon it. We know of a poor farm that has upon it seventy-five paupers. It is not as well located, nor as good a quality of land as that bought by our county commissioners. Its inmates are well clothed, fed, and taken care of. It will prove a saving to the county and a godsend to those whose misfortunes have placed them upon the charity of others.

Hutchinson Weekly News - Thursday April 17, 1890

Bought A Poor Farm

The commissioners of Reno County bought the farm of James H. Perkins yesterday, to be used as a poor farm. The farm lies four and one-half miles southwest of the city of Hutchinson and comprises 320 acres. The price paid was \$8,500. The farm is finely located and is well adapted to the use for which it is intended.

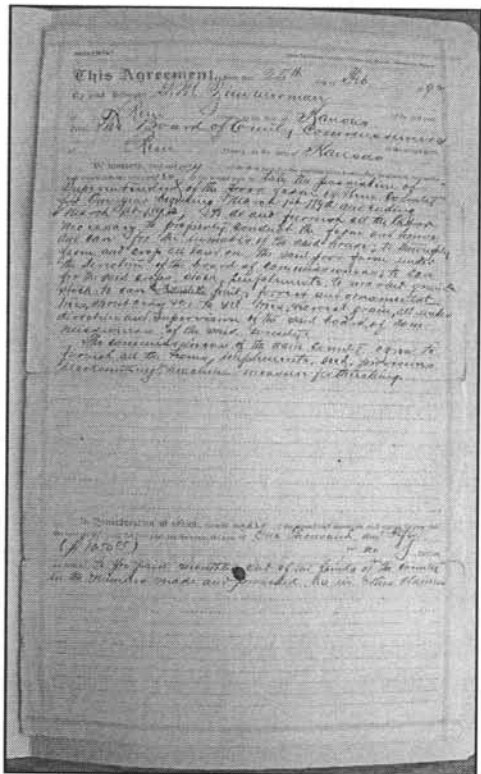
Hutchinson Weekly News - Thursday April 17, 1890

Census records have been located for the Reno County Poor Farm for the following years: 1895, 1900, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1930. I could not find a listing on the 1905 State Census. These will be transcribed and placed on the RCGS website, as will additional information. The Poor Farm would later become Broad Acres and other names for a nursing home facility.

There is a website dedicated to documenting poor farms / poor houses: <http://www.poorhousestory.com/>

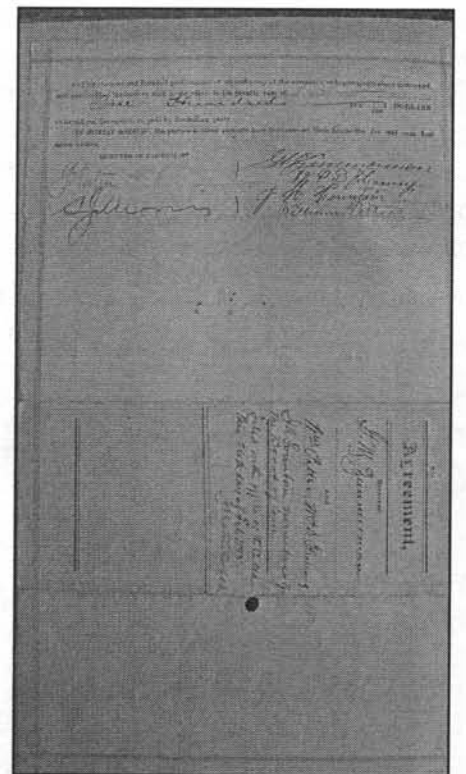
RENO COUNTY POOR FARM

Official Vote of Reno County - At the election for County Officers, Held Tuesday, November 5, 1889					
Precinct	For	Against	- Bonds for Poor House		
Albion	38	19	Medora	37	1
Arlington	133	5	Ninnescah	29	2
Bell	20	10	Plevna	8	13
Castleton	45	14	Reno, N	22	1
Center	41	24	Reno, S	73	5
Clay	65	6	Roscoe	18	6
Enterprise	62	1	Salt Creek	58	10
Grant	94	3	Sumner	6	36
Grove	115	18	Sylvia	10	43
Haven	102	25	Troy	30	1
Hayes	56	3	Valley	55	20
Huntsville	42	25	Walnut	39	3
Langdon	22	18	Westminster	60	-
Lincoln	69	-	Hutch, 1	331	24
Little River	2	-	Hutch, 2	170	8
Loda	59	5	Hutch, 3	209	10
Medford	15	1	Hutch, 4	252	8
			Nickerson, 1	62	1
			Nickerson, 2	79	2
			Nickerson, 3	49	1



