

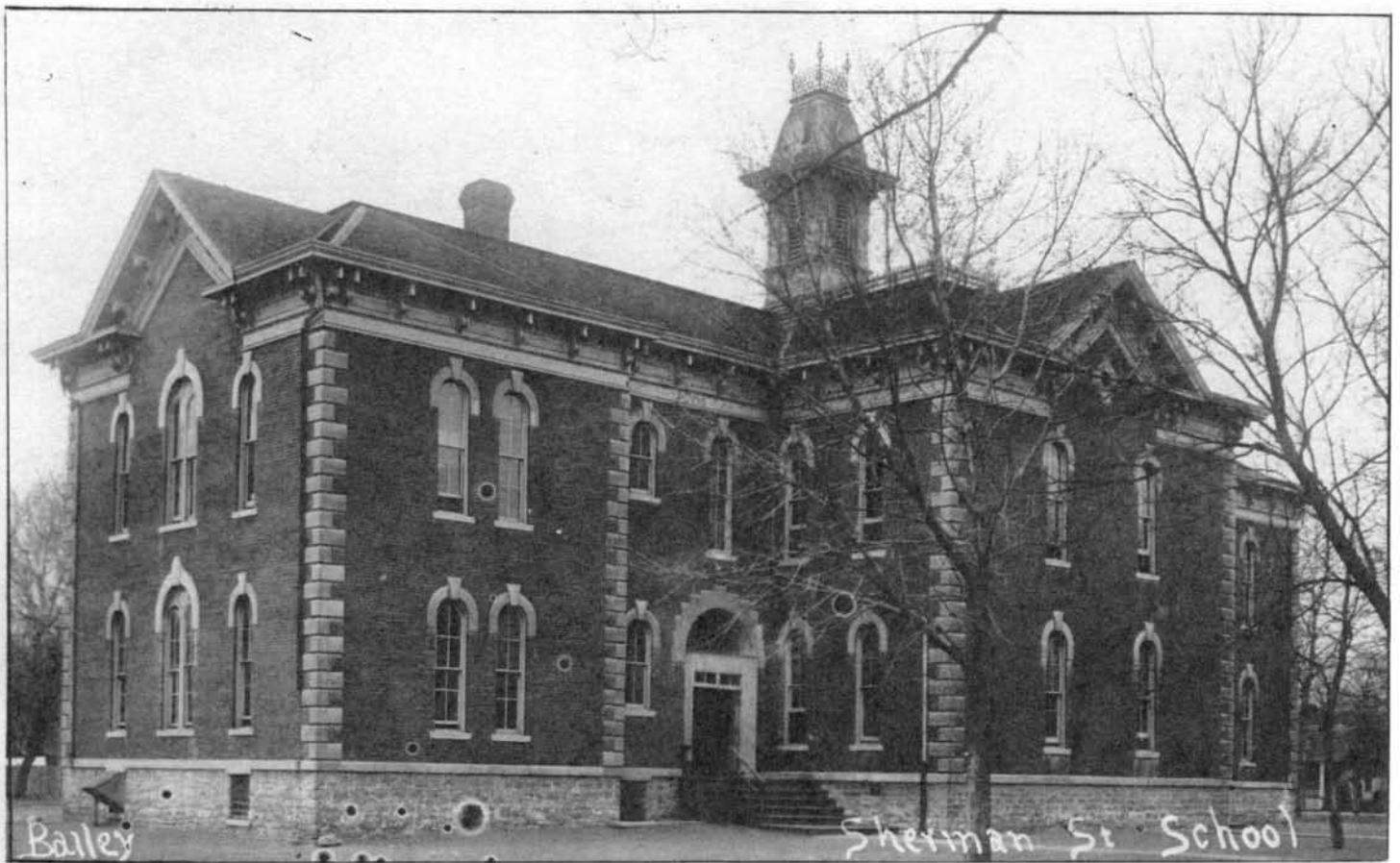


THE SUNFLOWER

Reno County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 5

Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-0005



Volume 38 No. 1

February 2016

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 Saturday of each month in the Auditorium of the Hutchinson Public Library, 9th and Main, 10:00 A.M. – 11:45 A. M.

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WANTED

Your city, county and family information and photographs.

