

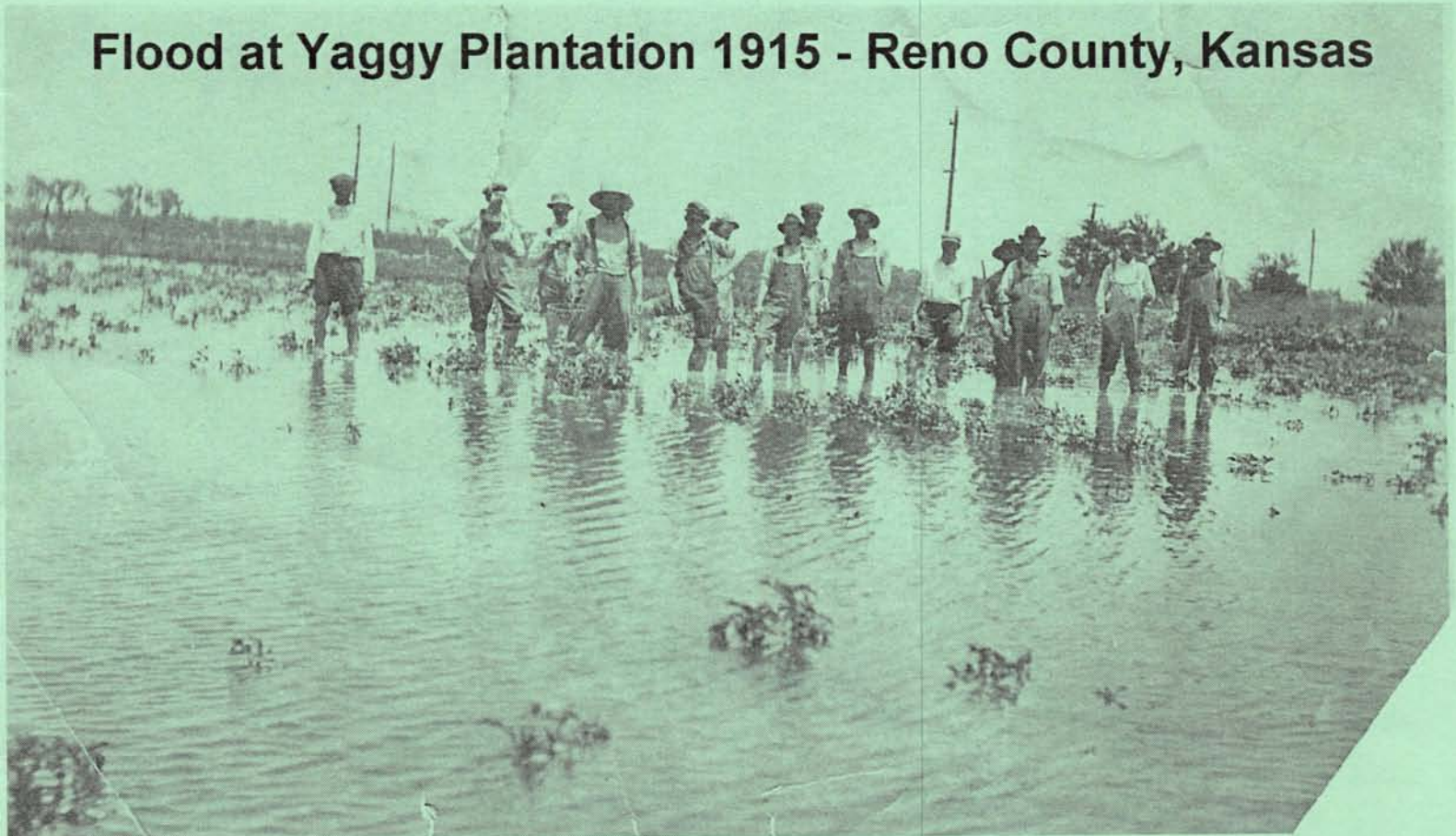
THE SUNFLOWER

Reno County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 5

Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-0005

Flood at Yaggy Plantation 1915 - Reno County, Kansas



Volume 34 No. 3

Aug 2012

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 or local history. Dues are \$15.00 per year, per couple from January 1 to December 31 each year. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month in the Auditorium of the Hutchinson Public Library, 9th and Main, 7:00 – 8:45 P. M.

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RCGS Web Site: 3 ways to find us on the web

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

<http://tinyurl.com/RenoCoGenSoc>

<http://bit.ly/RenoCoGenSoc>

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- 1/16: Reno County in Photos: "Santa Fe Railway Historical Collection 1929-1930". Steve Conard & Steve Harmon, Guest Speakers. This program will be held at the Reno County Historical Society, 100 S. Walnut St., at 7:00 pm.
- 2/20: No Meeting
- 3/19: Early Funeral Customs
Tom Elliott, Guest Speaker
- 4/16: Tech Time – R&R
- 5/21: Descendancy Research – R&R
- 6/18: "Kansas Through the Lens of F.M. Steel"
Presented by: Jim Hoy
- 7/16: Genealogy Disaster Plan - R&R
- 8/20: See you on Sunday, Church Records in Genealogy – R & R
- 9/17: Counties Histories and Your Family – R &R
- 10/15: October Pot Luck Dinner at DeLos Smith Senior Center
Celebrating Family History Month
- 11/19: "The GAR and Post Civil War Kansas History". Doug McGovern, SUVCW, Guest Speaker
- 12/17: No Meeting

Editor's Note



Hello!

As I prepare this issue the weather is still warm, but Fall will be here soon followed all to quickly with the holidays.

The November issue will be my last as quarterly editor. I have enjoyed learning so much about Reno County in the six years I have been your Editor.

It is a time consuming task for one person and I am no longer able to give it the same time and care to develop ideas, research and format for each issue.

I plan to contribute articles and information as time allows. As always, I encourage you to share your Reno County Roots here.

New Members

- None

New members - Do we have your email?

If not, send to renocogensoc@gmail.com

WELCOME!

On The Cover

Flood at the Yaggy Plantation. 1915.

Barry's Great-Grandfather, Henry Edwin Shultz, was an overseer at the plantation.



Right: Henry Edwin & Dolly C. Baker Shultz

Technology in Genealogy

At one of our meetings earlier this year we were introduced to high-tech gadgets that would be helpful to genealogists. One of those was a wand scanner. This caught my attention because I had a research trip to West Virginia coming up and thought it might be useful. It was!

I bought one at Office Max. They were a few dollars cheaper at Walmart but not the current model and no tech support. It is a VuPoint ST415 Magic Wand. I scanned nearly 100 documents on my trip, documents I could not remove from the premises or put on a copying machine even if there had been one. And the results were far better than I could have achieved with a camera. I highly recommend the device and I am grateful to Karen Burgess and RCGS for making me aware of it.