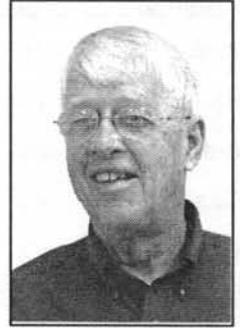
Agreement dated February 25, 1892 between G. M. Zimmerman and The Board of County Commissioners - Position of Superintendent of the Reno County Poor Farm for the year March 1, 1892 to March 1, 1893.

This original document is archived at the Reno County Museum.



FINDING OLD GRAVES

By Bill Rexroad



In May 2007 I was privileged to take part in a week-long project to find unmarked graves using ground penetrating radar (GPR). Searches were conducted at several cemeteries in Pendleton County, West Virginia. My interest in the project stemmed from the fact that four generations of my ancestors had lived in Pendleton County, including Johann Zacharias Rexroth, the first of our clan to come to America. The project was sponsored by The Fort Seybert Heritage Educational Association (FSHEA), Sandra Pope, chairperson. FSHEA is a project-oriented, historical organization headquartered in Pendleton County. Its primary objective is to research and preserve the rich history of the county.

The company that provided and operated the GPR equipment was NAEVA Geophysics, Inc., with offices in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Congers, New York. A two-person crew from the company did the work. They were Mark Weis and Amelia Paruch, both of whom have degrees in geology.

The GPR equipment consisted of a device similar in configuration and about the same size as the power lawnmower we use to mow our yards. Its enclosed radar unit is wheeled over the ground in a prescribed path across known, marked graves and onto an area where unmarked graves were thought to be. Going across known graves is done to establish a reference for the signals that unmarked graves would give. A readout screen on the device shows where there had been disturbances in the consistency of the soil below, such as those caused by a grave having been dug. Several passes are made and a marker flag is put down wherever an anomaly is detected.

After an area had been swept in this manner, a pattern of flags emerged. Known graves showed a pattern of three or four flags in a line with the length of each grave. Previously unknown graves clearly became apparent when the same pattern was seen where there was no headstone. Also, the unmarked graves were often found to be in a line with the marked graves, thus further substantiating that they were in fact graves.

Soil conditions sometimes caused the readings to be inconclusive. In one such instance the pattern of flags showed what appeared to be a row of unmarked graves, but the readout indicated they were only two feet deep. This made it questionable that they were graves. But the pattern of the flags did indicate several grave-length disturbances side-by-side, all in a line. The GPR was then run over some nearby graves that did have headstones and were recent enough that they would have been six feet deep. Those graves also gave signals that said they were only two feet deep. The conclusion was that the soil conditions caused an inaccurate depth reading and that the flag patterns did indeed show grave locations.

Seven cemeteries and one other burial site were scanned during the course of the project. Many unmarked graves were found. For the most part they were in areas where the burials would have taken place during the 1800s. There is no way to know who was buried in all those graves, but the information is valuable nonetheless. For example, there was a church cemetery in which many of the stones were missing, leaving a large vacant area. The cemetery owners believed that graves existed there, but had difficulty convincing people that the area was not available for new graves. Now they have evidence.