Submit to renocogensoc@gmail.com

On The Cover

Sherman Street School

Shared by the Reno County Museum

ACT NOW TO PRESERVE YOUR GENEALOGY

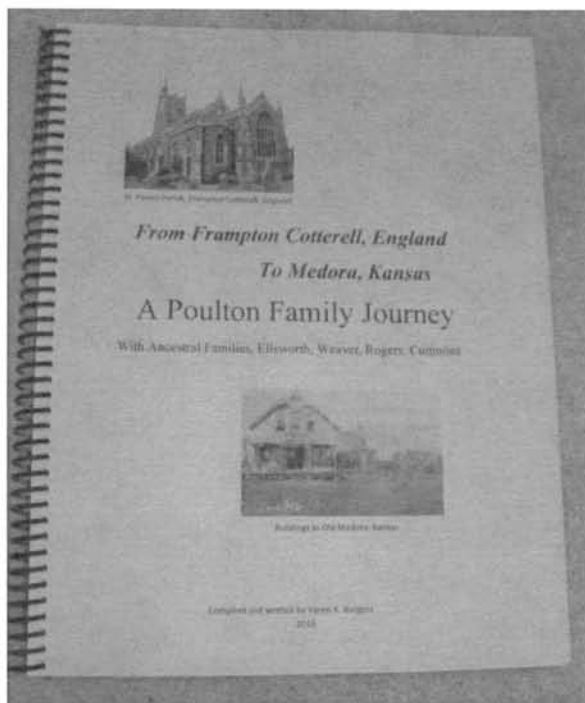
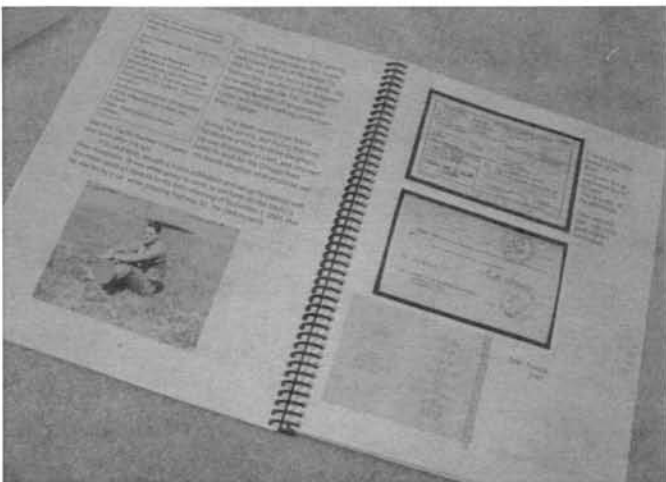
a Soapbox Perspective, by Karen Burgess

Don't wait until you get 'finished'.
Because it's genealogy, and it will never be finished

It was 4 years ago that I went to a KCGS conference where the guest speaker was Julie Miller. She presented the program, *An Ounce of Prevention: Making a Genealogy Disaster Plan*. I knew then I had to make my plan for preserving my research. A few weeks later my husband and I were viewing a home that would soon go to auction. As we went to the front door there were large trash cans with items being thrown out by a lawyer and his attendant. Being tossed away were large photographs of cherished relatives. And I am sure that those pictures had, until recently, hung on the interior walls of this home. I then wondered what other prized possessions and personal belongings were in those trash cans. About the same time I had a neighbor whose mother had recently died on the old farmstead in a county about 90 miles away. It had been left to my neighbor and her husband to make weekend trips to go through everything and decide what was to be thrown away, given away, sold or kept. I made myself a vow then, that if I had the time and means that I would leave that chore to no one. It is my belief that each of us is responsible for our belongings, treasures and life's works. This brings me to my title, what is going to happen to the genealogy research that some of us have worked on for many decades. I want my research to be preserved and shared and not thrown away.

I understand that my view is not for everyone, for each it is different. As it happened, I also discovered the 'minimalism movement' about the same time period, and that most likely helped in my decision, to make sure my research will be around after I am gone and my belongings are pared down to those items that gives me enjoyment or are useful to me.

It wasn't easy, but, the process I made to digitize all my genealogy files, (keeping only hard copies of vital records, individual photos etc.) took over a year to do. I also digitized photographs (returning most of the originals to the families) and personal files and I always keep several backups of these files, at different locations.