Bill Rexroad

Product information from Amazon.com

VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand Portable Scanner - Ever want to put all of your pictures on your computer but didn't have the time to sit there and scan one after the other? Ever thought of buying one those scanners but you don't have any room in your office to store it? Then the VuPoint Solutions "Magic Wand" Portable Scanner is perfect for you. The VuPoint Solutions "Magic Wand" Portable Scanner allows you to scan the documents that matter the most to you, and back them up on your computer. Do you have those documents that you've had for a while and you're afraid that they're going to rip or even get lost one day? We'll now you can scan them and keep them safe. MODEL: VPSPDSST410WM. Features: Scanner for color & monochromatic images, documents, magazines; Sensor: A4 Color Contact image Sensor; Resolution: Standard Reso: 300x300dpi (default); High Reso: 600x600dpi; External Memory: Support Micro SD card up to 16GB (Micro SD card not included); File Format: JPEG; LCD: Scanning status display; LCD Display Size: 0.787" x 0.59"; Auto Power Off: Off/ 3 minute/ 5 minute; Scanning Speed: A4 Size: high resolution with color ≤ 28Sec; High resolution with mono ≤ 14Sec; Standard resolution with color ≤ 8Sec; Standard resolution with mono ≤ 4Sec. White Balance: Auto; USB Port: USB 2.0 high speed; Power Source: 2xAA Batteries; Battery Life: ≥ 200 min. Includes: USB Cable, 2xAA alkaline batteries, Pouch, User's manual. Dimension: 10" L x 1.2" H x 1.1" W. Weight: 0.47 lbs.

Cost: \$52.49 (on sale and subject to change)

Image Credit:

<http://www.amazon.com/VuPoint-Solutions-Magic-Portable-Scanner/dp/B004EFXW6Q>



Hutchinson Necrology, 1939

Hutchinson News Herald

12/31/1939

- 1-Jan, **Edward, Jack**, 3 day old, suffocated by gas fumes
- 2-Jan, **Maloney, P. J.**, 23, student of University of OK, killed by train, when enroute to school
- 6-Jan, **Roberts, Dr. M. J.**, 60, physician, died following a heart attack
- 7-Jan, **Campbell, Dana**, 57, contractor
- 12-Jan, **Parks, O. C.**, 64, travelling salesman and prominent church man
- 13-Jan, **Garrison, Clyde L.**, 70, veteran horse trainer
- 20-Jan, **Keith, M. A.**, 63, grainman
- 20-Jan, **Stockham, Maurice**, 65, real estate man, suicide
- 28-Jan, **Clemenil, Zeke**, 26, base ball player
- 31-Jan, **Kattenhorn, Charles**, 66, well known farmer
- 2-Feb, **Young, Miss Jessie**, 28, telephone operator, committed suicide under train
- 2-Feb, **Benscheidt, Herman**, 85, founder of the Hutchinson Vinegar works
- 4-Feb, **Pender, Cecil**, 43, auto salesman, heart attack
- 7-Feb, **Williams, Jess**, 38, frozen to death near Monroe bridge
- 16-Feb, **Hedrick, W. L. Les**, 65, veteran News printer
- 20-Feb, **Williams, John J.**, 36, Rock Island switchman, killed when he fell under train wheels
- 21-Feb, **Hoffman, Ed. C.**, 63, veteran abstractor
- 24-Feb, **McDermed J. A.**, 77, old resident of city
- 28-Feb, **Stallman, J. F.**, 62, head of Hutchinson Saddlery Co.
- 2-Mar, **Stroup, Odio**, 30, self inflicted wound
- 3-Mar, **Mathews, Lynette**, First Citizen of Hutchinson
- 7-Mar, **Bruce, Cornelius S.**, 84, veteran painter
- 8-Mar, **Chalmers, Fair**, 51, heart trouble
- 10-Mar, **Lewis, Nelty**, 36, oil worker, killed by falling timber on oil lease
- 13-Mar, **Sentney, Mrs. L. P.**, 82, former regent of D. A. R. chapter
- 15-Mar, **Stevens, Patricia**, 19 months, strangled to death on peanut
- 15-Mar, **Brown, George W.**, 93, pioneer settler and early day Sante Fe employee
- 18-Mar, **Brigman, William W.**, 36, found dead in bed
- 20-Mar, **Picher, Harry A.**, 54, veteran of two wars, spanish and world
- 22-Mar, **Coberly, G. P.**, 64, well known farmer east of town
- 23-Mar, **Sutton, Mrs. Mary B.**, 78, pioneer settler of county
- 25-Mar, **Foree, Mrs. W. R.**, 61, prominent in church and lodge activities.
- 25-Mar, **Funkhouser, Mrs. M. F.**, lacked three months of reaching 110th birthday
- 30-Mar, **Wiegel, Mrs. Mary Jane**, 88, early day settler
- 7-Apr, **Moore, J. C.**, 90, pioneer resident
- 7-Apr, **Butler, Isaac**, 83, former slave and coal yard operator
- 12-Apr, **Arnold, Mrs. Mary**, heart attack
- 15-Apr, **Tedrick, Mrs. W. R.**, 73, clubwoman and church worker
- 17-Apr, **Stead, Mrs. M. M.**, 79, mother of city visiting nurse Marie Stead
- 18-Apr, **Briggs, Karen Ann**, 3 1/2 months, smothered in crib
- 23-Apr, **Glascock Sr, Mrs. Guy**, heart attack
- 26-Apr, **Barnes, Henry Frank**, 73, veteran railroad man
- 29-Apr, **Haston, Samuel**, 73, veteran stockman