In another cemetery a certain family buried there was known to have owned slaves during the mid-1800s. Family lore said that the slaves had been buried in the same cemetery as their master. Sure enough, the GPR equip-



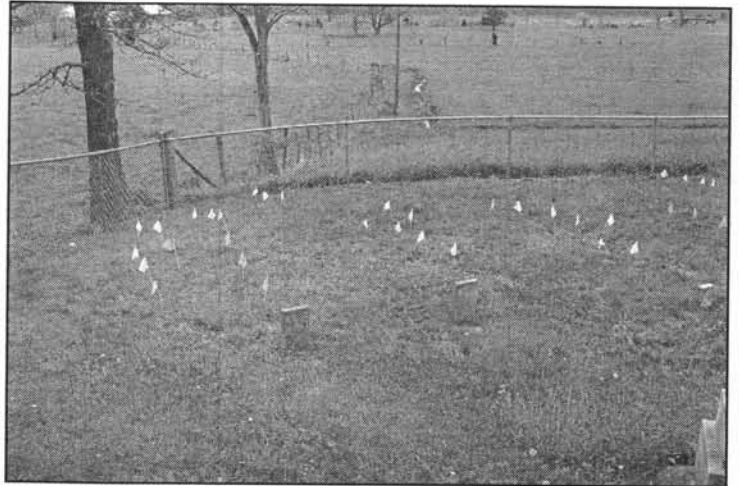
FINDING OLD GRAVES

ment found indication of graves in a far corner of the cemetery where the slaves were thought to have been buried.

My own particular interest was at the home place of my ancestor, Johann Zacharias Rexroth, the first Rexroad to come to America. He died in 1799 and his wife about 1806. A man who had lived nearby many years ago remembered seeing grave-like depressions in the ground where Zacharias and his wife might have been buried. The depressions are no longer visible because the land has since been cultivated, but the GPR search found signs of graves in the same spot where the man said the depressions had been. Were those my ancestors buried there? I'll probably never know, but it is an intriguing bit of information to add to my family history.

See a color version on the "Featured" section of the RCGS website

R: More discovered graves



L: Ground Penetrating Radar unit

R: Amelia and Mark searching with the GPR unit

Opposite Page: Several discovered graves identified by flag markers



BIOGRAPHIES & FAMILY RECORDS**The Kidnapping of Electa Forrest**

As Judith Kiner of Van Buren, Arkansas, researched the family of her husband, she stumbled across this short news article:

2/4/1893 The Evening News, Lincoln Nebraska: "Identified the Haystack Girl

Hutchinson, Kan., Feb. 4 - The young woman found unconscious in a haystack at Clayton, Mo., a few days ago proves to be Miss Electa Forrest, a school teacher of this city, who was abducted from her school about fifteen miles north of here, two weeks ago. The Kansas Salt Company of this city has sent a party to trail her and her abductor and bring the young lady home."

No one in the family had ever heard of the kidnapping incident and that led Judith to send RCGS a research request which in turn led us on a chase to find out more about the kidnapping with the hopes of Judith finally discovering who Electa's parents were. Our search in the business directories and census did not reveal the names of a Forrest family in this area at the time of the kidnapping. Searching the newspapers yielded the greatest clues into this mystery.

2/2/1893 Hutchinson Daily News: "Drugged and Abducted. One of Hutchinson's Young Lady Teachers Carried Away From Lyons". The article is lengthy and tells of the "deep scheme of an Englishman to steal Electa Forrest". While the Forrest family lived in Cheyenne County, Kansas Joe Pillings [alias Joseph C. Knoll] advances to Electa were not entertained. He swore to have her when she became of age. The Forrest family sold off their possessions and moved to Hutchinson. While Electa was teaching school in Lyons Joe appeared on the scene and managed to induce her to take a drug. He packed her clothing in her trunk and carried her off. When found in Pittsburg, KS she appeared in a stupor and was unwilling to talk. Pillings is reported to be married with children in Nebraska.

2/3/1893 Lyons Republican: "Found At Last. Miss Electa Forest and her Lover captured after a month's search. Sheriff Foster found them living together at Pittsburg, Kansas. The girl refused to desert her inamorato and will bury herself to the balance of the world for his sake. The man has a wife and family living." This articles tell of the departure and the Sheriff tracking them to Pittsburg, Kansas where he finds them living as man and wife. Knoll [Pillings alias] was taken before the police judge and fined \$100 for adultery according to the laws of that town. The Sheriff tried to convince Electa to return to her parents but she refused.

2/6/1893 Hutchinson Daily News: Correspondence / Editor News - "Anxious" of Lyons Kansas writes there is more to the mysterious affair that caused a stir in the social circles in Lyons and elsewhere and that only one side was given. "The people think there are some things, and probably a good many, yet in the background, and, in order to have a true photograph which will bring out all the features and phases of the matter..." [What did this person know?]

2/9/1893 Hutchinson Weekly News: The Forrest - Pillings Affair - The News reporter received word from Pittsburg that Pillings laughed at the drug story and wasn't doing much talking on the subject and those who had heard the rumor would be very much surprised when the drug was analyzed. Miss Forrest has acted strangely since the arrest and has refused to come home. When she heard that an officer from Hutchinson was coming to get her she stole away and has not been heard from. Those in Pittsburg that saw her get on the train think she went to Kansas City but the ticket agent said she purchased a ticket to Chicago. It is expected that she has been drugged or that her mind has been seriously affected.

2/17/1893 Lyons Republican: Word has been received that Miss Electa Forest has left Pittsburg, Kansas and

BIOGRAPHIES & FAMILY RECORDS

gone to Kansas City, Missouri. Her relatives have as yet been unsuccessful in inducing the girl to go home. Her brother was in Pittsburg on the day she left that place, and while he went to send a letter home, she slipped over to Missouri.

What happened to Joe Pillings aka Joseph Knoll? Did his arrest and Electa's departure end their contact? Was she abducted or a willing partner in an affair? These are just some of the questions that come to mind when reading this story. Shortly after this incident Electa married George E. Kiner, Sr. in Benkelman, Nebraska and on October 8, 1894 she gave birth to Herald Athena Kiner. Just a few months later Electa would die from pneumonia at the tender age of 22 on March 10, 1895 in Springfield, MO. She was laid to rest in the Maple Park Cemetery in Springfield.

The research request at RCGS didn't stop there. The intrigue was such that we wanted to know more. A letter to the Springfield-Greene County Library yielded a death notice. A letter written to the Maple Park Cemetery was promptly responded to. The return note gave the burial location in the cemetery and the information from the interment which listed Electa as the *daughter of Mr. & Mrs. S. F. Forrest* and lot paid for by Henry B. Forrest of Seattle, Washington. Further research in the census showed that Henry was the brother of Electa. Census records were found 1850-1880 in Linn Co., MO and 1900-1930 in King Co., WA. Alas, the mystery of the parents was solved. The mystery of the kidnapping remains. After the death of Electa, Herald was raised by his grandmother Margaret Clark until he was 14 years old. George Kiner, who was born October 12, 1868 in Seneca, Michigan, remarried to Anna Meineke in 1909 at Wiggins, Colorado. George died on September 26, 1927. Anna lived to the age of 101. They are buried at Sedgwick, Colorado.

Herald Athena Kiner was married to the following:

- 1) Edna Irene Strickland and had son Lawrence V. Kiner - husband of Judith.
- 2) Ruby Quinton and had daughters Athena and Alice.
- 3) Lulu Case
- 4) Nancy Roberson

Herald died October 13, 1984 at Clarksville, Arkansas.

Judith has copies of the following teaching certificates and contracts for Electa Forrest: Contract - Reno County 1891, Certificate - Reno County 1891, Certificate - Rice County 1891, Certificate - Rice County 189? [illegible]. Electa was a teacher in Reno County in 1891 at District 73, Turon.



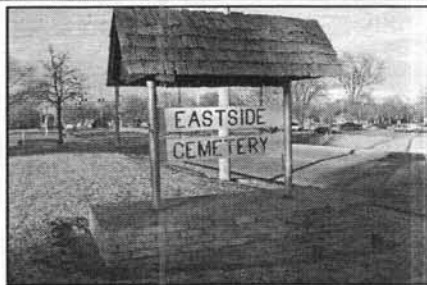
Left: George

Right: Electa

These are copies of copies and
the best images available.