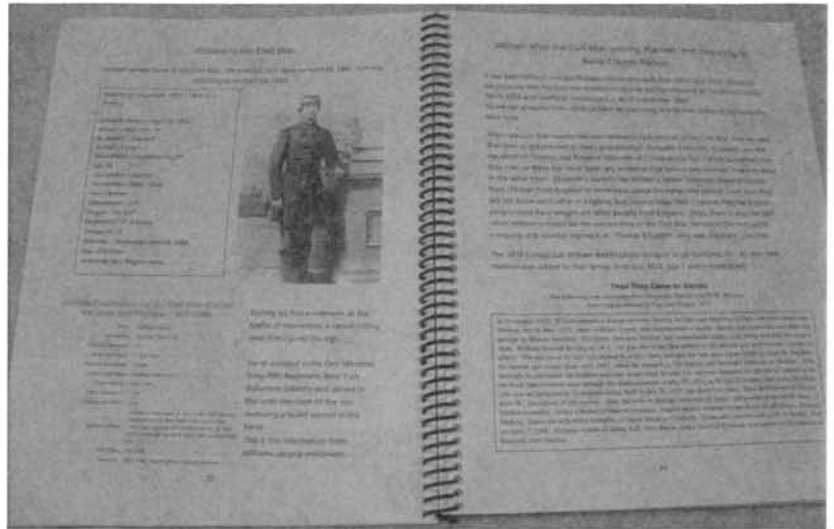
My next step was to put my genealogy in a format that would be fun and interesting for my family to read. And, understandable for those who would take it off a shelf to read. For I intended all along to share my research with the FamilySearch Library, SLC, UT; Allen Co. Genealogy Center, Fort Wayne, IN, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS and our own, Hutchinson Library.

Writing my first family history book took only about 4 months to do, working in spare time. There are programs a person can use on the internet that will help write a family history book. For me, I just went to the local

library and viewed different books, to see how other people presented their research, decided what I liked and didn't like, and started to write in a normal word program. I finished up with over 165 pages in that one word file.

After corrections, page numbering, etc. I then transferred it to a PDF file. The FHL in SLC, Utah, accepted it in PDF file. I am hoping in the future the other libraries will also, that would save time and money from printing and bounding.

My sisters loved this book. I had given them pedigree charts in the past, but there is nothing personal about charts. The stories I wrote in the book were as personal as I could make them. Old newspapers articles were great. NewspaperArchive.com and Newspapers.com made it easy to search. I mean how else could I have found a 4 sentence article, about my father having perfect attendance his entire grade school and up to his Junior year in high school. Wow.



I will have two more family history books to write and share with family members and also with those libraries.

My genealogy, including family history stories and ancestral documentation will stay on this earth a lot longer than myself.

My mountain of documents and research papers went from using all four drawers of a filing cabinet plus two large boxes to just one drawer and using only about 16" of that drawer.

Am I done doing genealogy? No, there are always new leads and those old brick walls to work on.

But when the other two books are done by the end of 2016 I can rest knowing my work is saved.

Please start planning ahead. Don't let your research get thrown in a trash can.



NOTE: This is a sad story. Josephine lived a short life and one that should not be forgotten. Research so far reveals she is the first wife of John Riley Wickliffe and daughter-in-law of Buffalo soldier Rowan Wickliffe. My hope is to document her existence as I learn more on the Wickliffe family.

SHOT HER TO DEATH

Mrs. Josie Wickliffe, Colored, Killed by Bert Bell, Negro

Shows No Remorse

In Cell in City Jail, Man Admitted Killing and Laughed About It.

Mrs. Josephine Wickliffe, colored of 737 Seventh East, was shot to death on the stairs of the home of Harry Jones, 402 and one-half North Main Street, at 1:15 o'clock this afternoon by Bert Bell, a Negro.

Bell lives at 901 Fifth Avenue East.

Mrs. Wickliffe feared Bell, who had caused her trouble in the past and when she saw him after getting off a Fourth Avenue car this afternoon, she ran into the stairway to escape him, she screamed.

Her cries brought Mrs. Harry Jones to the top of the stairs. Her dog was barking and she thought that was the cause of the woman's fright.

Then she saw a colored man had entered the door. He leveled a revolver and shot. The woman fell upon the landing half way up, with her head nestled in her arms, face downward. Then the Negro stooped over her and fired two more shots. Mrs. Jones thinking she saw a maniac ran into the room and locked the door.

Mrs. Wickliffe died almost instantly. After killing her, Bell ran east on Fourth Avenue to the alley between Third and Fourth Avenue, went east to Walnut Street, then south on Walnut Street to Third and walked along slowly, east on that street.

A call to the police station sent motorcycle Officer George Salmon and Special Officer H. E. Colby to the scene. When they reached Fourth Avenue and Main Street, someone on the sidewalk yelled at Salmon: "Go that way" and pointed eastward.

Salmon ran east to Walnut Street then south to Third Avenue. A man in a motor car in the street shouted to him; "That's the man you want, he's been running." and pointed to Bell.

Bell started across Third Avenue; he was almost in front of the Hutchinson Hotel, in the second block east of Main Street. Salmon called for him to stop.

Bell reached back toward his hip pocket where his gun was located. The officer ordered him to raise his hands. He did so; Salmon took charge of the revolver. It was a cheap Harrington and Richards 38 caliber gun. Every shell in its chambers had been fired. It was stained with dried blood. Salmon turned his prisoner to Officer Colby who took Bell to the city jail where he was locked in a cell.

The police took charge of the stairway of the Jones home and kept back a curious mob of several hundred people who crowded and pushed to get a view of the murdered woman. The people filled the sidewalk and extended into the street.

Mrs. Wickliffe lay face downward, the upper part of her body on the landing, the lower part of the body was on the steps. A pool of blood formed and coagulated. Two bullets bright and shining were on the steps. They had passed through her body, struck the hard wood of the stairs and stopped. At her side was a leather covered box which contained her tools, for Mrs. Wickliffe was a manicurist.

J. Riley Wickliffe, her husband, who is an engineer at the Underwood green house, came to the foot of the stairs. He had been told of the killing. He wanted to see his wife, but officers thought it more kind to keep the sight from him. He was led away, when told what Bell had done he said;

“So he’s done it at last, has he? “That man has hounded her to death, and now he’s shot and killed her.” Wickliffe asked where Bell was. He was told he was in the city jail. “Go take me to jail and lock me up with him,” he begged the officers.

Sheriff Tom Jennings and County Attorney Herbert Ramsey and Under Sheriff Tom McGinn took charge of the body. It was taken in the ambulance to Johnson and Sons undertaking establishment for Coroner W. H. Williamson to view.

At police station, Bell after his arrest, made himself, comfortable in his cell in the city jail. He removed his hat and coat and lay down in a bunk in the cell in which he was locked.

When seen by a reporter for The News a few minutes after the shooting, he laughed and chatted about the killing as though he had done a valorous deed.

“Yes, yes, I’m the man. I did the shooting all right,” he said laughing. Then he asked: “How is she?” She died instantly, he was told. Bell laughed and said; “Well I thought she would. I thought she would. That’s what I wanted. I thought I had done a good job of it.”

When asked how many times he shot Bell said; “I don’t know, a dozen If I could, I just pulled the trigger and emptied my gun.”

On being asked what reason he had he said; “Oh I have my reasons. I had my reasons. You’ll find out about that soon enough.”

A questioner asked Bell if he was jealous. He laughed and said; “What jealous of another’s man’s wife?”

Another man asked if there had been a squabble.

“You can’t squabble and shoot,” he said, “no, there was no quarreling.”

Bell had an air of bravado when he was told to go with Sheriff Jennings to the county jail. He put on his hat and coat and strode jauntily to the waiting automobile, which took him to the jail.

Bert bell is 33 years of age. He has been a barber for a colored barber shop in the first block on Second Avenue West. For several years he had been causing Mrs. Wickliffe trouble. Her husband once drove him away from their home at the point of a gun. Once he attacked her with a butcher knife as she was walking with friends and crossed the alley east of Main Street on Sherman Street East. Bell was arrested at that time but was not prosecuted because of his mother. Bell has been in trouble in police court several times.

J. Riley Wickliffe married his wife, who was Josephine Bradley, of Kinsley, about 15 years ago. They had no children. Mrs. Wickliffe and her husband had both worked, he as an engineer and she as a manicurist. Mrs. Wickliffe was giving a social function at her home for her colored friends tonight.

No funeral arrangements have been made.

Hutchinson News June 8, 1915.

Typed by Kathleen Dankanyin

MANY SUMNER FARMS NAMES

Railroadless Township Leads All Others in County in This Respect

Sumner township, one of the few townships in Reno county without a railroad, has the distinction of having more farms that are given names than any other township.

For some reason the farmers in Sumner take fancy to giving their farms names. They are to be seen painted on barns, or neatly inscribed on the silos, and many of the farmers use the names of their farms on their letter heads and envelopes.

Some of the names of Sumner township farmers are significant. For example there is Locust Drive farm so named by Carl Miller because of the rows of locust trees along the driveway. And there is Maple Grove farm, the Geo. Koontz place, where there is a fine grove of maples.

J. J. Hilger gave recognition to his poultry flock when he named his place "Plymouth Rock" farm. One of the most unique names, and one that is significant, is that given the farm of Fred Ast, just north of St. Joe church. It is known as "The Old Home Place."

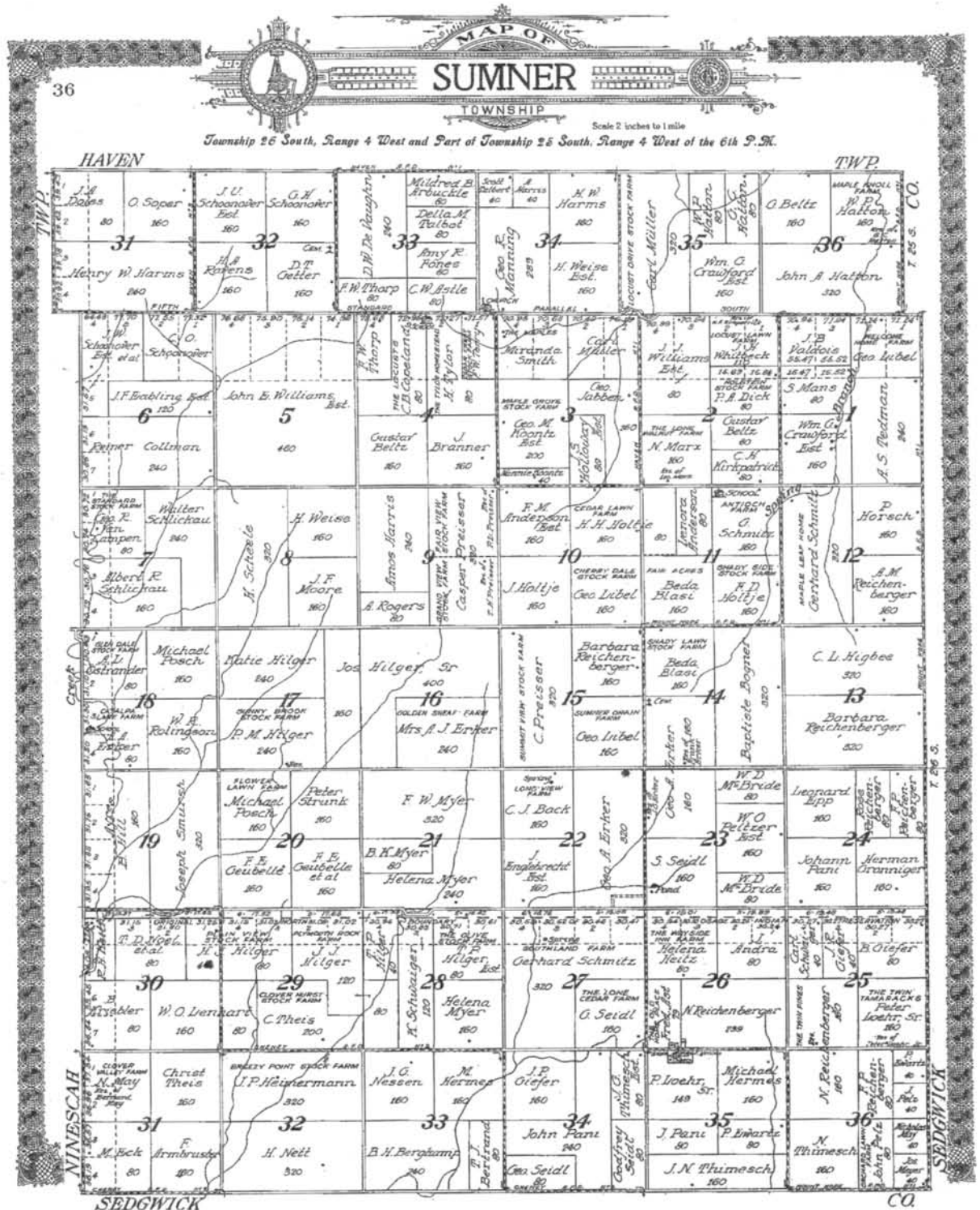
Other farms in Sumner township bear names as follows:

Shady Lawn stock farm, Beda Blasi
 Long View farm, C. J. Back
 Flower Lawn farm, Michael Posch
 Plain View stock farm, H. J. Hilger
 Southland farm, Gerhard Schmitz
 Lone Cedar farm, G. Seidl
 Wayside Inn farm, Mrs. Helena Heitz
 Twin Pines farm, N. Reichenberger
 The Twin Tamaracks farm, Peter Loehr, sr
 Orchard Lawn farm, John Peltz
 Breezy Point stock farm, J. P. Heimermann
 Clover Valley farm, N. May
 Clover Hurst farm, C. Thies
 Olive stock farm, T. P. Hilger
 Cherry Dale farm, Geo. Lubel
 Cedar Lawn farm, H. H. Holtje
 Grandview farm, T. H. Preisser
 Fairview stock farm, P. L. Preisser
 Standard stock farm, Geo Van Campen
 Glen Dale stock farm, A. L. Ostrander
 Catalpa Lane farm, A. A. Erker
 Sunny Brook farm, P. H. Hilger
 Golden Sheaf farm, Mrs. A. J. Erker
 Summit View farm, C. Preisser
 Sumner grain farm, Geo. Libel
 Maple Knoll farm, W. P. Hatton
 The Maples, Mrs. Miranda Smith
 The Locusts, the Copeland estate
 Locust Lawn farm, J. H. Whitbeck

Holstein stock farm, P. A. Dick
 Lone Walnut farm, N. Marx
 Welcome Home farm, Geo Libel
 Maple Leaf Home, Gerhard Schmitz
 Shady Side stock farm, F. D. Holtje
 Antioch farm, G. Schmitz
 Fair Acres, Beda Blasi
 The Tylor Homestead, H. Tylor
 Cedar Crest stock farm, F. W. Terry

Hutchinson
 News Weekly
 26 August 1926

Submitted by
 Rita Lingg



CRUSHED BY FALLING MAUSOLEUM DOOR

Mrs. J. C. Petro Had Leg Broken in Accident at Eastside Cemetery.

What might have been a far more serious accident, occurred late yesterday afternoon, when a door at the mausoleum at Eastside Cemetery fell. Mrs. J. C. Petro, who lives on Twelfth Avenue East, breaking her right leg.

Mrs. Petro and her daughter Miss Frances were out there caring for flowers at the crypt of her son Harold who died last year, and they were leaving the mausoleum when the accident occurred. The door had been taken from its hinges just before Decoration Day, to be fixed. Something jarred it and it fell on Mrs. Petro knocking her down and breaking both bones in her right limb just below the knee. She was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital where the fractured member was set. She received no other injuries, other than a few bruises.

Hutchinson News June 1, 1921

Harold Petro

A telegram received this morning by F. H. Petro from J. C. Petro states that the body of Harold Petro, who died at Culver Military Academy, will arrive here on Train No 1, Santa Fe. Accompanying the remains are Major Johnston and J. W. Henderson of the academy. Mr. and Mrs. Petro and daughter Frances, and Cadet John Montgomery will arrive on a later train. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

Hutchinson News March 29, 1920

VICTIM OF SCARLET FEVER

Harold Petro Died, at Culver, Where He Was Attending Military School.

Harold Petro, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Petro, died this morning at Culver, Indiana, where he has been attending the Culver Military Academy. His death was due to scarlet fever. His parents were with him at the time, having gone to Culver last week in response to a message telling of his illness.

Harold was about 14 years of age, and was a young man with a most promising future. A telegram from Culver told of his death but did not state what arrangements have been made regarding funeral.

Hutchinson News March 27, 1920

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD PETRO

Classmates at Culver Military Academy Honor Him

In "Roll Call," the senior year book of Culver Military Academy of Culver, Indiana, the following beautiful memorial was written by a member of the senior class, Cadet Norval B. Langworthy of Billings Montana, in honor of Harold Petro, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Petro

In Memoriam

Cadet Harold Reece Petro, born June 23, 1904, died, March 27, 1920.

Gone has he to his rest at last, our soldier pal and friend;

Over the Great Divide has passed a Man-true to the end.

He thought and lived a clean pure life, was gentle to us all.

And now he's gone from mortal strife, for he has heard The Call.
No anthems to him can we sing that he'll hear beneath the sod.
But flowers to his grave we'll bring, for he is now with God.
O thou! Who taketh away from men their grief, and brings them joy.
Who raiseth the dead to life again Receive-and love -this boy

N. B. L. -20

Hutchinson News August 24, 1920

Typed by Kathleen Dankanyin.

I didn't find a crypt with Harold's name. The crypt covers are large and I imagine very heavy. Here is a look inside the mausoleum.



MARRIAGES OF THE WEEK

MAY 7, 1943

Allan-Christner

Katherine Elizabeth Christner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Christner of Kansas City, and Robert C. Allan, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Allan of Hutchinson were married Saturday in Roswell army chapel, at Roswell, N.M. The couple will be at home temporarily in Roswell.

Osborn-Sailsbury

Evadna Sailsbury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Sailsbury, 610 N Elm, and J.L. Osborn, son of T.W. Osborn of Pratt were married Sunday in First Christian church. The bride will graduate this spring from Hutchinson high school, and after the close of school the couple will be at home in Pratt.

Miller-Wheaton

Clara Elsie Wheaton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Wheaton of Lewis, and Delos Miller, second class petty officer at the Hutchinson Naval Air Station were married Saturday in the First Baptist church. Mrs. Miller is a junior student of nursing at Grace hospital. She will continue her training.

Farmer-Brogdon

Mrs. Myrtle Brogdon and Ray Farmer, both of Hutchinson were married Sunday in Universalist church. The couple is at home at 216 E 6th.

Fossey-Dingus

Dorothy Dingus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Dingus of Mound City, and Lt. Fossey, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.S. (Don) Fossey, Nickerson, were married last Tuesday in Hutchinson. They are at home in Fort Belvoir, Va.

May-Tedder

Sarah Tedder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Tedder, Inman, and E. Lawson May of Hutchinson were married Monday afternoon. Mrs. May is employed by Cessna Aircraft company. Mr. May, son of the late Mrs. Ollie May, is city editor of the Hutchinson News-Herald.

May 14, 1943

Saint-Twombly

Mrs. Thelma Twombly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O.M. Teter, 1329 East A, and John Robert Saint, aviation metalsmith 3c at Hutchinson naval air station, were married at 8 o'clock Thursday night in First Presbyterian manse by Rev. Melvin A. Pearce. Mr. and Mrs. Saint are at home at 1329b East A.

Sickmon-Carpenter

Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Carpenter of Villa Park, Ill., announce the marriage of their daughter, Betty to Gene D. Sickmon, aviation machinist's mate 3c, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Sickmon of Sylvia. The wedding was in Kansas City April 28.

Rauh-Maloney

Elizabeth Maloney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Maloney, 2401 N Monroe, and Lt. Charles E. Rauh, son of Joseph Rauh, 405 E 15th were married Monday in St. Teresa's church. Lt. and Mrs. Rauh will be at home at Camp Livingstone, La.

Meisenheimer-Haag

Clarice Haag, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Haag, 22 E 15th, and Corp Vernon Meisenheimer, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Meisenheimer of Partridge, were married Sunday afternoon in the home of the bride's parents. The couple are at home in Indiantown Gap, Pa., where Corp. