

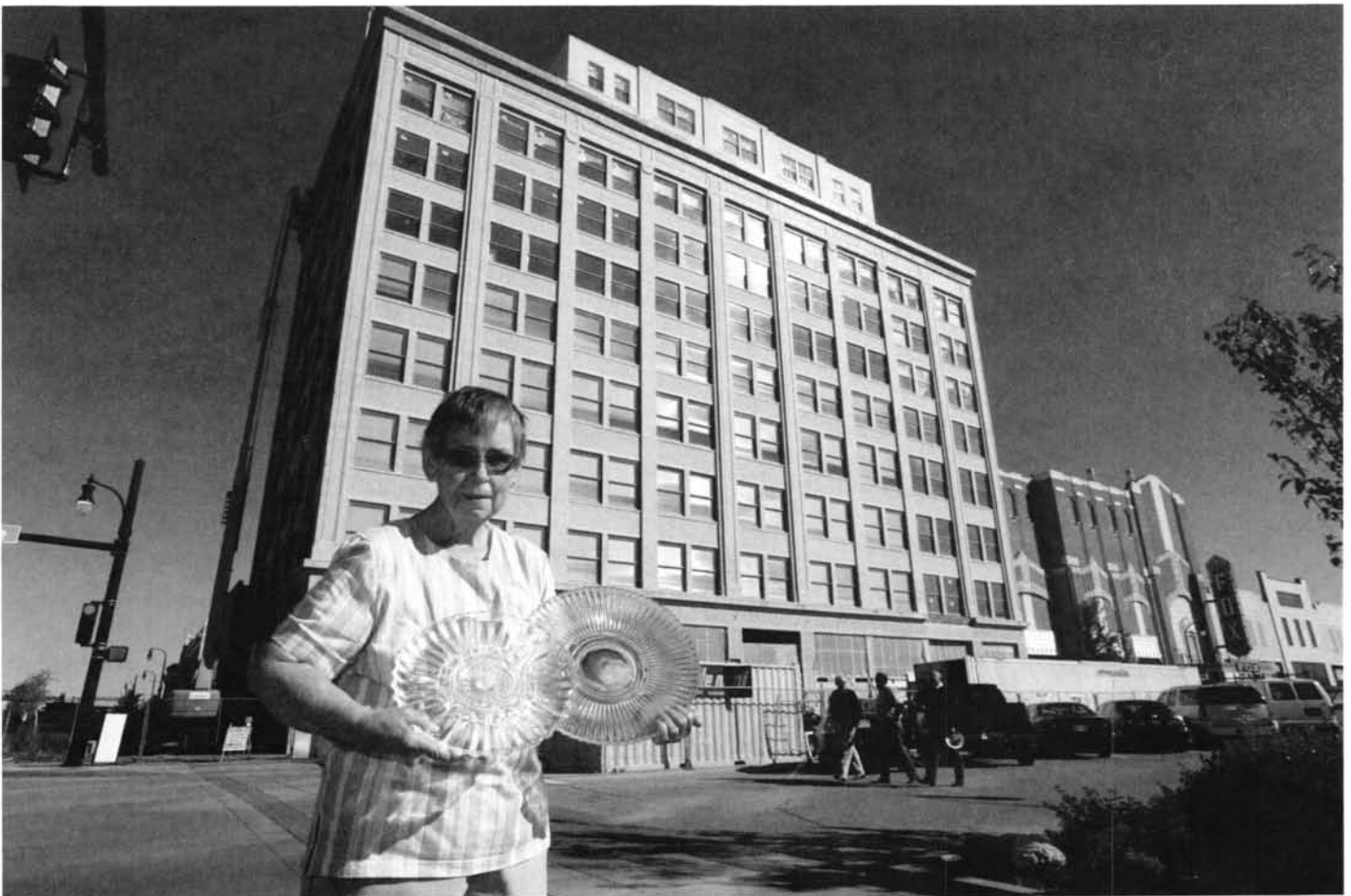


THE SUNFLOWER

Reno County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 5

Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-0005



Volume 37 No. 1

February 2015

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 Email:

RenoCoGenSoc@gmail.com

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

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

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<http://bit.ly/RenoCoGenSoc>

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Editor's Note

Hello everyone! I'm your acting-editor and (late) helping get this issue to you.

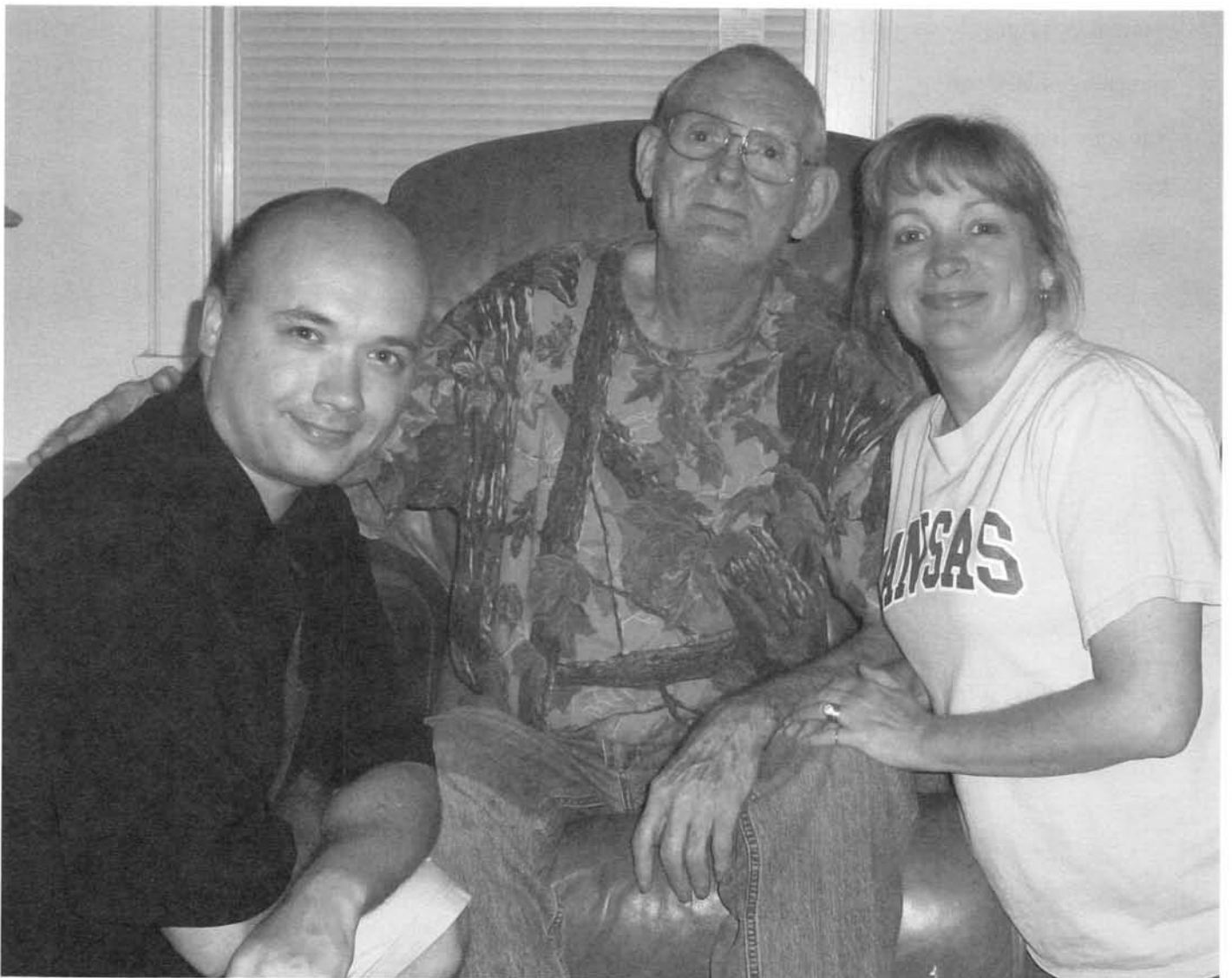
Many of you know I brought my Daddy, Daniel Stafford to Hutchinson from Georgia a few years ago. He stepped into eternity in January and as you can imagine it has been months of adjustments and managing details.