CEMETERY CORNER - EASTSIDE CEMETERY PROJECT



It is with great excitement that I share with you the Eastside Cemetery Project underway. For two years RCGS member, Kathleen Dankanyin, has been typing the interment records for the Eastside Cemetery. Those that know me well enough know that I love to research cemeteries and have currently photographed 30 of the 54 in Reno County. Kathleen and I have teamed up to work on the cemeteries of Reno County since we share this interest. The Eastside file is complete and is in the final stage of verification. Upon completion the file will be formatted for our website. It was decided that we would take this a step further than just a list of interments and are formatting extended web pages for the cemetery. It is our goal to add photos, lot information, family information and much more. Research is on-going to provide information on the following categories:

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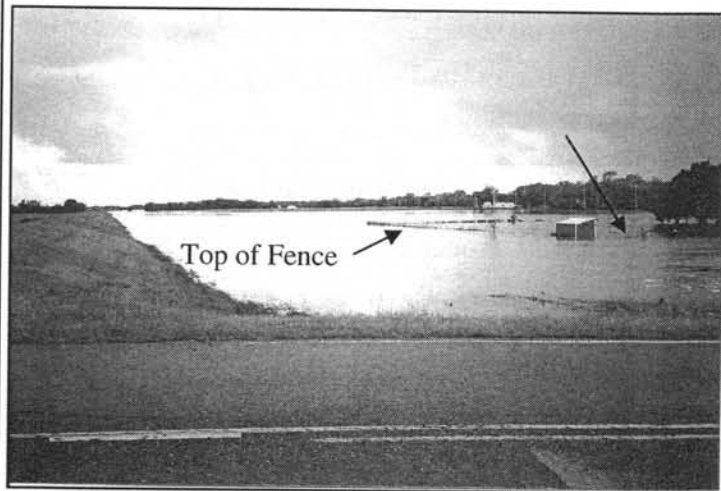
- Ancient Burials
- Baby Land - Old & New
- City Ground
- County Ground
- Featured Headstones
- Grand Army of the Republic
- History of Eastside
- Interments [linked to individual info]
- Management and Project Contacts
- Map - Lot Map [color / PDF] - this is already online
- Mausoleum
- Medal of Honor Recipient
- News Articles
- Project Notes
- Prominent People
- Removals
- Request More Information
- Unknowns, Unwanted & Unusual
- Veterans in Eastside
- Views of Eastside
- Wall Street Addition
- What's New - to capture recent updates

FYI - Check out the Partridge Cemetery website created and maintained by RCGS member, Phillip H. Pitzer. Linked from RCGS website.

If you have a family member buried at Eastside and would like to submit a biography and photos to be included on the site, please let us know. We will begin loading the data in the Fall.

CEMETERY CORNER - FLOODED CEMETERY

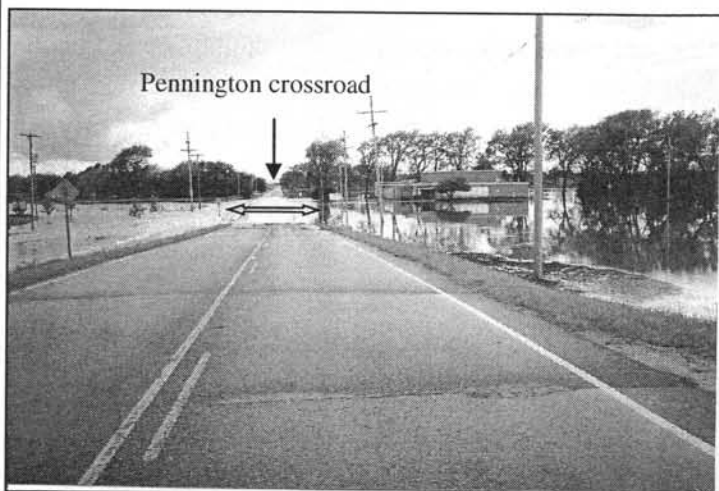
The month of May brought much rain to Reno County. The Mitchell Chapel Church Cemetery located at 56th Avenue and Pennington Road was flooded. The black and white photos [taken on 56th Avenue] don't show the flooded area as well as the color photos. We will have the color photos on our website.