- 8-May, **Hill, Mrs. W. C.**, 51, heart attack
- 10-May, **Fread, Clyde O.**, 54, WPA foreman, heart attack
- 11-May, **Forney, Mrs. Marvin**, 22, stricken with heart attack while visiting with friends and died in car on way to doctor
- 14-May, **Summers, Frank**, 48, vice president and general manager of the Security Elevator Co.
- 20-May, **Steffens, John J.**, 33, welding shop proprietor, drowned in lake Inman
- 26-May, **Farley, Joseph P.**, 80, retired postal employee
- 9-Jun, **Hill, Dewey**, 41, farmer northeast of town, fatally injured in automobile collision at Punkin Center Corner
- 12-Jun, **Cook, George**, Body found in pasture, thought to have been killed by lightning bolt three days previous
- 13-Jun, **Phillips, O. M.**, 77, retired contractor
- 17-Jun, **Eales, J. D.**, 88, pioneer of county
- 25-Jun, **Rogers, Gene**, 12, fatally injured in truck-car collision near Castleton
- 26-Jun, **Cummings, Charles**, 36, found dead in bed, natural causes
- 27-Jun, **Gibbs, John W.**, horseman, fatally injured in Wichita tornado
- 3-Jul, **Dethample, Rose**, Great Bend, killed in automobile accident, west of town
- 8-Jul, **Strickler, L. H.**, 35, farmer living north of town, fatally injured in combine
- 9-Jul, **Lee, George W.**, former county assessor and clerk
- 14-Jul, **Kerns, Mrs. Catherine**, 85, WCTU and Methodist church worker
- 17-Jul, **Taylor, J. B.**, resident of Reno county for a half century
- 18-Jul, **Collins, John**, 65, died of heart attack while pumping water for his stock
- 24-Jul, **Johnston, Mrs. W. P.**, 84, wife of Post Commander W. P. Johnston, of Joe Hooker post GAR
- 25-Jul, **Huston, Joe**, 69, a resident of Hutchinson more than 60 years
- 3-Aug, **Phippen, Thomas R.**, 87, early day salt worker
- 7-Aug, **Chrisman, Dorothy**, former teacher in Hutchinson schools
- 11-Aug, **Sparks, John**, retired Santa Fe switchman
- 13-Aug, **Field, Levi C.**, 55, Wichita, formerly of Hutchinson, died here from injuries received in automobile accident three weeks before
- 16-Aug, **Hood, A. L.**, 60, foundry worker, suicide
- 17-Aug, **Cheshire, Mrs. Rachel Ann**, dies on 82nd birthday, 57 years a resident of Reno county
- 17-Aug, **Shaw, Ralph**, 13, Eagle scout drowns in drain at Carey Park pool
- 25-Aug, **Bloom, E. E.**, 60, president of Hutchinson State Bank, dies following stroke of apoplexy in bank
- 25-Aug, **Holland Rothemeyer, Mrs. Katherine**, 61, a resident of Hutchinson all her life
- 31-Aug, **Hastings, Harold**, 16, bicyclist, killed by automobile driven by Glenn L. Gree, McPherson
- 7-Sep, **Norris, Mrs. G. W.**, 69, church and club woman
- 14-Sep, **Krebbs, Bert G.**, 63, former transportation inspector of Sante Fe
- 18-Sep, **Fisher, Mrs. Minnie L.**, 75, pioneer of Reno county
- 20-Sep, **Crocker, Edward**, mortician in Hutchinson for 30 years
- 21-Sep, **Adams, Frank P.**, 45, suicide by hanging
- 2-Oct, **Caplinger, Mrs. Mary Emma**, 79, church worker
- 12-Oct, **Banks, David C.**, 81, retired railroad engineer and farmer
- 14-Oct, **Anderson, Mrs. M. J.**, wife of Sante Fe agent
- 19-Oct, **Brigman, William W.**, 36, proprietor of Whitey's Lunch
- 21-Oct, **Campbell, James C.**, 80, retired building contractor
- 22-Oct, **Nelson, Mrs. Charles L.**, pioneer of county.
- 22-Oct, **Young, Harry W.**, 56, president of Young and Sons
- 23-Oct, **Tedrick, Dr. Charles E.**, 67, dentist
- 29-Oct, **Boyd, Robert Murray**, 61, reformatory official
-

- 2-Nov, **McCandless, A. W.**, 84, lumberman and retired member of board of education
- 6-Nov, **Griffith, Raymond**, 48, Kingman, dies from heart attack while at night club
- 6-Nov, **Kilgore, Carl J.**, 46, world war veteran
- 13-Nov, **Pearson, Mrs. A. S.**, 44, prominent in Eastern Star
- 20-Nov, **Day, Omar O.**, 56, grocer, from stroke; had taken part in First Christian church services in the morning
- 20-Nov, **Hambaugh, Charles**, 76, veteran hardware man of city
- 25-Nov, **Boone, Mrs. Margaret Jane**, 87, early day settler
- 26-Nov, **Hauser, Clem V.**, finance company collector. Fatally injured in automobile crash near Beloit
- 29-Nov, **Oswalt, Bert**, 61, baggage man. Killed when his milk truck is hit by Sante Fe train at Main street crossing
- 29-Nov, **Hauser, Mrs. Clem**, dies at Beloit hospital from injuries received in auto accident in which her husband was killed
- 1-Dec, **Sandberg, Harry B.**, 49, travelling salesman, heart attack
- 2-Dec, **Slayton, Mrs. Hannah**, 82, resident of Hutchinson 40 years
- 2-Dec, **Crilley, Richard G.**, Sante Fe Conductor dies while shopping
- 7-Dec, **Huxman, Mrs. Mary**, 76, mother of Judge Walter Huxman
- 7-Dec, **Branine, Judge C. E.**, former district court judge
- 16-Dec, **Robinson, Rev. Walter Baker**, 72, retired Methodist minister
- 23-Dec, **Stommel, Mrs. Charles**, 72, of Hammond, IN fatally injured in automobile crash west of town
- 23-Dec, **Gertner, Mrs. John**, 67, of Hammond, IN fatally injured in automobile crash west of town
- 23-Dec, **Curtis, Mrs. Jack**, burned to death in car in collision with train in Wichita
- 23-Dec, **Curtis, Patricia**, 14, burned to death in car in collision with train in Wichita
- 23-Dec, **Curtis, Donna**, 11, burned to death in car in collision with train in Wichita
- 23-Dec, **Curtis, Jerry**, 4, burned to death in car in collision with train in Wichita
- 24-Dec, **Field, Charles**, 75, found dead in home, victim of heart attack
- 27-Dec, **Waterbury, William J.**, 62, city treasurer, South Hutchinson, and oil company employee

Die In Flames As Train, Car Crash

Jack Curtis Family Trapped In Blazing Auto After Train Crash At Wichita; Two Escape With Critical Injuries

Obituaries

Submitted by Kathleen Dankanyin

Died – McCoy-August 5, of typhoid fever, Mrs. D. D. McCoy, aged 59 years 4 months and 6 days. She died at the residence of Charles N. Wooddell of Nickerson where she was visiting.

Thomas – August 15, of typhoid fever, Miss Lolo Thomas, of 227 Second Street East, Hutchinson aged 18 years.

Jenks – July 29, of consumption, Mrs. Alice A. Jenks, of Turon, aged 33 years, 7 months, and seven days.