This is my favorite snapshot of Daddy, me and my son Clay. Clay had just returned from his first deployment in Afghanistan. Clay will soon be graduating from military intelligence AIT and heading to Korea for a year. These long periods of separation are stressful and your prayers are appreciated.

Please consider helping keep The Sunflower a tangible way to share and record our history by sharing your Reno County roots for a story or by volunteering to research and submit an interesting piece of our history.

Thanks!

Gale Wall



Hutchinson... Early Social and Political Life

I came across 3 plates with Hutchinson history at a garage sale for \$1 each.

The Reno House, upper left, was opened in 1872 at the northwest corner of First and Main as the leading public house on the Arkansas Valley. Thanksgiving Day 1892 marked the beginning of musical jubilees for Hutchinson when a group performed at Riverside Park.



Riverside Park, developed by Emerson Carey, was a place full of entertainment such as rides, music, stage plays roller coasters, and circuses. The Interurban was one of Hutchinson's first transportation achievements around the turn of the century.

The Pactola Apartment building has been designated a historic landmark and remains in operation today. The fire department was organized in the 1890s and was a far cry from the modern facility Hutchinson now has.

Reno County's first courthouse looked more like a blacksmith shop. It was a little frame shack at the northeast corner of B and Main. It was used until a new brick courthouse was constructed across the street on the southeast corner.

The War Memorial was another point of interest erected during Hutchinson's early days.

This limited edition bicentennial plate was provided by the Hutchinson Nation Bank and Trust Co. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the plate was donated to the Hutchinson Bicentennial Commission.

2015 Programs

January: 10 Most Common Genealogy Mistakes (Annetta Hoffman)

February: Canceled due to weather

March: Having a Genealogical Plan, Helpful Genealogy Websites and a Short Review of Documenting Sources (Karen Burgess)

April: Tips and Tricks for Courthouse Research (Margaret Hermstein)

May: Sharing Your Research with Others Online (Karen Burgess)

June: No Meeting. Please attend the KCGS annual meeting in Wichita. See page 7 for details.

July: Putting Together a Genealogy Book for Family (Karen Burgess)

August: Re-Telling the Stories of the Good Old Days (Darren McMannis)

September: Steps I Used to Prove Family Traditions (Karen Burgess)

October: Potluck with Show & Tell. Celebrating Family History Month. (Delos V. Smith Center)

November: Cemetery Walks (Gale Wall)

December: No Meeting

All meetings and programs are open to the public
3rd Saturday of each month
Hutchinson Public Library Auditorium - 2nd Floor
901 N. Main Street

For Library holiday closures meeting location is the DeLos Smith Senior Center
101 West 1st Ave

- Programs - 10:00 am

Inclement Weather Policy:

If a meeting is canceled due to Inclement weather, that information will be posted on our Facebook page by 9 a.m. the day of the meeting, along with an e-mail notification being sent to members. In addition, notification of closing will be sent to KWCH (channel 12), please watch for area closings.

41st Annual
 Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies
KCGS
Genealogy Conference

featuring
Kathleen Brandt

*Professional Genealogist
 & Nationally Renowned Keynote Speaker*

You've Seen Kathleen's Work
 on **TLC** and **NBC**: **Who Do You Think You Are?** with
 Tim McGraw, Reba McEntire, Ashley Judd, and Chris
 O'Donnell, on **PBS**: **Finding Your Roots**, & on the
History Channel: **How The States Got Their Shapes**.
 Kathleen is a celebrated Keynote Speaker with a wide
 breadth of knowledge & experience!



Conference Topics

Military Records Were Destroyed? What To Do

Step-by-step guide to reconstruction of your veteran's lost WWI & WWII military records.

How We Were Freed

A practical workshop relating to the practices and recorded documents of our ancestors.
 Covers slave/slavemasters, Native Americans, & indentured servants. Q&A follows.

Leaping Over Brick Walls

Partner your sleuthing skills with effective research tips to fast forward your research.
 These techniques are applied when conducting celebrity & VIP client broadcast research.

Sharing Our Ancestors

Your family and friends will never be disinterested again. 10 fun ways to keep your
 audience enthused and your ancestors alive.



Saturday, June 20, 2015

Wichita, Kansas

Co-Hosted By the Wichita Genealogical Society

Registration Is Now Open!

Information at **www.KCGS.us**

THE KCGS PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

As a member of the Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies, the Reno County Genealogical Society is able to offer an exciting award package to our members that involves not only recognition RCGS (your local Society), State recognition from the Kansas Council, and National recognition through KCGS from the Corporation For National & Community Service and the Points of Light Foundation.

Award Levels are based upon AGE and ANNUAL VOLUNTEER HOURS.

You must log your volunteer service hours. RCGS will distribute forms you can use for this purpose. All volunteer hours must be generally related to the collection, preservation, transcription, organization, and helping others in using genealogical or historical records; basically, serving in a volunteer capacity in genealogy or history-related activity. Attending Society meetings, helping with projects all meet the volunteer service requirement. You can count conference and other educational time IF you reasonably believe you will have opportunity to potentially use the information you learn to assist or share with others in any volunteer capacity. You will turn in your log to the designated coordinator at the Reno County Genealogical Society, either quarterly or annually as requested. This is not to "keep tabs" on you but we are required to certify that to the best of our knowledge we believe the hours turned in are reasonable and accurate.

Requirements for the National President's Award also include:

- Recipient(s) must be a United States citizen or a lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States.
- Awards are issued for volunteer service only; additional levels of participation with the organization (i.e., charitable support) are not a factor considered for the award.
- Court-ordered community service does not qualify for the award. Serving the Genealogists, Family Historians, & Genealogical Societies
- Volunteer Service must be with projects directly or indirectly connected to the overall purpose of your local Society, or in achievement of the purposes of the KCGS; primarily, in promoting genealogy and family history research, collection and preservation of genealogical and historical records, assisting others in their research, educating others in any aspect of family history, etc.

This information was emailed to members on February 5, 2015 and included a tracking form in both Word and Excel options.

If you need another copy or have questions please email the society at RenoCoGenSoc@gmail.com and use PVSA in the subject line.

A project coming in 2015 will be "They Were Here: 1890". Watch your email and this quarterly for additional information.

Thank you to all of our volunteers!



Track Your Time!

Your time is valuable. That's why we want to honor you for your genealogical and historical volunteer service to our County and our State throughout the year.

We'll provide you with a simple form to use – then, just Track Your Time! A variety of Award Levels will help us honor your service.

Reno County Genealogical Society

Support RCGS via Community Rewards Program

Congratulations on RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY's acceptance into Community Rewards! Community Rewards is designed for non-profits of all sizes.

RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY will get credit for every purchase its members make using their registered Plus card. You have been assigned a new NPO number **80570**.

A customer must have 3 things to register and begin supporting RCGS:

- A Plus card, which is available at any store by asking an associate
- A valid email address, which can be obtained from any free online service and can be anonymous
- A personalized account at our website, which again can be anonymous

TO ENROLL IN THE COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

Members must visit our website at www.banner.com/communityrewards (substitute Dillons, Bakers or Gerbes for banner depending on your location)

1. Sign in OR Create an account (see below on creating an online account at our website)
2. Click on *Enroll Now*"
3. Enter the 5-digit NPO and search
4. Select your Organization and click on *Enroll*"

TO CREATE AN ONLINE ACCOUNT AT OUR WEBSITE:

Visit our website at www.banner.com/communityrewards (substitute Dillons, Bakers or Gerbes for banner depending on your location)

1. Click on *Register*"at the top of the page
2. Enter your email address, password, zip code (select preferred store) and check the box if you desire to receive email communication from us
3. Click on *Create Account*"at the bottom of the page
4. You will receive an email confirmation to your inbox, to activate your account click on the link in the body of the email and enter your sign in information to confirm

For assistance setting up an online account or with general questions, please feel free to contact us at [800-576-4377](tel:800-576-4377) option 3. Administrators are always welcome to email us at DCR@dillonstores.com.

Remembering the Wiley

By Sharon Poulton

I started to work at Wiley Tea Room in October of 1963, when I was 21. I worked in the kitchen as a helper. I made sandwiches, salads and worked with all dishes, etc. I also worked many of the events attended by professional groups and societies, such as; Kiwanis, Grainmen, Grid Iron Club, Women's Professional Club, Altrusa and Soroptimists. I work there for 5 years.

When the Tea Room announced its closing, I stayed on and helped Jane Wiley with the closing, with the selling of Tea Room items, and did extra work until the final closing. Upon closing, Jane Wiley gave me some items. One was a cake plate. She told me to put my wedding cake on it when I got married. I never got married and still have the plate. The Tea room closed around September of 1968.

After leaving the Tea Room I went to work at Grace Hospital in dietary for 5 years, then decided to get into nursing, first starting as a nurse aid, then going back to school to get my LPN license. I worked at both the Grace Hospital and Hutchinson Hospital for 37 years. I have very special memories of my time at the Wiley Tea Room.

History Timeline from various news articles in 2015.

1901: Vernon Meek Wiley comes to Hutchinson and opens the Rorabaugh-Wiley Dry Goods at 122 N. Main.

1911: Vern Wiley forms the Rorabaugh-Wiley Building Company and hires an architect to design the 8 story sky scraper we know today at the Wiley Building.

1912: Construction begins on the Northeast corner of First and Main, on the former site of the Opera House and Moon Café.

1913: Grand opening of the new Rorabaugh-Wiley Store.

1929: Ninth floor, referred to at the penthouse level, was added for the laboratory of the state Grain Inspection Department.

1930-31: The Rorabaugh Improvement Company builds the 1,400 seat Fox Theatre to the East of the store.

1933: During the depression, A. O. Rorabaugh sells his share of ownership of the store to Wiley and his name is dropped from the name of the store.

1949: Vern Wiley's son, Phil becomes president of the store.

1954: Vern Wiley dies. More than 900 people attended his funeral.

1950s: Nelson Hobart purchases the building from the Wiley family.

1968: The Tea Room closes.

1973: Bob Wiley becomes president of Wiley's

1980: Ed Wiley, second son of Vernon, dies.

1985: Wiley closes the downtown store.

1991: Phil Wiley dies.

1993: Bob Wiley dies.

1995-2013: The building is purchased for \$40,000 and a few years later fails to meet fire code and goes without updates and repairs for years. After a legal struggle the building owner agrees to sell and Wiley Plaza purchases the building and begins the gutting of the interior.

2014: Construction begins on the parking garage and the renovation of the residential portion of the building is complete. The first three households move in .

2015: The building was formally dedicated in March.

On The Cover: Photo provided by Sandra Milburn of The Hutchinson News.

The Wiley

Photographed by Gale Wall



Eastside Cemetery, Lot 7

<u>Surname</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Lot</u>
Condon	David W.	1831	3/24/1911	Marked
Condon	Frank	?	5/12/1908	Unmarked
Condon	Melinda J.	?	8/25/1903	Marked
McGuire	Rose E.	4/25/1893	12/4/1918	Marked
McPherran	C. F.	12/16/1875	5/23/1892	Unmarked
McPherran	L. W.	2/28/1892	8/20/1892	Unmarked
Royce	Clayton A.	1805	4/9/1892	Marked
Royce	Mary F.	1827	12/28/1900	Marked
Shoberg	Samuel	5/25/1861	5/9/1925	Marked
Shoberg	Swan F.	3/13/1898	7/29/1906	Marked
Shoborg	Matilda	1/17/1872	6/9/1901	Marked



Love in the Cemetery

Meet Kristen Roderick Birket and Jon Birket. They met during a headstone dedication for John Crooms at Eastside Cemetery in 2013. See the news articles for this story on pages 14-16.

Kristen was a reporter for The Hutchinson News and Jon a re-enactor with The Holmes Brigade U.S.V. Inc.

I had the honor of attending their wedding.



Gale Wall
*PHOTOGRAPHY

John Crooms

The following article was written by Kristen Roderick in September 2013 and used with permission by The Hutchinson News.

Janice Lovelace has always heard family stories about her great-grandfather John Crooms, who escaped slavery to fight for the Union forces in the Civil War. Her research about her maternal grandmother's father led her from Seattle, where she lives, to Hutchinson, where Crooms is buried - to Lovelace's surprise, without a headstone.

Nearly half of the people buried at Eastside Cemetery are without headstones, said Eastside Cemetery manager Zach Phillips. Many did not have family that could afford one. Lovelace wanted to honor her great-grandfather's service by properly marking his grave. A family photo she had of Crooms shows him in his Grand Army of the Republic gear. She contacted the organization, which is now the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, to see if they could help.

By Memorial Day, the organization had a headstone in place for Crooms' grave. On Saturday, Lovelace will be in Hutchinson as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War pay homage to Crooms, who died in Hutchinson on July 3, 1922. "We are trying to preserve the memories of the sacrifice these men went through," said Doug McGovern, Kansas Civil War Memorials Officer of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. Fighting for freedom Lovelace admires Crooms' courage to escape slavery to join the 5th U.S. Colored Cavalry, Company C.

She had traveled to Kentucky, where Crooms was born into slavery in April 1840 in Bardstown. On Aug. 30, 1864, when Crooms was 24, he left the plantation to fight for his freedom. His unit was based at Camp Nelson in Kentucky, according to Lovelace's research. "To have enough courage to leave the plantation and sign up for the army - a lot of people didn't have that," Lovelace said.

Crooms was skilled at riding horses and he was a stable hand on the farm, so that is likely why he joined the cavalry, Lovelace said. His unit was led by Col. James Brisbin, who was ordered to bring 600 men to join other units heading to Saltville, Va. The unit was not organized and wasn't given rifles that could be loaded from horseback. The 5th U.S.C.C. was initially ridiculed and insulted by the white troops. But their courage and fighting skills won them respect, according to Lovelace.

In October 1864, Gen. Stephen Burbridge led nearly 4,000 federal troops to Saltville, where Burbridge ordered the men to camp - but not immediately attack. This allowed Confederate troops to regroup, and by the next day, Confederates had gathered 2,800 troops to fight. At least 118 of the 400 men who fought from Crooms's unit were killed, missing or wounded - including Crooms, who was shot in the thigh. He remained in service for another 18 months, but didn't fight in any other battles. He, along with the rest of his unit, was discharged in March 1866 in Helena, Ark.

After the war Crooms returned to Kentucky after serving in the Army. He filed a declaration for marriage in February 1868 to Mary Beam. The family stayed in Kentucky until the 1880s, where he was a farmer. In the early 1880s, John and Mary Crooms and Mary's sister's family moved to Kansas. Crooms probably heard about free land from the Homestead Act of 1862, which offered free land to those who settled in the West, according to Lovelace.

John Crooms originally settled in Grant County before moving to Reno County, Lovelace said, which was a shock in her research. "I thought he always lived in Hutch," she said. By 1885, John and Mary Crooms were listed as Reno County Residents. John Crooms was a new member of the G.A.R., which listed him as a farmer.

Mary Crooms suffered a stroke in 1892 and died in 1907. John Crooms remarried Amanda McDowell in 1912 after spending a year in the National Home of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Leavenworth. In 1920, John and Amanda moved to the 700 block of W. 17th St. He died on July 3, 1922.