Looking South



Looking Southwest

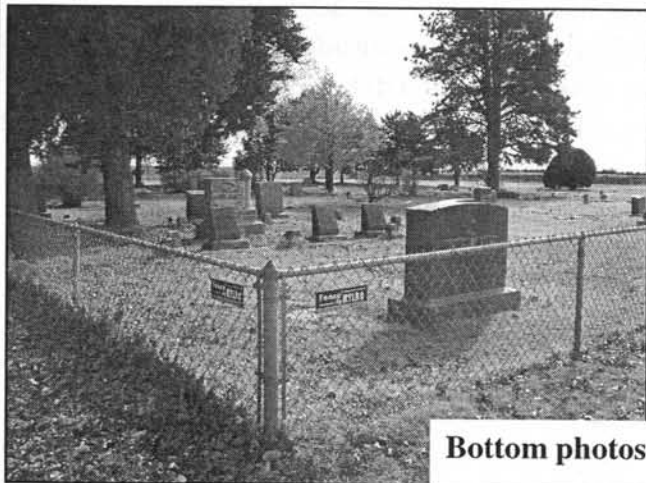


Looking West



Looking North

Flood photos courtesy of Diana Shultz Parsons



Bottom photos taken 2006 By Gale Wall

IN THE NEWS

Growth of One Year

Thirteen New Families Have
Been Added to Avenue A West

There has been quite an addition to the number of homes on Avenue A West during the past year. New houses have been built and others moved in and remodeled. Within the past two weeks Bert Allison has moved in houses and rented them at No. 215 and No. 217. Since one year ago thirteen new homes have been added to this end of Avenue A. They are as follows: The Allison places mentioned above; C. D. James, new house at No. 225; the John Kishwray place at No. 301; W. H. Teters' new cottage, No. 315; George Lock, No. 701; O. N. Hartman, No. 625; Tom Moore, No. 516, Robt. Gallup, No. 422; Jack Gallup, No. 517; Martin Burris, No. 428; Alexander Lee, No. 400; and a house put in by A. B. Caldwell to be rented.

Hutchinson News Weekly
Thursday, November 7, 1901
Page 2

Graduates at K. S. A. C.

Among the list there are a number from this section

Among the 225 who will be granted diplomas as completing the course in the Agricultural College at Manhattan on June 13, there are a number from this city and this part of the country. The list of those who will interest people in this vicinity are:

Bachelor of Science, School of Home Economics - Mabel Etzold, Liberal; Hazel Myers, Hutchinson; Lulu E. Stallman, Hutchinson.

Bachelor of Science, School of Agriculture: Roy E. Alexander, Bucklin; T. J. Darrah, McPherson; Wm. E. Essmiller, Great Bend; Lee H. Gould, Dodge City; Harry L. Smith, Hutchinson.

Bachelor of Science, School of Mechanic Arts: Ludwig J. Schwab, Partridge; David G. Brandt, Harper; A. Segel, McPherson; W. V. Stanley, Burrton.

Bachelor of Science, School of General Science: Roy J. Davis, Plevna; Willis N. Kelley, Hutchinson.

Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine: D. B. Pellette, Hutchinson.

Hutchinson News Weekly

May 30, 1912, Page 4

Found Human Bones

Sheriff and Coroner Discovered Them Near Sylvania
From Saturday's Daily

Sheriff Duckworth and Coroner Schoor drove in an automobile yesterday afternoon to the farm of W. H. Buckles, six miles southwest of Sylvania, where some human bones had been found. Dr. Schoor brought them to his office here. The bones might have been buried there for ten years or so, according to Dr. Schoor. The house, under which, the bones had been buried had been occupied for several years by a Mr. Newman and family but Mr. Buckles had recently moved there and built a new house, making the discovery while building. It is not known how the bones come to be there or whether they are those of a man or woman.

Hutchinson News Weekly

Thursday, May 20, 1909

Reno county, while one of the best - in fact, the banner county of Kansas for agricultural pursuits, is a little short on natural pleasure resorts, but a little money, judiciously expended, would make Lake Cable, at Arlington, one of the most attractive places in the state. The lake is now one of considerable dimensions and by the construction of a dyke, a few hundred feet in length, a body of water covering several hundred acres and having a depth of from eight to twenty feet of pure spring water could be obtained thus affording an unexcelled reservoir for the propagation of fish. The lake is fed by natural springs, the location is an excellent one and the body of water could be increased to three or four times its present size without endangering any part of the city or surrounding county.

Hutchinson News Weekly - March 7, 1890

SCHOOL DAYS

Thomas Grove School - District 127 - Medora Township

This photo [above] was purchased on Ebay by RCGS member, Darren McMannis. According to a 1956 newspaper article the school was built in 1886 and located 5 1/2 miles north and 1 1/2 miles east of 30th and Plum. Namesakes for the building and its district were the Thomas brothers, who settled the county's first homestead. They came here from Salina, by-passing better land to settle near a big spring, a grove of cottonwood trees and bountiful grassland. The school was later built on their property and they were among the first board members. In 1956 a new structure was built behind the original 1-Room schoolhouse and until then the old school had never been rebuilt since its construction.

The back of the photo [above] is inscribed: To Clarice Mae from Carrie. The front of the photo has the following writing: Thomas Grove School. Carrie Forrester Hutch.*

The photo on the right is what the school looked like in 1956 when it was replaced.

*I found a Carrie Forrester in the Reno County census - indicating she was born about 1898. Any descendents still around?



FAMILY HISTORY MONTH**Favorite Ancestor Story Contest**

October is family history month. RCGS is holding a Favorite Ancestor Story Contest. [The Family History Fair segment has been cancelled]. We invite our members to display family items at our October 15th Potluck. It's always interesting to see the keepsakes of others so we hope you'll share your favorites with us.

Winners of the story contest will be announced at the potluck. Prizes will be presented if winners are present. If a winner is a remote member the prize will be mailed to you that week.

We realize not all members of our society have Reno County roots, so we welcome your favorite ancestor story too.

Story Guidelines:

Submission must be received by 9/15

Story must be titled

Story should include "why" subject is your favorite ancestor / family member

Subject must be deceased

Subject does not need to be direct lineage

Story should contain date / time-frame for historical context

Submissions may be emailed or mailed

Preferred email format is WORD [or compatible] [PDF]

Typed entries should be double spaced

Digital photos may be included as attachments, not embedded

Print photos may be submitted with SASE

Maximum 500 words

Submission form is on our website or can be requested via email / mail

Celebrating Family History Month

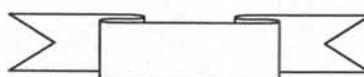
Join us October 15th!

Delos V. Smith Center

101 W. 1st

6:00 pm.

Potluck - bring your favorite dish to share
Bring a family item for display or "show & tell"



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Wednesday and the second Saturday. Can you help answer questions during the programs? We are holding a Favorite Ancestor Story Contest for family history month in October. Winners will be announced at the October potluck. Do you have an interesting Ancestor/Pedigree chart, family heirloom, homestead or other record, that you could display at the potluck? We have had some very interesting programs this year and I encourage you to not miss the remaining meetings. Next month we need our local members to be present for the humanities program. Please attend!

Your President, Ruth Filbert

Moving? Please notify us of your new mailing address. THE SUNFLOWER is not forwarded.

PUBLICATIONS

1880 Census of Reno County		\$18.00
Births - Recorded Early Births of Reno County 1890-1911 & Index		\$17.00
Cemetery Book of Reno County, / 1865-1978	SOLD OUT	\$23.00
Cemetery Records of North Inman, Superior Township, McPherson County, KS		\$7.00
Deaths - Recorded Deaths of Reno County 4 volumes, 1890-1911 & Index		\$17.00
Homestead Records of Reno County Name, location & file date 1875-1945		\$21.50
Marriages - Marriages of Reno County 1872 - 1913		\$23.00
Naturalization Records of Reno County Index 1875-1955 filed at courthouse		\$12.50
Teachers of Reno County / 1884-1966 Color map of school districts included	New Price	\$21.00
The Sunflower Back Issues - Per Year Only		\$ 5.00
Harper's Weekly 1888 - The City of Hutchinson - featured supplement - PDF on CD		\$5.00
Plat Book of Reno County 1902 - PDF on CD		\$10.00
Postage & Handling included in price / Kansas residents add 7.05% sales tax		

*** ORDER FORM INSIDE ***

RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 5
HUTCHINSON, KS 67504-0005

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



M-53 Expires: Dec-07
 McMannis, Darren J.
 P O Box 387
 North Newton, KS 67117-0387