Oakes – August 22, of paralysis of the brain, Professor Chester Hooper Oakes of Second Avenue East, Hutchinson, aged 77 years. Prof Oakes was a proficient, thorough and educated musician. He has played in several noted orchestras, and his opinions on musical matters were of great value to our local musicians. The funeral was held Wednesday.

Hedrick – August 21, of cancer, Mrs. J. M. Hedrick, wife of Captain Hedrick.

Nye – August 14, of whooping cough, infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Nye of B Street West, Hutchinson.

Scott – August 20, of heart failure, James F. Scott, of West Fifth Street, Hutchinson. Mr. Scott had been buggy riding with his wife, and upon their return his horse became playful, and in effort to quiet the horse, he was overcome with weakness and died in a short time. He was a stone contractor, and well known in Hutchinson.

Minnis – August 11, Mrs. Nora Minnis of East Park Street, Hutchinson, aged 23 years.

These obits are from the Kansan August 27, 1897

Died – Stevens – October 17, of diphtheria, Jay, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Stevens, aged 8 years.

McKee – October 16, of diphtheria, the 4 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren McKee, of this city

Kansan October 23, 1896

SUTHERLAND WORTHINGTON

Sutherland Worthington was born in Mercer County Pennsylvania, November 6, 1837. He died January 9, at the age of 82 years. He was one of the oldest settlers of Kansas, coming here in 1876, and for a time made his home with his niece, Mrs. Minnie Hale of this city. For the past eight years he was an inmate of the county farm.

He is survived by a brother and sister, who live in Oklahoma and one brother of this city, Elias, who lives on Carpenter Street. Funeral services were conducted from the Johnson funeral parlors and the body was laid to rest in the Laurel Cemetery. Rev. A. C. Tunnell of the Nazarene church officiated at the service.

Hutchinson News January 13, 1920

Martha "Jo" Longhofer

August 3, 1926 - July 31, 2012

Martha "Jo" Longhofer, 85, of Hutchinson, died July 31, 2012, at Hester Care Center. Jo was born Aug. 3, 1926, at Abilene, the daughter of Harry and Arretta Haynes Easter.

She attended schools in Abilene, and graduated from Abilene High School in 1944. She then attended and graduated from the University of Kansas in 1948 with a degree in Sociology. She was a homemaker.

She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, and the DUO Sunday school class, and several ladies circles of the church. Jo was also a former Brownie leader, Girl Scout leader, and Cub Scout Den Mother. She also was a member of the Daughters of The American Revolution. Jo was very active in researching genealogy for the family.

Jo married Garland V. Longhofer on Aug. 22, 1948, in Abilene. He survives. Other survivors include: a son, Thomas Longhofer and wife Cynthia of Andover; two daughters, Jane Briscoe and husband Charles of New Orleans, La., and Rebecca Grant and husband David of Derby; a brother, George Easter of Salina; a sister, Frieda Worrall of Tucson, Ariz.; nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; and two sisters, Harriett Spiegel and Marjorie Ramsey.

Funeral service will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, at Trinity United Methodist Church, with Pastor Michael McGuire and Reverend Jim Rhaesa presiding. Burial will be 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at Pilgrims Home Cemetery near Hope, Kan.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, and the family will greet friends from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday at Elliott Mortuary. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, in care of Elliott Mortuary, 1219 N. Main, Hutchinson, KS 67501. Please visit www.elliottmortuary.com to leave a condolence for Martha's family.



Doris L. Phillips

October 29, 1930 - July 21, 2012

Doris Louise Phillips, 81, died July 21, 2012, at Heartland Haven, Inman.

She was born Oct. 29, 1930, in Kansas City, Mo., to Herbert Enos and Blanche Ritcha Martin.

Doris graduated from Nickerson High School in 1948. She was a retired secretary for International Homes. She was a member of Mitchell Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, and she was a Sunday school teacher. Doris was also a member of the DUV, DAR, Miniature Club and the Reno County Genealogical Society.

On Dec. 23, 1948, she married Donald Franklin Phillips in Nickerson. He survives. She is also survived by: daughters, Cheryl J. Hainkel and husband Tom, Kansas City, Mo., and Beverly K. "BK" Baker, Inman; a sister, Dolores Faye Johnson, Shoreline, Wash.; two grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a great-grandchild, Shania Elizebeth Baker.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. July 26, 2012, at Elliott Mortuary Chapel, with Pastor Rebecca Stark officiating. Burial will be in Penwell-Gabel Cemetery and Mausoleum. Friends may call 1 to 9 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, with family to receive friends from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Elliott Mortuary.

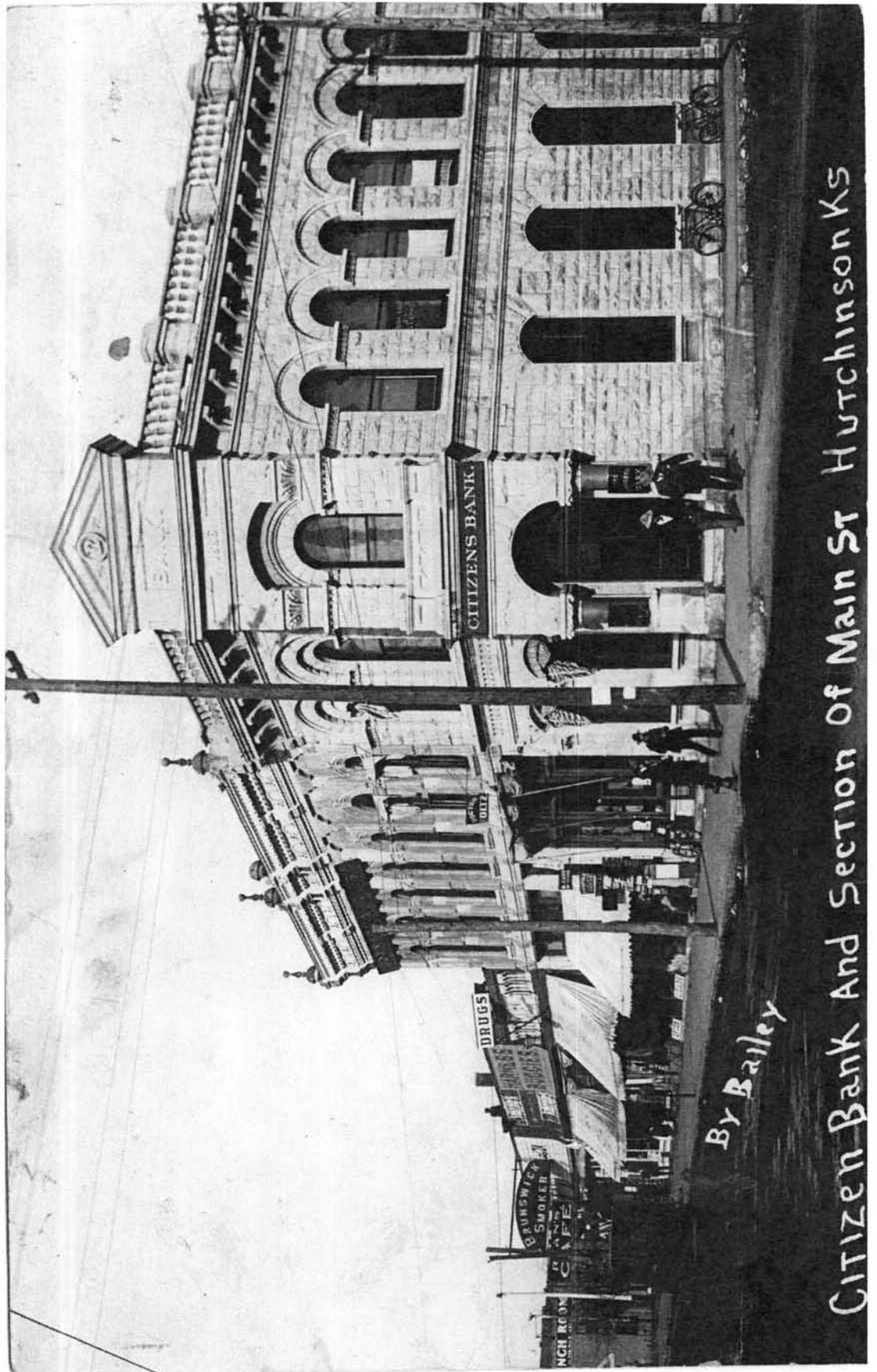
Memorials may be made to Mitchell United Methodist Church in care of Elliott Mortuary, 1219N. Main, Hutchinson, KS 67501