He was buried without a marker. "It fell through the cracks," Lovelace said. "There's no story about why he didn't have a marker. ... It was a pleasant surprise to find out the veterans group helped."

Ceremony

The words to the poem "When the boys in Blue Are Gone" will slowly be read at the ceremony on Saturday morning at Eastside Cemetery. It was written by John Hendricks, the last living veteran of the 89th Indian Volunteer Infantry. It is a poem written for Union soldiers - hoping that they will not be forgotten. McGovern can remember his first ceremony that honored a Civil War veteran. It was a Thursday night before Memorial Day. The cemetery was empty except for the few who dressed up in their Civil War gear to pay respects to a soldier who fought for freedom. "We did the ceremony, we did the readings, we did the prayers," he said. "It doesn't matter that nobody was there. It's the right thing to do."

Through the rain or shine on Saturday, he is thrilled to pay honor to a soldier who endured escaping slavery and a gunshot wound for freedom. This time, he is thankful to know the story of the soldier; many times, the story is missing. "If nothing else, it is recognition of the sacrifice and rendering of honor to the people," he said.

Death of Aged Negro Soldier

John Crooms, an aged negro veteran of the civil war, who helped fight for his own freedom from slavery, died at 12:45 this noon at his home, 701 W 17th Street, aged 82 years.

He was a native of Nelson county, Kentucky, where he was born in 1810. He was married there in 1865 and ten sons and daughters were born to him, of whom all but two survive. His first wife passed away in 1907 and he was married again in Atchison, Kans., to Mrs. Amanda Finney, who survives him.

Mr. Crooms lived on a farm until three years ago, when he moved to Hutchinson. He was one of the finest old negroes of this section, and was highly respected by all who knew him.

The funeral will be held under auspices of the Joe Hooker post, Grand Army of the Republic

The Hutchinson News, July 3, 1922

DEATH OF AGED NEGRO SOLDIER

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Today's most pessimistic paragraph: Occasionally—perhaps frequently—it seems that trouble and discontent have always been normalcy.—Atchison Globe.

John Crooms, cont'd

This article was written by Kristen Roderick in September 2013 and used with permission by The Hutchinson News.

UNION SOLDIER HONORED AT EASTSIDE • Family of former slave attends ceremony held by veterans' descendants.

A brisk breeze kept a slight chill in the air as the Union color guard marched in perfect sync through Eastside Cemetery.

Hands were placed over hearts and in salute as a Civil War-era United States flag was carried by. The guard circled a plot at the cemetery before pausing in front of the grave of a fallen infantryman. On Saturday morning, John Crooms was remembered for his service in the Fifth U.S. Colored Cavalry, Company C in the Civil War with readings, a musket-gun salute and a playing of "Taps."

"We wouldn't have the country we have today if it weren't for men like him, who joined and served during the Civil War," said Tom Schmidt, past deputy commander of the Kansas branch for Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Crooms was born into slavery in Kentucky, but died at his own home in Hutchinson. Because of his - and other Union soldiers' - bravery in the war, he was able to will his land to his children. He died a free man.

"To think about where he started and where he ended up is the American dream," Janice Lovelace, Crooms' great granddaughter said. Lovelace was in Hutchinson to see Crooms' newly marked grave and to see if she could find out more about her ancestor's history. The passion to find more about her family's history led her to Hutchinson, where she learned Crooms' grave was unmarked. She notified the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, formerly Grand Army of the Republic, to change it. The group made sure Crooms had a headstone by Memorial Day, and Doug McGovern, Kansas Civil War Memorials Officer of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, set up a memorial service.

The group often performs memorial services for Union soldiers. Most times the soldiers do not have relatives readily available to attend the service.

"This is different than any we've done before because you were here," McGovern told Lovelace after the ceremony. "That makes it a lot more special." She was joined at the ceremony by Brad Schall, the past commander in chief for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Schall has family buried at Eastside Cemetery, including a great grandfather who fought alongside Crooms.

His family brought him to the cemetery when he was young so he could know the history of his family and of several people buried there. "One of the things that makes it a great place is the Civil War soldiers that are here - our history here," Schall said. "It has soldiers from every war since Hutchinson and Reno County was a viable part of history."

The Civil War soldiers buried at Eastside Cemetery include Corp. Franklin Hogan, a Medal of Honor recipient who risked his life to capture the flag of the Sixth Virginia Confederate Infantry on Oct. 1, 1864. Now Crooms, who fought and was injured in the Battle of Saltworks, will have more than just a headstone. People will go by his final resting place and know what he did - fighting for the freedom of himself and others. "It's wonderful to have that history in my family," Lovelace said

Samuel P. Teter

Rita Lingg has spent many hours gathering documents and researching the life of Samuel. Over the next couple of issues we will share his family here in the pages of The Sunflower.

Samuel P. Teter, was born February 22, 1842 in Pendleton County, West Virginia, the son of Laban A. Teter and Sarah Ervin Wimer.

Samuel married Phoebe Jane Stewart, daughter of John Stewart and Phoebe Jane Hunter, on March 29, 1866 in McLean County, Illinois.

To this union were born:

Dacey Albert: Born October 20, 1871. Died May 7, 1965. Married Olive Ruth Bringle.

Alice E.: Born December 5, 1873. Died March 25, 1874.

Ira J.: Born March 3, 1875. Died June 27, 1960. Married Anna Brehm & Flora Umphenour.

Maggie G.: Born September 21, 1877. Died April 14, 1909. Married Robert G. Reed.

Jonathan E.: Born June 3, 1880. Died September 28, 1957. Married Mira Henson.

Nancy May: Born August 22, 1883. Died October 24, 1961. Married Rutherford Archer.

Jesse M.: Born November 20, 1885. Died April 12, 1977. Married Ethel Liggett & Amy Hegarty.

Samuel Carl: Born December 22, 1887. Died May 7, 1983. Married Amanda Crow.

Jennie Myrtle: Born July 1, 1890. Died August 31, 1971. Married Lester Y. Huffman.

Alfred R.: Born September 19, 1892. Died January 26, 1961. Married Phoebe Rucker.



Genealogy Do-Over

With Thomas MacEntee of The GeneaBloggers

I know lots of people taking the opportunity to re-evaluate their research and documentation. For me, I followed along in a “go-over” mode, while moving my data completely to RootsMagic. It will take me some time before I’m working solely in my new tree, but I’ll be confident in the information it contains. Perhaps you will benefit from some of the suggestions found in the do-over. You can download the topics in PDF format and sign-up to receive weekly emails. And, if you’re on Facebook there is a group dedicated to this topic.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogydoover/>

Round 1: This cycle began in January

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/announcing-genealogy-dooover/>

Here is the short summary of **Genealogy Do-Over**: I set aside everything* related to my genealogy research including notebooks, papers, and even digitized files and my genealogy database files and **START OVER**. I’m hitting the reset button. I’m allowing myself to have a do-over! (* certain items such as vital records ordered and paid for or research gathered on long-distance trips can be retained).

The **Genealogy Do-Over** journey is constructed of 13 mileposts or journey markers which are laid out over 13 weeks. You can choose to pace yourself differently. You can even decide to drop some of the less important tasks and add your own. Do whatever it takes to ensure that you are on a firm footing to finding your ancestors.

A short synopsis of my planned route:

- Take inventory of what I have, box up the physical items and set them aside.
- Move all digital genealogy files into a HOLD folder.
- Gather tools to research.
- Set research goals.
- Start with my own knowledge and write it down.
- Start tracking research.
- Interview family members.

And more!

Round 2: This cycle began in April.

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-dooover-cycle-2-schedule-topics/>

Genealogy Do-Over

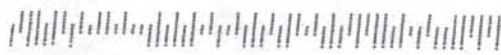


Are you ready to hit the restart button?

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