



# THE SUNFLOWER

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

ISSN 1048 - 048X



30th Anniversary



30th Anniversary



Volume 30, No. 2

May 2008



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 2008 Officers

President	Ruth Filbert
Vice President *	Karen Burgess
Treasurer	Jim Stoecklein
Recording Secretary	Sally Eubanks
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 2008 Committees

Historian	Rita Lingg
Obituary Coordinator	Kathleen Dankanyin
Publication Sales	Sandy Wedman
Quarterly & E-News Editor	Gale Wall
Research Chairman	Rita Lingg
Web Coordinator	Gale Wall

**The Sunflower** is published quarterly by the  
Reno County Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 5 - Hutchinson, KS 67504-0005  
ISSN 1048 - 048X

Editor: Gale Stafford Wall, Hutchinson, KS

The Sunflower is indexed in the PERiodical Source Index [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**

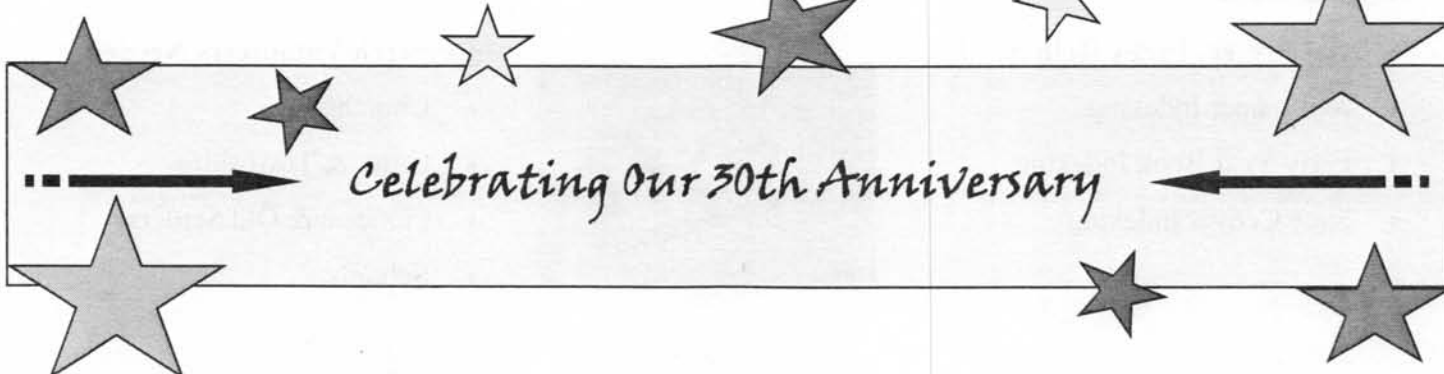
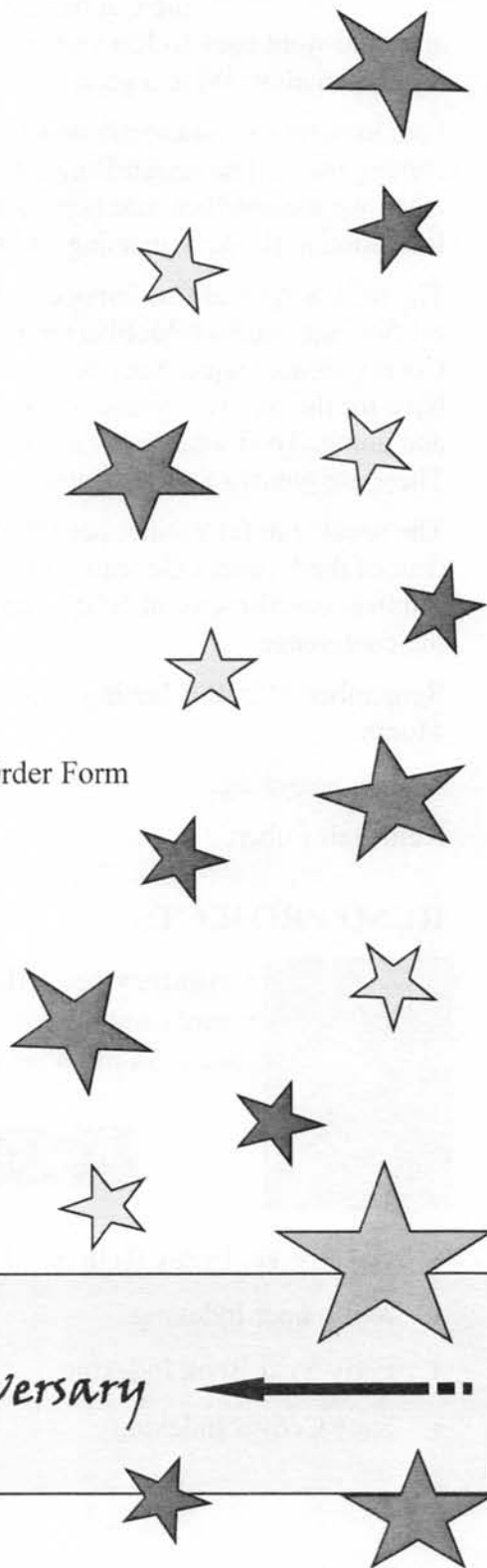
<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due by</u>
Feb	12/5
May	3/5
Aug	6/5
Nov	9/5

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Good News!!! The local Family History Center can now access the following programs through FamilySearch.org: Genline.com, Heritage Quest, FamilyLink, Footnote.com, Godfrey Memorial Library & World Vital Records. The librarians will help you go through the steps to find which program you wish to use. In Genline.com, I found the Civil War Pension information for two of my great uncles. One uncle had been conscripted into the Confederate Army when he was in Tennessee buying broom corn. He escaped soon after and went back to Iowa where he joined the Union Army under an alias. The record gave me the name used as an alias. What a great find.

I am looking forward to attending the National Genealogical Society Conference in Kansas City, MO in May. Joining me will be Karen Burgess, Rita Lingg and Sandy Wedman. We will have a great time, we always do when we are together, and hopefully learn new ways of doing our research. We'll try to share some of the information at the May meeting and tell about some of our adventures.

The KCGS Annual Conference and Seminar is June 21<sup>st</sup>. It is presented by The Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies and the McPherson Genealogical Society at The Cedars in McPherson, Kansas. Can the Reno County Genealogical Society plan to have the largest number of conference registrants again this year as we have for the past two years? Plan to take a carload and save gas and visit with your fellow genealogists coming and going. The Cedars is an assisted living facility with two large rooms that will be used for the conference. There are plenty of parking spaces. The luncheon menu is being catered and should be excellent.

The speaker at the conference will be Pamela K. Boyer. It was recently announced by Janet A. Alpert, President of the National Genealogical Society, that Pamela K. Boyer, CG, CGL, has been appointed Education and Publications Director of NGS. That is quite an honor for Pamela. Be sure to offer her your congratulations at the conference.

Remember, RCGS is having a special event in October. It is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RCGS and Family History Month.