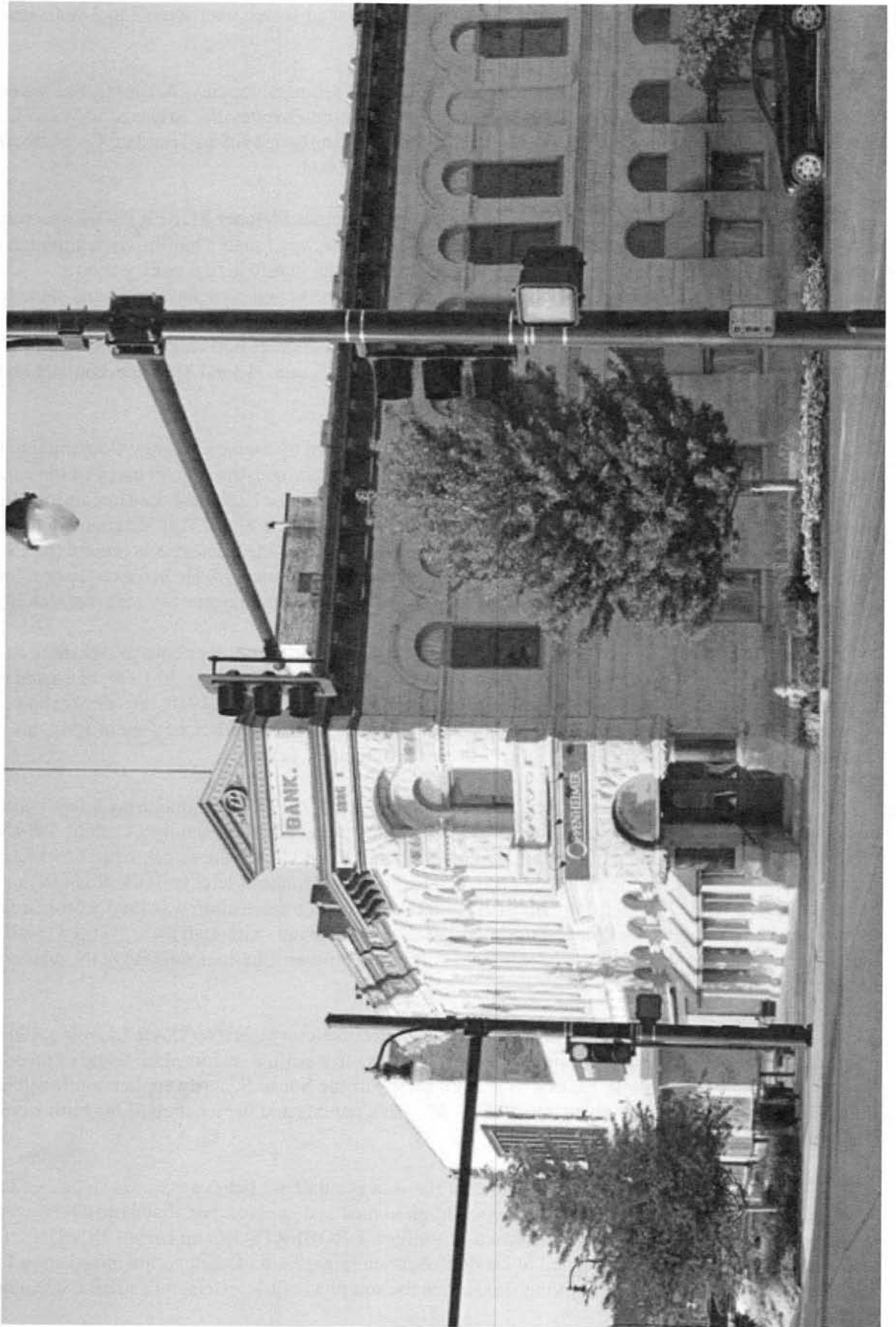
THEN: Citizen Bank

2nd and Main St.

Photo courtesy of the
Reno County Museum



Now: Oppenheimer



Grandpa was an orphan?

William Jonah ROBERTSON (c.1883-85 to 1941) was a man with a secret, and he took that secret with him to the grave in 1941. It remained his secret until about 2004 when a dedicated search over some 2 to 3 years unearthed a few of the details he had been hiding.

About 1906, Jonah married Mamie D SCOLES in Washington county, Arkansas. She was a daughter of Amon Shannon SCOLES and Mary Ellen BARNES. They moved from Fayetteville, Arkansas to Webb City, Missouri where their first daughter was born in 1907. After that, he took his family in 1908 to Trinidad, Colorado, following the construction boom, and their second daughter was born there in 1909.

There was another ROBERTSON by the name of Thomas Fletcher ROBERTSON who was living and working in construction trades in the Trinidad area at the time. This man was Jonah's half-brother, although his identity was apparently never fully made known to Mamie, at least so far as the family here was ever aware. About 1910, Jonah left Trinidad with the Stamey Mackey Construction company crews and came to Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas, settling in just before the 1910 Federal census took place. Nobody really knows what precipitated the separation between Jonah and the rest of his family, but he and his wife and children remained in Hutchinson for the rest of his life and never had any contact with the rest of his family again. He and Mamie eventually had a total of 11 children over the years.

Jonah was the construction supervisor and foreman hired by Stamey Mackey Construction Co., and he was the man who was in charge of some of the larger projects. He oversaw construction on many of the early grade schools built in Hutchinson, including Roosevelt, Avenue B, the old Liberty Junior High, and the Hutchinson High School building. He also was the person in charge of overseeing the building of the 1st World War Veterans Memorial fountain and the boat house, both located in Carey Park, and supervised the laying of the brick streets around the City of Hutchinson and Nickerson, including the 10-20 mile stretch of the old Nickerson Boulevard. He had a reputation for being fair and scrupulously honest, but could intimidate men twice his size when it became necessary for crew stability and production.

In 1910, Jonah was shown on the census with Arkansas origins, father born in Arkansas and mother born in Illinois, and his stated age was 23 - an indication of an 1886 birth year in his case. In 1920, his stated age was 32, but the informant indicated they didn't know where he or his parents were born. In 1930, the census showed him with an age of 40, and Jonah and both parents were now supposedly all born in Texas. When he died in 1941, his death certificate showed a birth date of September 1, 1889, birth place McKinney Texas.

His widow spent the next three decades, until her death in 1973, manufacturing a family background for Jonah on behalf of her children because she didn't know anything much about his family. A rumor that she started in the family indicated that he was an uncle of Dayle Lamoine "Dale" ROBERTSON (the actor), a rumor which may have been founded upon the fact that one of Jonah's actual half-brothers (Thomas Fletcher ROBERTSON) really lived in Oklahoma for a short while between 1912 and 1917. I think (hope) this fabrication was finally proven false in 2004 - or at least relegated as close as possible to falsehood as we could manage - although there is still a small (miniscule) chance that Dayles father could really have been Jonahs full-blood brother, Charlie ROBERTSON, whom we think was put up for adoption in the early 1890s.

Research efforts on the Jonah questions included conducting work on Dayle Lamoine ROBERTSON's family, primarily in hopes of finding proof positive that there was, or wasn't, a relationship. Some of those efforts proved fruitless, so a request was sent with a check to acquire a copy of the Social Security application Jonah had filled out in 1936. Finally, when the document arrived, the names of Jonah's parents and the location of his birth were there in his own handwriting. His stated birth was September 1, 1890.

We don't contest the day and month, but the year is a date we believe was mis-stated because he didn't wish to be forced into early retirement with so many children to feed and care for. His stated birth origin was Carrollton, Carroll county, Arkansas. His parents were identified as William T ROBERTSON and Eliza J JENKINS. Curiously, however, it was a researcher for the family related to Dayle Robertson lineage who led me to the information I needed and helped me locate relatives who were still living. Jonah was the son of Thomas Jefferson ROBERTSON and Eliza Jane JENKINS.

When we started locating Jonah's relatives, most of the other members of the ROBERTSON family were located in California. Several of them knew of Jonah's existence, but never knew what had become of him. It was eventually established that Jonah's father was married four times. His first wife (?? HADDOCK) had a son named Ambrose Henry ROBERSON in 1874, and then subsequently died. His second wife (Evanna F RICHARDSON) had a son named Thomas Fletcher ROBERTSON and died in childbirth in 1880. His third wife was Jonah's mother, and she had two sons - Jonah and his brother, Charlie - but apparently she ran off with both boys after an argument. Once Jonah's mother and father separated, his father married a fourth time to Anna Louise BLACKBURN and had seven more children, the eldest of whom was born in March 1887. This relationship may have been the cause of the argument with Eliza.

Additional research has revealed that Jonah's mother was married at age 15 to a man named John BELL, prior to her relationship with Jonah's father, and had a daughter named Ida BELL who was born when she was seventeen. She deserted both husband and daughter when the child was about 2 and went back to live with her parents, whose home was less than a mile from Jonah's father. John BELL divorced E J BELL between 1878 and 1880 in Carroll County Arkansas and retained custody of their daughter. Although evidence does exist that seems to indicate Jonah's mother was slightly unstable mentally, this has not been proven conclusively because nobody knows what became of her, or where she went, after 1885. The family now believes that Jonah's mother was involved with his father between 1881 and mid 1886, and that Jonah was at least 3 to 5 years older than everyone thought he was.

During the 31 years Jonah ROBERTSON lived and worked in Hutchinson, society in general (and Hutchinson in specific), tended to have extremely racist attitudes. People of color - those of Indian, Mexican, or Negro descent - were not well tolerated or treated fairly or equally in the community, and there is still a little of that attitude present yet today. We have found that Jonah's father was 1/2 Cherokee, and it is believed that his mother may also have had some Indian heritage. Jonah had certain distinctive coloring, physical characteristics, and personality traits that would have caused him difficulty had it been known that he had Indian heritage, but he was able to pass in Hutchinson society by keeping his heritage a secret.

The secret is now out, and the family speculates about the reasons why Jonah kept such a secret from his wife and children. Some family members have theorized that it was because of his wife's notoriously loose lipped ways - she has been described as constitutionally unable to maintain a deception or keep anything to herself. She couldn't have kept a secret like that if her life depended on it, so she was never told anything.

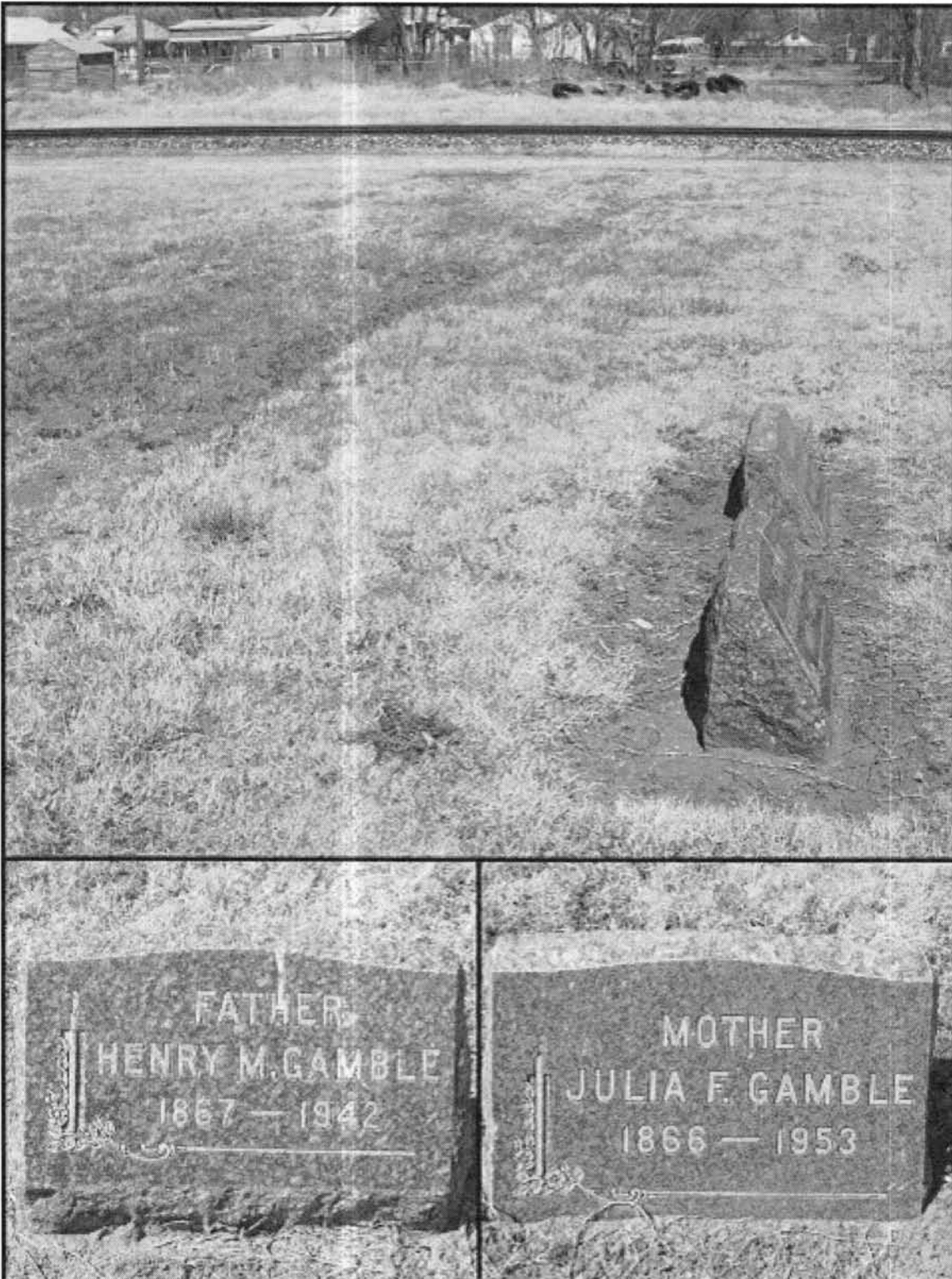
None of his eleven children knew about his background because he told everyone an official story - he was an orphan and didn't know who his family were - with a few apparent facts thrown in about his mother going into a rage and leaving his father suddenly in the dead of night, lamenting his missing brother, and being raised as a foster child by a minister's family. Jonah managed to maintain the deception so faithfully and successfully, even from his wife and children, that even in 2004, at which time the truth of his heritage was found out, it's still hard to pick the facts from the fiction. It makes me think of what one of my grandparents used to tell me as I was growing up: No deception or really good secret ever goes entirely undiscovered.

William Jonah ROBERTSON is remembered very fondly by his family. He was a man who was devoted to his wife and children, and did all he could to make sure they had dignity, a good upbringing and the respect of their peers and the community. As a father, he was protective of his daughters reputations and the honor of his family. He was a conscientious employee, a hard worker, a loving and faithful husband and father, and a thoroughly decent, honest man. People who knew him well enough to count him as their friend were fortunate indeed, because he didn't waste much time on fools. Whatever else he may or may not have been is not important enough to worry over.