Happy Searching,

Ruth Hair Filbert

## RENO PROJECTS



**Cemetery records** - Phase two: obtain access to cemetery records. Most do not have official records and we will walk each cemetery to obtain the information from the photographed headstones. 34 of 54 are complete. *This phase will be long-term.*

**If you are interested in helping please send an email to [RCGS@cox.net](mailto:RCGS@cox.net)**

### Special Project Index Help Needed

- Newspaper Indexing
- Early Year Book Indexing
- State Census Indexing



### Research Volunteers Needed

- Churches
- Cities & Townships
- Pioneers & Old Settlers
- Schools

## NEWS & NOTES

- Thanks to Annabell Conrad for donating a box of obituaries. We will add them to our collection housed in the Kansas Room at the Hutchinson Public Library and include an index on our website.
- ARE YOU GOING? Don't miss the early registration deadline of May 31st for the Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies annual conference held in McPherson this year. The featured speaker is Pamela Boyer. Brochures are available on our website on the "events & news" page and at our monthly program.
- An inclement weather procedure is now in place. Watch the local news channels for cancellations and check your email for a notice. More details on our "meetings & programs" page of the website.
- Our website now has a search engine - stop by and check it out!

### Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary in 2008

To celebrate our 30th anniversary we are planning the following:

1 - Beginning with the January issue of eNews we will have a trivia question each month. The answer to our question can be found on our website. The winner will receive a little prize [post its, note cards, etc]. This event is sponsored by board & committee members.

2 - March through May we will have a book sale and our publication prices will be reduced. A special order form will be available on our website for these three months. You may request a paper copy order form by sending a note and SASE to us.

3 - October: We will continue to celebrate at our annual potluck with a special cake. Favorite ancestor story contest winners will be announced and we will hold the drawing for our fundraiser raffles and door prizes.

We hope you will join us!

## RCGS 2008 PROGRAMS

- 1/21 - Research & Learning Lab\* - Canceled
  - 2/18 - Research & Learning Lab\* - Rescheduled
  - 3/17 - Tax Records - by Virginia Downing
  - 4/21 - Treasure Quest - By Darren McMannis
  - 5/19 - NGS Conference Highlights & Recap
  - 6/16 - Through The Eyes of Young Pioneers (1)
  - 7/21 - Preserving Your Family Treasures - by Michelle Enke
  - 8/18 - Land Record Research - by Margaret Herstein
  - 9/15 - Research & Learning Lab\*
  - 10/20 - Celebrating Family History Month - Join us at the Delos V. Smith Center, 101 W. 1st, 6:00 p.m.  
Potluck - bring your favorite dish to share  
Bring a family item to share for "show & tell"
  - 11/17 - Citing Sources - by Ruth Filbert
  - December - No meeting
- \*Research & Learning Lab - research session for our members & guests that want to use the subscription to Ancestry.com and other online databases available at HPL. This is a good place to also ask those "How do I?" questions in a roundtable chat. We will also provide a beginning genealogy outline for anyone new to genealogy. RCGS will pay for research copies made in the lab.
- (1) Kansas Humanities Program - by Marilyn Holt



## EDITOR'S NOTE

What does it cost RCGS to have your quarterly returned to us? \$3.32 by the time it is mailed a second time to your correct address. If you move **PLEASE** notify us of your new address immediately. It is costs like these and dues reminders that we are trying to eliminate from our spending in order to have the funds for program speakers & materials and other activities without raising membership dues. NOTE: Returned exchange quarterlies will not be mailed again. Lost exchange quarterlies will be mailed with the next quarterly mailing.

With this in mind, please participate in the upcoming raffles we are having. Tickets are \$1 each. You may begin purchasing tickets at the May meeting. If you live out of town please mail your order to RCGS. See pages 35 and 36 for the items and order form. See the color photos on our website.

Calling ALL members! Research and typing help is needed. **Can you volunteer a few hours a month to help?** You do not need to prepare the data for print or posting to our web site - just help with the research and typing. [Data can be scanned and emailed to you for typing]. This will allow time to convert our web site to a supported software. Please email us to volunteer!

See you in August!

Members: missing some back issues of The Sunflower? Now is the time to request them for free or for postage only. We are depleting the paper inventory and making back issues available on CD only. We will print less each time to eliminate housing a large inventory. Beginning July 1 they will be available to the general public for free or postage only . Contact us soon via letter or email.

## Gale Wall

## NEW MEMBERS

Burling, Leion - Penalosa, KS  
 Garcia, Alexander & Julie - Phelan, CA  
 Hughes, Peggy - Hutchinson  
 Krenzin, Linda Lewis - Minneapolis, MN  
 Lendabarker, Raymond & MariAnn - Franklin, WI  
 Oxley, Ellis - S. Hutchinson  
 Regier, Judith - Hutchinson  
 Schwartz, Ella Mae - Hutchinson  
 Shaw, James - Hutchinson  
 White, Helen - Leavenworth, KS

# Welcome

**Attention new members:** Please send us your email in order to receive our monthly E-News and society updates and communication. Send it to: [RCGS@cox.net](mailto:RCGS@cox.net)

## ON THE COVER

Carriage Works located at 928 S. Main - 1913.

Second from left is Virden Clair Harmon (1874-1930). Virden was born in Ness City, KS and is buried at Penwell-Gabel Cemetery [formerly Memorial Park]. Another photo of Virden is featured on page 40.

This photo was shared by Steve Harmon. Steve has a large collection of early Hutch photos and is interested in sharing and swapping with others that have their own collection.

You can contact him at [sharmon5@cox.net](mailto:sharmon5@cox.net).

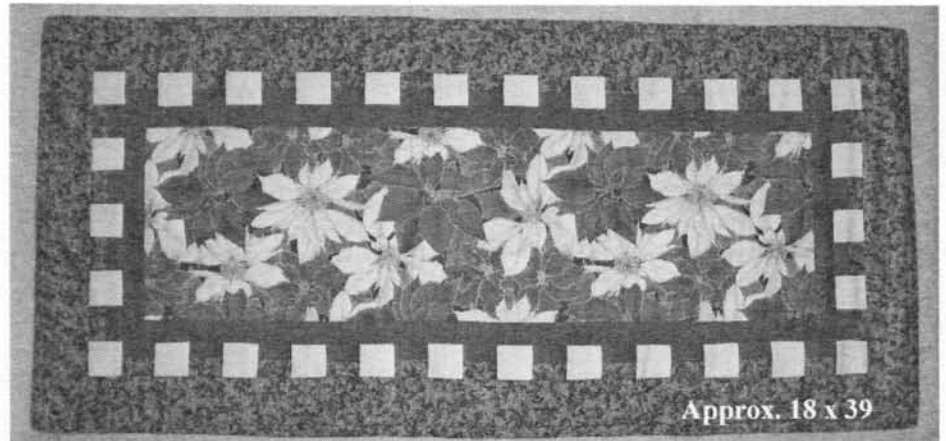
Thanks Steve for sharing from your collection!

## Reno County Genealogical Society Fundraising Raffle

To purchase raffle tickets for one or more of the following items return the order form on page 36.

Please help us make this a success!

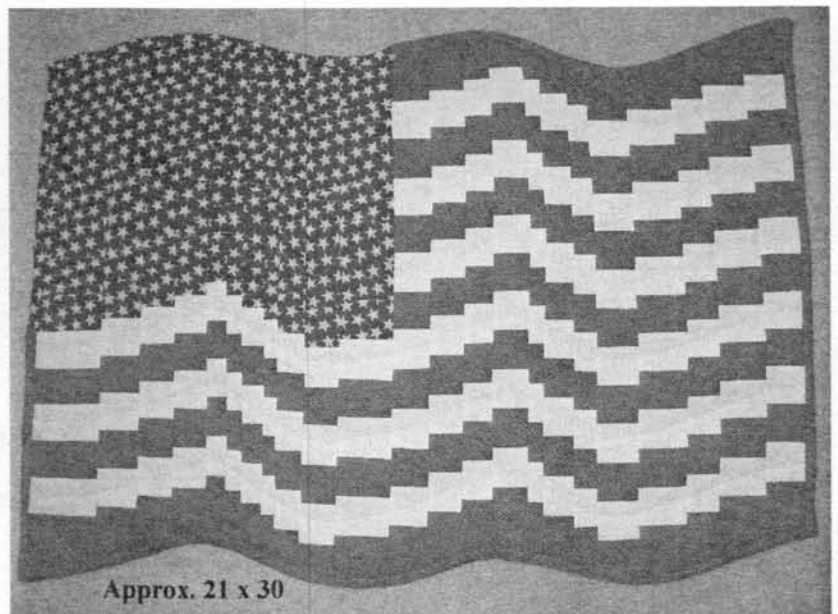
Raffle tickets - \$1



Approx. 12 x 14



Raffle tickets - \$1



Raffle tickets - \$1

**Holiday Table Runner:** by Dorothy Shultz Wall

**RCGS Tote Bag:** by Ruth Hair Filbert

**Flag Wall Hanging:** by Gale Stafford Wall

Color photos on our website!

Tickets on sale through October.

## Reno County Genealogical Society Fundraising Raffle

I would like to purchase the following raffle tickets:

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$1 each for the Holiday Table Runner  
 \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$1 each for the RCGS Tote Bag  
 \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$1 each for the Flag Wall Hanging

**Total Enclosed:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

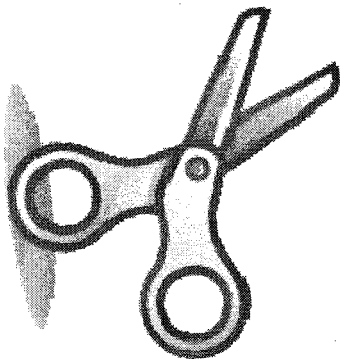
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return [1] completed form and [2] Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to:

RCGS  
 P. O. Box 5  
 Hutchinson, KS 67504-0005



**Clip & return this order form**

Tickets returned in your SASE

**Raffle tickets - \$1**





### Dietrich Meyer

Dietrich Meyer, farmer, director and treasurer of the Farmers Grain Company, of Kansas, is a living example of what a thrifty foreigner can accomplish by industry in this country. He is the son of Henry and Margaret (Wiebe) Meyer, and was born near the town of Rethern, in the province of Hanover, Germany, September 29, 1867. He was named for his paternal grandfather, a farmer, who lived and died in the Fatherland, and who spelled his name Diedrich, but the spelling was later changed to Dietrich. His father, Henry Meyer, was a small landholder in what was then the kingdom of Hanover. His birth occurred in 1829. The mother, Margaret Wiebe, died in 1871, and later the father married, secondly, Catherine Heers, who lived only one and one-half years after her marriage.

Young Dietrich Meyer, left motherless at the age of four years, had to shift for himself, but he was compelled to attend school until he was fourteen years of age. The following year, 1882, when he was fifteen, in company with a family named Lueders, with whom he was living, he emigrated to the United States, and located in the state of New York. They stayed there only one year, going farther west to Minnesota. When he was seventeen, Dietrich began the life of a farmhand, going from one farm to another.

In 1886 Henry Meyer sold his farm in Germany and emigrated to Sedgwick county, Kansas, where he and his eldest son, Henry, bought a farm north of the town of Cheney, and there his death occurred in 1897. On his arrival he was joined by his son, Fritz, who remained with him until his death in 1888.

Dietrich Meyer came to Kansas and went to work for Fred Warning, of Haven township, Reno county, in 1891. Soon afterward he purchased eighty acres two miles southeast of the town of Haven and here he built a beautiful modern home sixteen years later. The large white farmhouse, surrounded by well-kept shrubbery and commodious barns, is among the many show places of the county and is visible for miles. With one hundred and sixty acres of land which his wife inherited, and with additional purchases, the Meyer holdings amount to four hundred acres. Like the remainder of his family he is a member of St. Paul's German Evangelical church, of which he was an elder. He is director and treasurer of the Farmers Grain Company, of Kansas, which under the management of its directors, has been a very profitable company for the stockholders. By keeping the price of grain higher than the surrounding markets it has proven a boon to the farmers, no less than to the merchants of Haven, to whom it has thrown much business. Mr. Meyer also helped organize the Farmers Telephone Company. One sign of his prosperity is the handsome seven-passenger Mitchell car which he drives.

Dietrich Meyer was married on October 13, 1892, to Mary Harms, the daughter of John W. Harms, of Wisconsin. They are the parents of three children: Minnie, the wife of Walter Stecher, assistant cashier of the State Bank of Haven; Ella and Alvin.

*The History of Reno County, Kansas*

*By Sheridan Ploughe, 1917*

Typed by Melody Morgan

\*\*\*\*\*

Dietrich "Dick" Meyer died August 23, 1954 and was laid to rest on August 25th at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery in Haven, Kansas.



## Reno County Honor Roll

1917 \* World War \* 1919

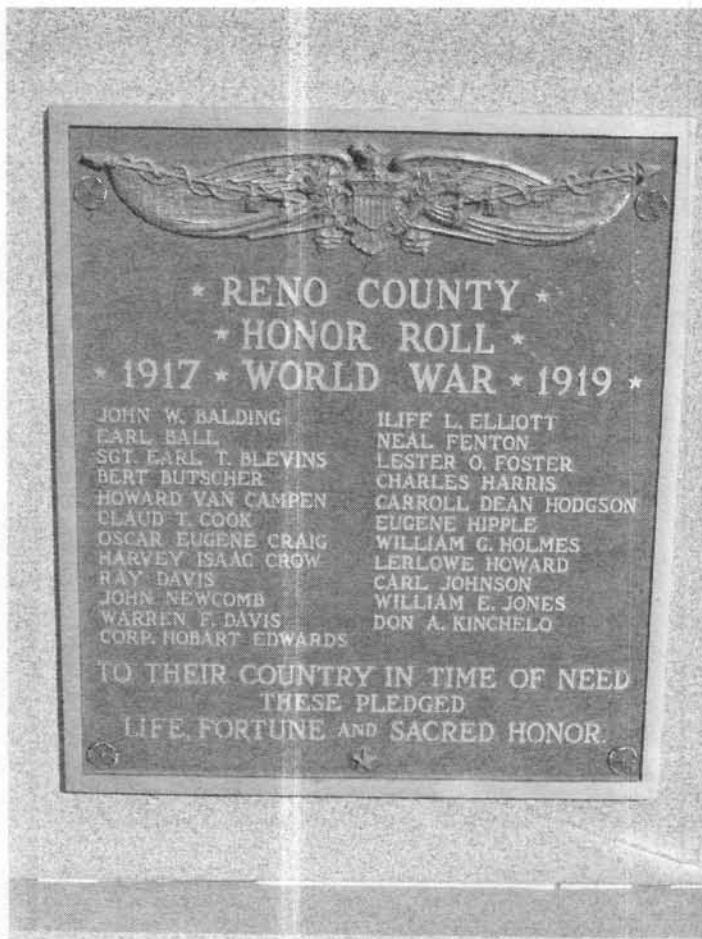
Fairlawn Cemetery

Located North of the Avenue G entrance.

This is just one of the beautiful monuments erected to the memory of our veterans at this cemetery.



VETERANS \* VETERANS \* VETERANS



- Balding, John W
- Ball, Earl
- Blevins, Eart T.
- Butscher, Bert
- Campen, Howard Van
- Cook, Claud T.
- Craig, Oscar Eugene
- Crow, Harvey Isaac
- Davis, Ray
- Newcomb, John
- Davis, Warren
- Edwards, Hobart
- Elliott, Iliff L.
- Fenton, Neal
- Foster, Lester O.
- Harris, Charles
- Hodgson, Carroll Dean
- Hipple, Eugene
- Holmes, William G.
- Howard, Lerlowe
- Johnson, Carl
- Jones, William E.
- Kinchelo, Don A.



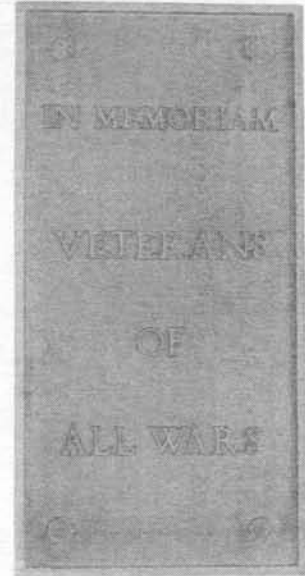
**Vietnam Memorial**

An interactive Vietnam veterans memorial is free on [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com). You can leave a tribute, story or photograph for any of the 58,256 veterans killed or missing from the Vietnam War.



**Veterans Memorial**

Turon Cemetery  
Miami Township



- Lupton, Ellis
- Mairs, Ned J.
- Martin, Van M.
- McDonald, Chas.
- McKee, Arden
- Newton, Roy N.
- Norris, Fred F.
- Pool, Gilbert
- Rice, Otis W.
- Rishel, J. Lysle
- Saunders, George
- Schrader, Henry
- Shuart, B. L.
- Smiley, Charles
- Sommerhause, Edward
- Taylor, Howard C.
- Walker, Glenn E.
- Weaver, Henry J.
- White, J. Bernard
- Williams, Earl. R.
- Wood, Howard
- Young, Harry L.



VETERANS \* VETERANS \* VETERANS



Virden Harmon 1913 on a Grovier fruit & produce wagon at the Ave. C railway siding.

Shared by Steve Harmon



Shared by Nancy Moore

Lilah Hirst - top with x Ella Rogers - with darker umbrella Myrta Hirst - with purse and umbrella  
Recognize anyone else? Email me at [hirst@hopefulheart.info](mailto:hirst@hopefulheart.info) - Nancy



1871 - 1963

Age 5

Mary Jane Tester Fiske - Shared by Mark Ostrom

Age: 20's



Mary, William & Thomas Hodgson



Shared by Darren McMannis

William & Mary Geist  
Shared by Keith Burgess



MISS. O. M. SHIRA.

ST. JOHN, IANB.

PHOTOS & POSTCARDS \* PHOTOS & POSTCARDS

## DON'T GIVE UP!

By William D. Rexroad

Frustration seems to be part of the dues we have to pay in genealogy, the frustration we feel when we search and search for some important bit of information and just never find it. But once in a while we get lucky. That elusive thing we had given up all hope of ever finding turns up quite by accident. What an exciting feeling that is! My greatest such frustration came in trying to learn how my gg-grandfather Henry A. Rexroad had died and where he was buried. I had searched for years through every record I could think of, but never found even the smallest clue. In fact, I reached the point of giving up. I resolved to spend no more time on it.

I had documented the first forty years of his life. Henry A. Rexroad was born in 1824 in Virginia. As an adult he worked as a blacksmith in the little town of Crabbottom, Virginia, where he and his wife Caroline lived and raised their family of five children. Records showed his presence there up until the spring of 1863, but after that there was nothing. This was during the time of the Civil War, so it was reasonable to think he might have been caught up in it. There was no record that he had been though. Other men from the county where he was living – his neighbors – had belonged to certain military units, but Henry A. Rexroad was not listed on the rosters of those units nor of any others I could find.

But thousands of civilians also died in that war and perhaps that was his fate. The area where he and his family were living was a hotbed of violence. The armies of the North and the South were battling in the nearby Shenandoah Valley and units of both armies were known to have passed through the Crabbottom area. Even worse were the marauding bands of guerillas of both sides that were roaming the countryside killing innocent civilians unmercifully. Many such deaths went unrecorded, so after searching every record I could think of and not finding any mention of him I finally gave up. I closed the book on him, thinking he must have somehow been a casualty of the war and his death was one of those never recorded.

A couple of years passed and I went to Guthrie, Oklahoma to do some research on my parents and grandparents, who had been born and raised there. My great-grandfather William H. Rexroad had also lived in Guthrie during the latter part of his life. He was a son of Henry A. Quite by chance I came across an old book at the genealogical library in Guthrie that contained a biography of William H. Rexroad. I read it and was absolutely astonished. William said this about his father:

“. . . Henry Rexroad was forced to join the Confederate army or hide in the woods. He chose the former course and enlisted in the Thirty-first Virginia Infantry, and served until 1865, when he was killed in the battle of Petersburg, a short time before the surrender.”



Henry A. Rexroad, ca 1862

So there it was. After years of searching, I had the answer. I knew what had happened to Henry A. Rexroad. He had been conscripted into the Confederate army and died in battle.

There was more work to do though. This finding just opened the door to more research that could now be done. I studied the history of the 31<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry and I studied the battle of Petersburg, confirming that the 31<sup>st</sup> fought there. I searched again all the rosters of Confederate soldiers that I had looked at before. But as before, I could find no mention of Henry A. Rexroad.

At one point I was told that the library at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia had the most complete listing of Confederate soldiers that existed. I called there and explained to a research librarian what I was looking for. She called back in a couple of days to tell me that she had found his name listed with Company E of the 31<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry, but the record gave no other information. She suggested I check with the Library of Virginia, as they might have more.

And so I did. I later went to the Library of Virginia in Richmond and searched their microfilmed files of the military records of Confederate soldiers. I found a folder for Pvt. Henry A. Rexroad, Co. E, 31<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry. It was the same document the woman at Virginia Tech had seen. But, as she had told me, it contained no other information. However, there was a note written at the bottom of the folder that she had not seen. It said the records were filed under the name Rixread. I quickly scrolled through the microfilm to Rixread and there it was, the record of his demise. His name was spelled correctly on the individual pages of the record and I still don't understand why they were listed under Rixread, but that was why I could never find them before.



Distant view of Confederate Chimorazo Hospital ca 1865

Henry A. Rexroad had been taken to Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond after being wounded at Petersburg, some thirty miles away. He was admitted to the hospital on 10 February 1865. He died there a few weeks later on 14 March (the war ended the following month). Cause of death was given as complications from a gunshot wound to the left arm. He was buried in the Confederate section of nearby Oakwood Cemetery.



Bill at the grave of his GG Grandfather, Henry A. Rexroad

The cemetery is still there in Richmond and it is well cared for. The city has records of who is buried where, quite an amazing accomplishment considering the chaos in Richmond at that time and all the years that have passed since then. I went to the grave of Henry A. Rexroad on another trip to Richmond in 2007. It was a most gratifying experience. The Chimborazo Hospital is no longer there, but an interesting museum about it now stands where the hospital was located.

My search was over and it had ended successfully because of that one accidental finding in Guthrie, Oklahoma, of all places. So don't give up when you hit that seemingly impenetrable brick wall. Keep your eyes open and your ear to the ground. You may get lucky. I did.



Oakwood Cemetery ca 1865 - Confederate Graves



Oakwood Cemetery 2007 - Confederate Section

## Using Rootsweb...Search Thingy Is Back - By Jana Lloyd

RootsWeb users have created millions of websites. About 10 million, to be more precise. Some were created by individuals; others by historical societies, libraries, or genealogical groups. Some are hosted by RootsWeb (freepages), and some are hosted elsewhere but linked to RootsWeb (registered websites) so RootsWeb users can locate them more easily. They contain everything from information on a particular family to cemetery burial indexes to instructions on how to create your own freepage. One of these Web pages may have just the information you are looking for. But how do you find it?

### SEARCH THINGY

Welcome [Search Thingy](#).

In the early days of RootsWeb, Search Thingy was developed to search all of the websites and freepages hosted by and linked to RootsWeb. However, because of a lack of hardware and server space, it was not possible to keep Search Thingy up-to-date with the thousands of websites constantly being added to RootsWeb. It has been out-of-date for some time. That has now changed. Thanks to a special RootsWeb developer, I am happy to announce that Search Thingy is up and running—and indexing 10 million websites. So if someone, somewhere has put information you need on a RootsWeb website, chances are better than ever that you will find it.

### WHERE IS SEARCH THINGY

Search Thingy is not in the most intuitive spot. Here's how you find it. Locate the "Search Engines and Databases" heading on the RootsWeb homepage. Click the "Index of All Search Engines and Databases" link below this heading. Click "Search Thingy." It's the second database listed under "Our Most Popular Searchable Indexes."

### BROWSING WEBSITES BY SUBJECT

Besides using Search Thingy to search all of the RootsWeb freepages and registered websites, you can also browse them by categories such as locality, surnames, and major projects hosted by RootsWeb. To browse through the millions of RootsWeb websites by topic, click "Web Sites" on the RootsWeb header (at the very top of RootsWeb.com). You will be taken to the "Registry of Websites at RootsWeb."

### SUCCESS!

I was excited to try Search Thingy out for myself, so as soon as I heard it was up and running I typed in the place name for a locality I am constantly researching on my family tree: Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Search Thingy returned an amazing number of hits. Some were more relevant than others, and I admit I had to do quite a bit of wading. But, eventually I located some great Web pages, including one for [penny postcards of Scranton from the early 1900s](#), a fully scanned copy of the [1867-68 Scranton City Directory](#), and the fabulous [USGenWeb county page for Lackawanna](#). I have visited this site many times, but when I revisited it this time I found some new leads, including an index to obituaries in the *Scranton Republican*, where I located an entry for my third great-grandfather.

I've put out a request on the PALACKAW Mailing List for someone to look up the obituary at the Scranton Public Library, so hopefully a kind soul will take pity on me and look it up (hint, hint). I hope you will take ten minutes right now to try Search Thingy out for yourself. And, of course, to let me know what great treasures it unlocks for you.

### Reprints

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- the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes; and
- the following notice appears at the end of the article: Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: 20 January 2008, Vol. 11, No. 8



## Adoptions

- Mr. And Mrs. Fraim have adopted the child of Anna Free. We are pleased to know that so good a home has been secured for the child. *The Journal, South Hutchinson 5/25/1888 P1*
- Stole Her Own Child - A Mother Kidnaps Her Little Girl From Its Adopted Parents - It is reported from Salt Creek township that Stella, the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neudigate was kidnapped last week. The little girl is 7 years old and was given to the Neudigates several years ago. She had been attending school and was at the school house when taken away by a woman who is said to be her mother. The mother's name was Vanhuser but she has married again. Recently she wanted to take her child back again but Mr. and Mrs. Neudigate had become attached to the little girl and refused to give her up. Last week it is said the mother hired a buggy at Partridge and was driven near the school house. When she drove back she had the child with her and neither has been seen since. *Hutchinson News Weekly 3/22/1900*
- Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Whitehurst received a little girl baby Tuesday from the Home League Orphanage of Denver, Colorado. She is six days old and was brought to them by friends. *Sylvia Sun 5/31/1906*
- Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Maborn and Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Krapff have each adopted one of the little children belonging to E. G. Erickson, and we were informed would give them the names Maborn and Krapff. These little folks will have excellent homes and could not have fallen in better hands. *Nickerson Record 6/26/1895*
- Mrs. M. A. Jones received a little eight year old boy last week from the Topeka Orphans' Home, whom she expects to adopt. His name is Harry and if adopted will be Harry Jones. He started to school Monday morning and thus far is enjoying his new home immensely. *Sylvia Sun 11/28/1907*
- From the long obit of Mrs. Delia Rising it states her parents, named DAVIS, died in her infancy and she was adopted by Mr. Olcott. *Haven Weekly Journal 2/22/1902*

## Marriages



### **Moore-Herington**

Married at the residence of L. Defenbaugh on Sunday, November 8, 1885, by Rev. J. L. Stratford, Mr. Chauncy A. Moore, of this place, to Mrs. Mattie E. Herington of Turon. *Arlington Enterprise 11/17/1885*

### **Dillingham-Fehr**

On Thursday evening of last week, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dillingham, of Madison, Kansas was the scene of a home wedding, when their daughter Ollie was united in marriage with Mr. J. A. Fehr of this city. The wedding was a quiet home affair with only the members of the family and a few invited guests being present. At six o'clock the young couple took their places and Rev. L. C. Harper, pastor of the United Brethern Church said the magic words that made them one. After the wedding ceremony the guests were invited to the dining room where an elegant wedding dinner was served. The bride and groom received many useful and valuable presents. Mr. and Mrs. Fehr arrived home last Saturday morning and are at home to their friends in the Fehr residence north of the school building. *Arlington Enterprise 4/22/1910*

## Fanny Hand (1837-1926) and the Fernie Family

By Oliver Hand (Fanny Hand was the sister of my great grandfather, Robert Hand). 3/12/2008 ophand@msn.com

Fanny Hand was the eldest daughter of John and Ellen Hand and was born in the village of Mickleover in Derbyshire in 1837. Her parents were John Hand who was born in Scropton, Derbyshire in 1815 and Ellen Swinston who was born in 1818 in Mickleover. John and Ellen were married at the parish church of Mickleover on 22 November 1836. Ellen's parents were probably George and Fanny Swinston as they are their neighbours in the 1841 UK Census.

Scropton and Mickleover are villages in south Derbyshire very close to the border with Staffordshire and west of the town of Derby. John and Ellen had thirteen children starting with Fanny Hand in 1837 and the youngest child was Herbert Hand born in 1860.

The first four children were born in Mickleover (Fanny b.1837, Joseph, who was born and died in 1840, William b.1841, and Robert b.1843). The family then moved to Derby where all the other children were born. The move to Derby was about 1844 after Robert was born but prior to the birth of John in 1845. The move to Derby was typical of the industrial revolution in England, where families went from a rural farming life to work in the new factories in the towns. The factories in Derby were associated with the growth of the railroads and the silk industry. Fanny Hand would have been about seven years old when the family moved to Derby.

In the 1841 UK Census, John Hand is described as an agricultural labourer; in the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses he is described as a labourer; in the 1881 census he is described as a bricklayer's labourer. John Hand passed away in 1888, age 73. Ellen then moves in with her daughter Hannah who has married William Smithard and she passes away in 1893, age 75.

John and Ellen would have probably rented their house, and it would have been very small and in a poor area of Derby. In the 1851 UK Census they are living at 17 Union Building, St. Werburgh, Derby. In the 1851 Census, Fanny Hand is recorded as fifteen years old and working in the silk mill.

In the 1861 and 1871 Census they are living at 18 Haarlem St., which no longer exists but was close to the silk mill at 14 Haarlem St.. In the 1881 Census they have moved to 24 Haarlem St. (John and Ellen's tenth son, Arthur Hand, had married Emma Austin in 1874 and were living at 22 Haarlem St.).

The silk industry was considered to be environmentally cleaner than the cotton industry because there was less airborne dust, and whereas the minimum age for workers in the cotton industry was 13, the minimum age for the silk industry was 11. The working week was a maximum of 60 hours (10.5 hours per day from Monday through Friday, and 7.5 hrs on Saturdays). These hours were regulated by Acts of Parliament and were not reduced until 1870. The silk industry owners were trying to get approval for a thirteen hour per day workday, but were unable to get Parliamentary approval. The silk industry in England had benefited from the Napoleonic Wars, when French silk was banned in England, but in 1860 a trade agreement was reached between England and France which allowed the reintroduction of French silk. The French silk was cheaper than the English silk and the trade agreement caused the demise of the English silk industry, so when Fanny was working in the silk mills it would have been when the industry was in decline, and it is likely that there would have been pressure to keep wages low, and a drive to get higher productivity to compete with the French silk imports. The predominant town in England for silk was Macclesfield in Cheshire and as the industry declined many silk workers either moved to Derby or to Paterson, New Jersey known in the US as "silk city" and both these events occurred in my paternal grandmothers family, the Unsworth's.



In the 1861 UK Census, Fanny Hand is recorded as age 22, (but was probably 23 or 24 as she was born in 1837), and living as a nurse to John and Arabella Fernie at Swinburne Street, Derby. John Fernie had married Arabella Pike in 1855 and their first child was Robert William Fernie who was born on 5 December 1857. It is possible that Fanny was first employed by the Fernie's after Robert was born in 1857 when she was 20. From this point on the life of Fanny Hand is the life of the Fernie Family, because she was associated with the family right up to her death in 1926.

John Fernie was born in Cupar, Fife, Scotland in 1824. He was educated in Edinburgh as a Civil and Mechanical Engineer and about 1849 was employed by North Staffordshire Railway. In 1852 he became the manager of Britannia Foundry in Derby until 1855. John Fernie then became the Superintendent of Locomotives for the Midland Railway in Derby, a post he retained for eight years, until 1863. He met Arabella Pike who was born in Derby in 1831 and they were married in Derby in 1855. They had five children, Robert William Fernie born 5 December 1857, Arabella Fernie born 1861, Alice Marion Fernie born 1862, George Kirtley Fernie born 19 January 1864, and John Simpson Fernie in 1866. All the children were born in Derby, except for John who was born in Leeds, Yorkshire.

In 1863, John Fernie became a part owner in the Clarence Iron Works in Leeds, Yorkshire and retired six years later in 1869 at the age of 45. They moved to Ventnor on the Isle of Wight just off the south coast of England in the English Channel. The family is recorded in the 1871 UK Census living at "Serene View Villa". All their children are living with them and Fanny Hand is described as a domestic servant. In the 1881 UK Census the family has moved to Hampstead in London and all the children are still living with them. John is now 57, Arabella is 49, Robert is 23, Arabella (Jr) is 20, Alice is 19, George is 17 and John is 15. Fanny Hand is 44 and described as a domestic servant. In the same year the family emigrated to the US and lived in Philadelphia. John Fernie, though retired, was still active in the railroads and as a mechanical engineer (he designed a ventilation system for the Wanamaker Stores in Philadelphia). Both Robert and George were educated as mechanical engineers receiving their education in England, Europe and the US. In 1893 George Fernie moved to Sedgwick County, Kansas and stayed with friends where he learnt to become a rancher. Beginning in 1887, his father John Fernie acquired 2,730 acres of farm and ranch properties in Reno County, Kansas, for his son George Fernie, and his elder son, Robert, joined George to run the ranch together. The Fernie family believe that Fanny Hand moved out to the ranch to "look after" the two bachelors.

The 1890 US Census was destroyed by fire, but the 1900 US Census records George and Robert Fernie living in Lincoln Township, Reno County. George Fernie is 36 and described as a farmer, Robert Fernie is 43 and described as a farm labourer, living with them is sister Arabella (Jr) age 38, and Etta Hand age 64 as the housekeeper. (Although Fanny was a popular name for a girl in England at this time, it had less complimentary connotations in the US and it appears Fanny adopted the name Etta). John and Arabella Fernie became US citizens but returned to the UK and lived in Surrey and are recorded in the 1901 UK Census living with their daughter Arabella (age 40) in "Waterden Cottage", Stoke Within, Guildford, Surrey. Both John and Arabella passed away in 1904.

Robert Fernie married Lillian Johnson on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1905 and had one son, Robert born in 1906 and moved from the Fernie Ranch into the town of Hutchinson, Kansas. Sheridan Ploughe wrote an article about the Fernie Family in 1917 and the following paragraph is an extract from the article:

"The Fernie ranch now comprises 2,730 acres; they have about four hundred head of cattle, all high grade Herefords, and the wheat acreage has been increased from year to year until now they have 1,100 acres sowed to grain and alfalfa. The Fernie brothers were among the first to build silos in this section and they have three concrete ones with eight hundred tons capacity. They were also among the first to introduce alfalfa into Reno County. They have always taken great pride in the quality of their cattle and were pioneers in the production of baby beef, which with wheat are still their main interests. The Santa Fe railroad runs through the ranch and they have the advantages of a station and stock yards on their own place."

In the 1920 US Census George Fernie (age 56) has now married Eliza (age 42) and they have a daughter Marion (age 10). Fanny Hand (age 83) is recorded living in Hutchison Township, Reno County, Kansas.

In 1926, Fanny Hand (age 89) passes away and is buried in Fairview-Elmer Cemetery. The family plot contains the following graves: George K Fernie (1864-1922), his wife Eliza Fernie (1876-1955), his sister Arabella Fernie (1860-1924), and Fanny Hand (1837-1926). They all have matching headstones.

## The First Cemetery

The first death in Reno county was accidental and with this came the establishment of the first cemetery. There is an old joke, started in California and used in every new community eastward to the Mississippi river, that the climate was so healthful that it was necessary for some one to die a violent death to start a graveyard. While no such "motive" as that animated the early settlers of Reno county, it is a fact that the first graveyard was started by the burial of a man accidentally killed. The man's name cannot be remembered by any who live now. Derrick Updegraff, the father in law of Charles Collins, Reno county's first sheriff, had the contract of grading railroads in Reno county. They had their camp on the banks of Cow Creek, near where Main street now crosses this stream. In the latter part of December 1871 and January 1872 the ground was frozen so hard that the grading work could not be carried on. Updegraff had a small board building put up on the southeast corner of Main and Sherman streets, where he kept his harness, shovels and other equipment in one part of the building and in another he had a stove and table where the men cooked and ate their meals. The floor of part of this room was covered with hay, and on this were laid the blankets and buffalo robes that constituted the beds of the workmen.

Updegraff, himself an interesting character, had in his employ a bunch of men who were the real pioneers of the times, men that the present generation cannot appreciate. It was such men as these that showed to the less hardy what the county would produce. It was this class of men who demonstrated to the hidebound Easterner that this land west of the Mississippi river was worth more than simply to provide a barrier to keep off a foreign foe from the West, that would render their settlements on the Atlantic coast free from attack. It was such men as Updegraff had that put at naught the prejudice of those who would limit the boundary of the United States to original thirteen states or states to be cut out of that territory.

There also lived in the sand hills another man called "Dutch Pete". He made his living by hunting. He talked very broken English and was a woolly, sandy haired, black-eyed old buffalo hunter. Dutch Pete drove his wagon and a team of small mules to Updegraff's camp and wanted some of the men to go hunting with him. There was an abundance of deer in the hills. Some of the men agreed to go with Dutch Pete. Some supplies were being put into the wagon, some hay, horse feed, blankets, some food and an outfit with which to do some cooking. These articles had been put in the wagon, when Dutch Pete started to put a shotgun, muzzle foremost, heavily loaded with buckshot, into the wagon. One of Updegraff's men was standing at the end of the wagon as Dutch Pete raised the gun over the side of the wagon, the hammer caught and the full load of buckshot struck the breast of the man at the end of the wagon. He did not fall, but walked into the building, laid down on a blanket and in a few minutes was dead.

That afternoon a box of rough boards was made by Updegraff's men and without any burial ceremony the body was put into a grave on a little sandy knoll in the block at the corner of Avenue B [ed. note: Ave. A in news article dated 1899] and Adams street. A few wild plum bushes surrounded the grave. It was dug deeper than usual, because of the fear that the coyotes might uncover the corpse. This was the first death; this was the first burial; here was the first graveyard of Reno county. The name of the dead cannot be recalled now. Later two other graves were dug out on that lonesome spot. A little fence, painted white, for a while surrounded it, but the prairie fires charred it and it soon fell away. Many years afterward a grader was being pulled along Adams street and the bodies were uncovered. They were all taken up, placed in new coffins and buried in the Eastside cemetery. Their names all are unknown. They were the sole occupants of the first graveyard of Reno county.

The first death reported here came shortly before the town became a town. Early in '72, an unidentified railroad construction worker was accidentally shot and killed by a "wooly, sandy-haired, black-eyed old buffalo hunter" affectionately known as Dutch Pete. Dutch had come to Derrick Updegraff's construction office to ask the workers to accompany him on a deer hunt. The ground was frozen and unworkable, so he got some volunteers. He was loading his shotgun into the wagon when the hammer caught and a full load of buckshot hit one of the workers in the chest. The wounded man walked into Updegraff's office, laid down on a blanket and died.

*Hutchinson News Centennial Edition, 7/4/1972, Page 34*



Potter's Field [city ground] at Eastside Cemetery

CEMETERY CORNER \* CEMETERY CORNER

## That "Lone Grave"

### The Remains Taken From It Tuesday and Placed in the Potter's Field

Undertaker Johnson Tuesday exhumed the remains and reburied them in the potter's field which had so long rested in the center of Avenue A about three and a half blocks west of Main street. The grave is said to be that of a ranchman named Roger, who was buried there in either 1871 or 1872 and by some of the old settlers that he accidentally shot himself, and by others that he was killed by his partner. Only a few bones and portions of the skull and two of the coffin handles were left and a cigar box would have contained them all. The resurrection attracted a large crowd.

*Hutchinson News Weekly, April 13, 1899*

*Note: No records found for exhumation or reburial.*

## The Big Rock - Reno County High School

The class of 1910 wished to leave some little memento of their class near the scene of their school labors to remind others of their having been. Just what this should be caused much discussion, and many different ideas were suggested, but nothing could be decided on until one of the members, a former book agent, told of seeing, on a campus in Oklahoma, a large boulder that had been placed there by a class of the school; and this idea was immediately adopted as the means of commemorating the class of 1910.

With only three weeks in which to accomplish their plan, a diligent search was started for a boulder of suitable size, such not being common on the plains of western Kansas. After several days of search one was found back of the old flour mill that answered the purpose.

Argument arose immediately as to its location, and as to what should be inscribed upon it. Its location was fixed as northeast corner of the campus, and all conceded that, as the face of the stone was not large enough to cut all of the class roll on it, the proper thing was to inscribe the class motto and the year of graduation. This being decided on, Johnny Dean and Dick Whittaker started the task and soon had accomplished their labor.

The rock was left in its hiding place until Monday night of the commencement week, when it was put onto its location. All of the work was done by the boys of the class, and to accompany them in their work was a disagreeable rain, which kept in the fairer portion of the class. The placing of the rock was attended with a lot of very hard work, a raid on Detter's sand pile, and the coaxing of Lewis Wilson out from under cover, the protection of which he sought against the flashes of lightening.

In the early hours of the morning a tired bunch of boys were joined by the three girls of the class and the rock was formally dedicated. Those present at this service were: Zella **Moore**, Eva **Townsend**, Ella **Simkins**, Leslie **Dodd**, Frank **Chesky**, Edward **Kellams**, John **Dean**, Lewis **Wilson**, Earl **Hendrickson**, Luman **Harsha**, Dick **Whittaker**, Peter **Buckhannan** and Dee **Lauver**.

Considerable surprise was manifested by the under classmen when they saw the rock in its position the next morning, but one glance at it sufficed for them to see who was responsible for the work and its being there. Before the sun had waned for the day rumors of despoiling to be done at night were afloat, and the Seniors, in order that they be not taken unawares, placed guards over the rock, and their vigilance served to keep off any who intended any mischief. The Seniors made the mistake of taking away the guard too early on Friday morning and when they arrived at school that morning they saw that the vandals had done their work and the word "FRESHIE" appeared in red paint across the face of the rock. This caused Harsha and Hendrickson to apply their recently acquired knowledge of chemistry to remove the traces of vandalism.