Submitted by Claudia L. Glass

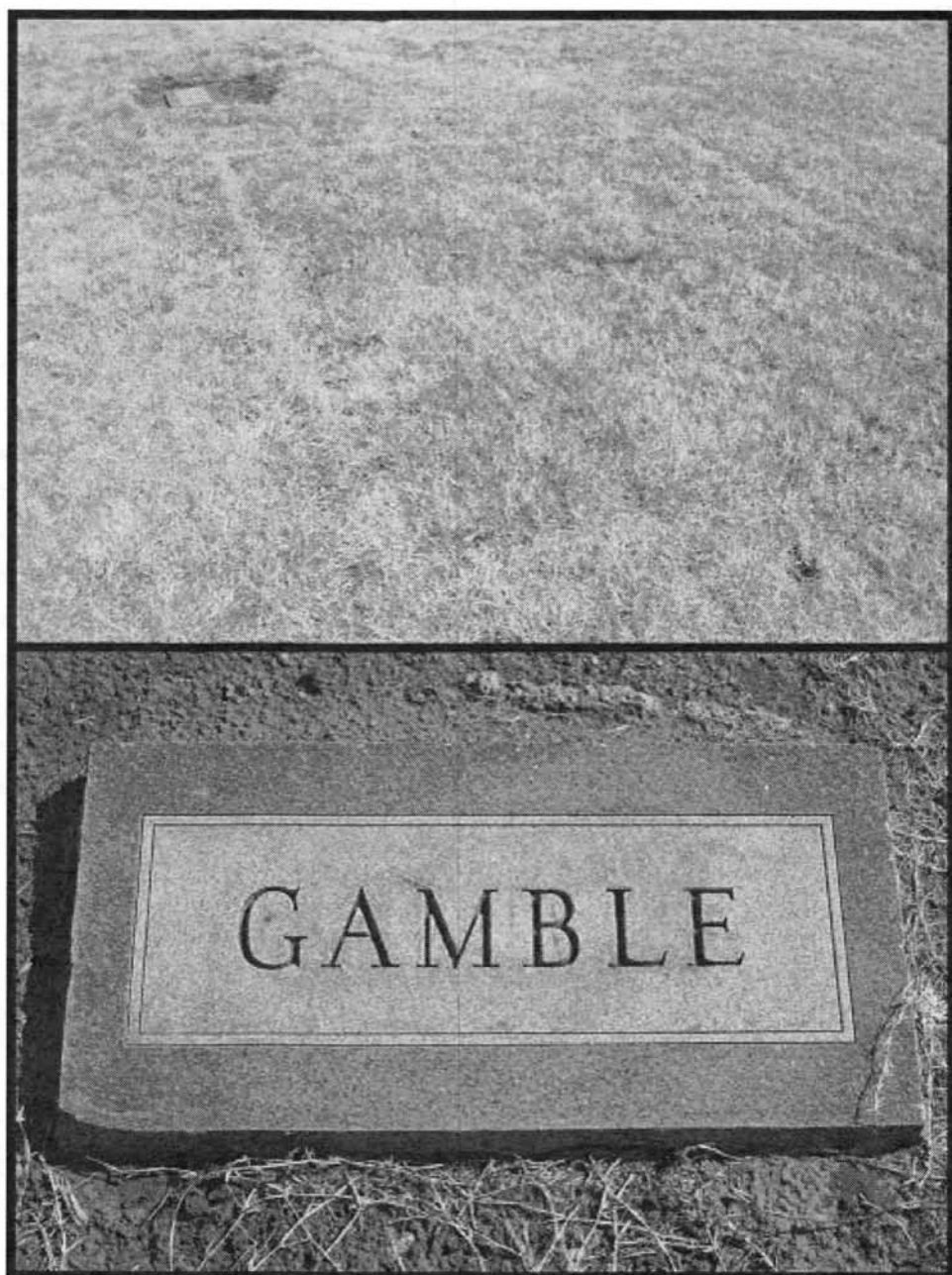
Eastside Cemetery: Lot 4

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
Beetley	Oliver Victor	?	7/10/1944
Gamble	Henry M.	10/31/1867	3/10/1942
Gamble	Julia F	11/20/1886	7/1/1953
Milroy	Mary	12/31/1886	12/4/1892
Tedrick	Infant	1/5/1893	1/5/1893



Eastside Cemetery: Lot 5

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
Albright	Lovina	?	4/23/1893
Albright	J. C.	?	11/4/1892
Blaisar	Anna	9/13/1839	3/18/1922
Blasiar	Frank	?	10/11/1915
Blasiar	Richard	?	10/26/1892
Gamble	Lydia N.	?	7/17/1913
Gamble	R. W.	?	11/5/1892
Gamble	Robert W.	6/29/1857	3/15/1932
Yerkes	Emma P	01/31/1860	6/6/1934
Yerkes	Norval	9/14/1895	5/25/1914
Yerkes	Infant J. F.	11/20/1892	11/29/1892
Yerkes	S. E.	?	9/7/1893



Adoption Case from Castleton

The habeas corpus proceeding brought before Probate Judge Stuart by Edward Wilson for the possession of Mabel Ford the adopted daughter of Mrs. Barbara Ford of Castleton township was settled without finishing the evidence. It was a case in which the whole township took an interest and by Wilson's version there was a story connected with the case strongly tinged with romance.

A point brought into the case was the establishment of the parentage of Mabel Ford. Wilson had lived much of the time with the Ford family has manifested much interest in the adopted daughter. Some time ago he was appointed her guardian by the probate court. Later trouble arose over the management of the girl now over 14 years of age. Wilson took the girl to a neighbor's and the Fords took her back home again. Then the present case was brought, and Wilson, the first witness yesterday, made some sensational statements which are not credited by the Fords or by the girl whom they concern. By Wilson's story he has had a checkered career: driving stage coach in Kansas, tending bar in Minnesota, fighting Indians as a regular soldier out west, a trip in Arkansas, a year's rest at the soldier's home in Washington, then back to Reno county, herding and working on a farm.

All these years since 1886, he claims he has kept track of a baby girl which has now grown to almost a woman. He claims that he carried the babe at 18 months with him when herding horses, that he has helped to support her and has bought clothing and dresses and school books. All these years, by his story, he has carried a secret locked in his own heart. That secret was that he is a father and that Mabel Ford is his daughter. On the witness stand he told his story of the girl's parentage. Her mother and himself, he claims, lived together as man and wife for two years. The mother's name was Luella Clark, and when the child was born she lived at Kingman. The child, he says, was given to a family named Young. Later the child was adopted by Dr. Ford and his wife, and was reared in Castleton township.

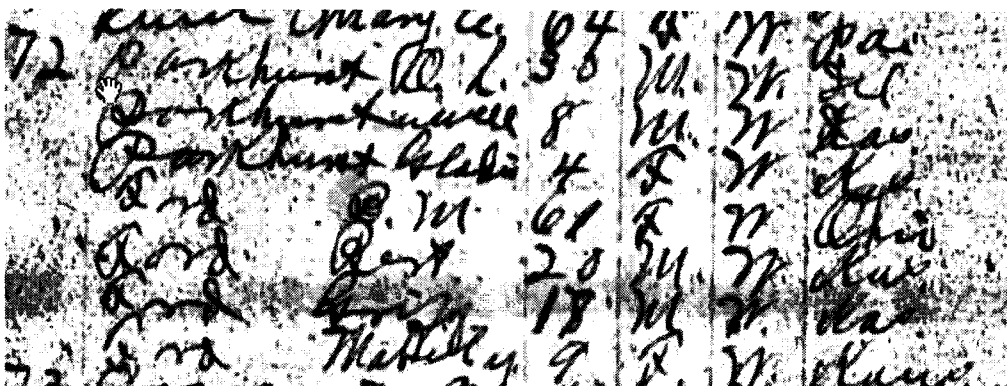
The Fords deny this story emphatically and look upon it as pure fiction. They say that there is undoubted proof of the parentage of Mable Ford. Their claim is that she was born to a Mr. and Mrs. Young that lived at Kingman in 1886, and that later she was adopted by a Mr. and Mrs. Youngs, who afterward gave the child to Dr. Ford and his wife. This second family was visited last week and made sworn statements that when they took the babe, it was taken from the breast of its mother, Mrs. Young, which would seem to establish its identity beyond question.

Mabel Ford herself has no misgivings regarding her parentage. She accepts fully the proof furnished that she is the daughter of the Mr. and Mrs. Young who left Kingman in 1886, although all trace of her parents has since been lost. Mabel is a comely girl between 14 and 15 years of age and looks even older. She professes the utmost affection for Mrs. Ford and was very happy this morning when she was told that she was to continue to live with her foster mother.

The case was settled today without hearing any evidence on Mrs. Ford's side, Wilson's attorneys consenting to the appointment of Thomas Smith, Jr., as the guardian of the girl.

Mabel Ford will continue to live at her form home and her friends are fully satisfied with the investigation made regarding her parentage, as they say that it proves her identity beyond a doubt. She is a girl who has the respect of all who know her. The discussion of her identity entered into at court yesterday was a trying ordeal for a young girl to pass through, and she is doubtless very glad that it is over with.

Hutchinson News 7/18/1900



Mabel Ford, 9 years old
1895 Reno Co., KS State Census

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