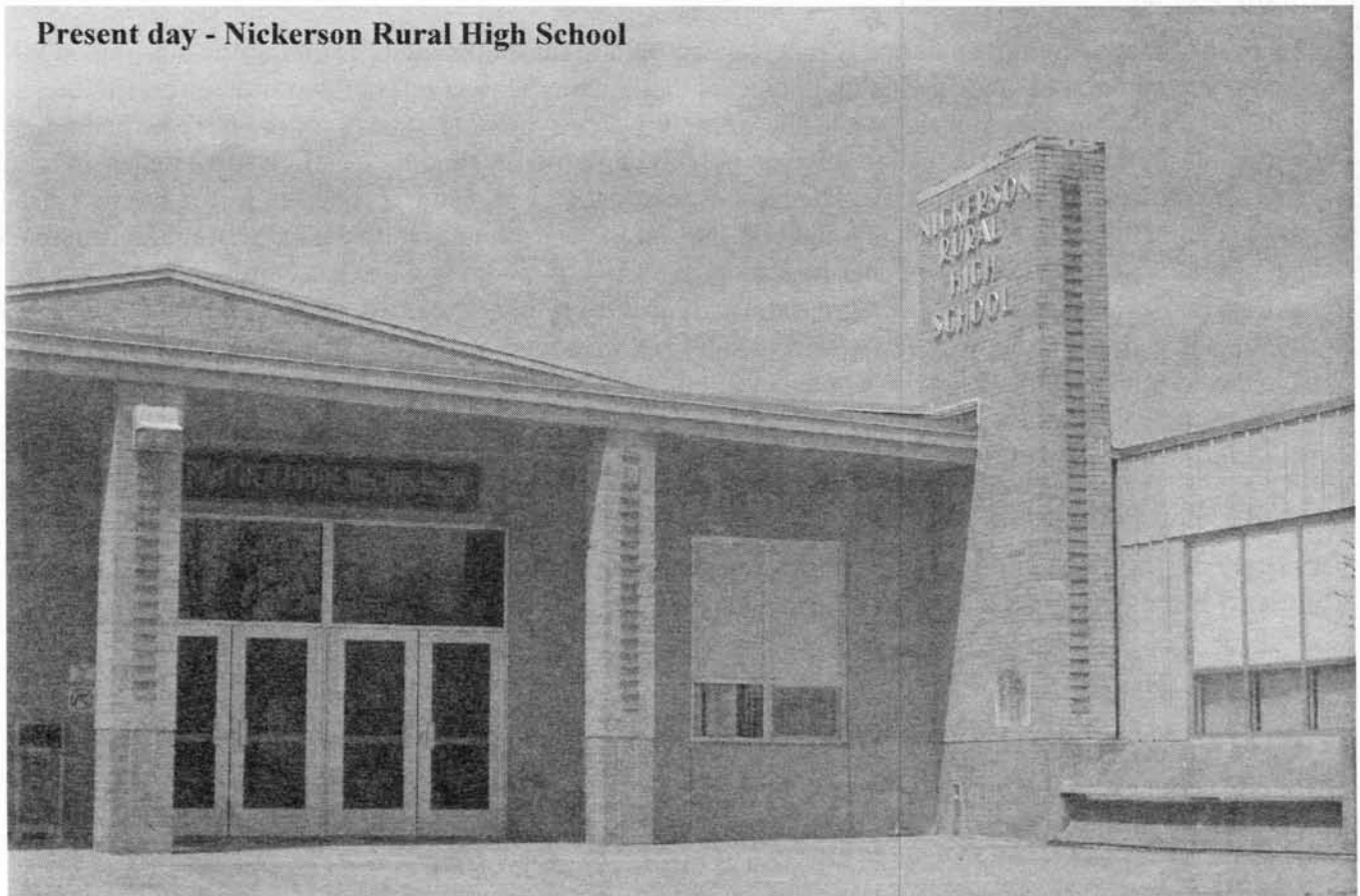
This rock is not an imposing monument; it is not an expensive tablet erected for show, but placed, as it was, by the members of the class, and under the conditions that it was, it is something that will be looked at and commented on hundreds, yea thousands, who pass by, and the occasion will be remembered by the members of the class long after many other school memories have been forgotten; and no matter where they may be found in the paths of life to come, they will have a common tie to bind them to their Alma Mater.

It is the class' sincere wish that the motto engraved upon its face may never become so dim as to fail to encourage to greater endeavors, and to nobler ideas, every struggling student who pauses to read its words, "FINIS CORONAT OPUS."

Blue and Gold - Volume 1 - 1911



Present day - Nickerson Rural High School



### A Horrible Accident

An Unknown Man Killed at Sylvia

On Last Monday Night

The Remains Unidentified and Interred in the Plevna Cemetery. We clip the following from the Hutchinson Daily News, which is a true and complete account of the accident. The coroner, Dr. A. W. McKinney, was summoned to Sylvia Tuesday to hold an inquest on the remains of a man found near the railroad track in that city the evening before. An inquest was held yesterday and the jury returned a verdict of killed by an unknown cause. Monday night the man was found by a conductor whose train had pulled up to the coal chute to be supplied with coal. The conductor went to the door of his caboose and while standing there heard someone groaning. He got out and found a man lying near the track. Help was called and the injured man was assisted to rise and helped to the hotel, to which he walked being supported by two men. On being taken to a room he was examined and it was thought he was not seriously injured. He talked with those present but refused to give his name or where he lived, or how the accident happened. After being with him some time the attendants asked him if he wanted them to remain with him all night. He replied that he did not, but would rather be left alone. His wish was granted. The next morning at the breakfast hour an attempt was made to waken him which failed. An examination was made and it was found that he was unconscious in which state he remained until death ended his sufferings at eight o'clock. It is supposed his name is **Charles R. Van Meter**, this name being on papers found in his pockets and that he had fallen from a train. The inquest showed that he died of concussion of the brain. The deceased was about twenty-two years old, medium height, had curly brown hair, and was smooth shaven with exception of mustache. He was dressed in a calico shirt, blue drilling jacket and gray jeans pants. *Sylvia Telephone, Saturday 1/19/1887*

### Infant Weiner

One of the most distressing calamities that has occurred in our midst lately is that of the burning of Mr. George Weiner's child, on last Friday. It appears that the mother had left her two little girls with the charge of a baby, ten months old, while she went to the barn after corn stalks for the fire. She had no sooner left the house than the children began playing with the fire, and let it fall on some paper. In an instant the whole room was in a blaze. The mother seeing the glare, came rushing in, seized the two girls, but the distraction of the moment and the blinding smoke conspired to hide the baby from the frantic parent, and she was forced by the intense heat to retreat from the room and leave the little thing to perish in the flames. Besides the loss of the child the family lost everything they had, clothes, furniture, provisions and all. The neighbors immediately started a subscription paper, and have met with good success. They have the warmest sympathy of the whole community. *Nickerson Argosy 12/18/1878*

### Death of Carl Morton

Infant Son of Mr. and Mrs. Wirt Morton Buried Yesterday

Carl, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Wirt Morton, of 502 Sherman east, who died Monday night, was buried yesterday afternoon at Eastside cemetery. *Hutchinson Gazette 1/26/1916*

### Funeral of Mrs. Hyson

Will be Buried at Eastside Cemetery at 8:00 O'Clock P. M. Today

Funeral services for the burial of Mrs. Rubena Hyson, who died at her home Friday morning, will be held from the Freisen funeral chapel at 3:00 o'clock this afternoon, and will be conducted by Rev. M. L. Sorey, of the First Christian church. Burial at Eastside cemetery. *Hutchinson Gazette 1/30/1916*



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www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlkik/ihm/iremaps.htm
- Private and secure online trees: www.geni.com
- Deciphering English and early American records:  
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/where\_to\_start.htm

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**Send it to: [RCGS@cox.net](mailto:RCGS@cox.net)**

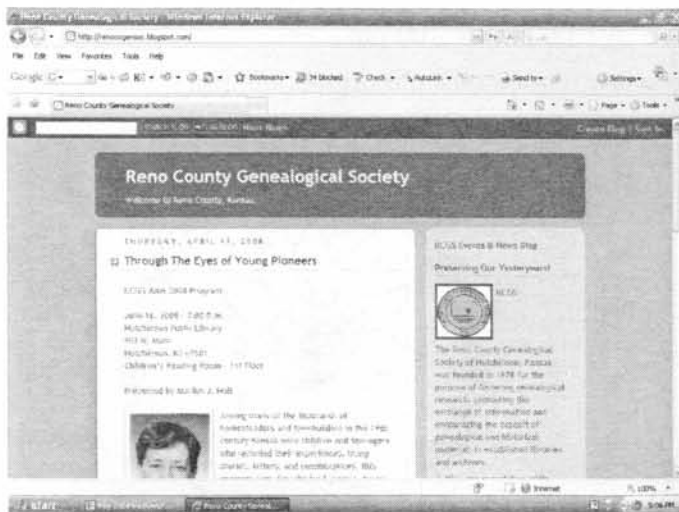


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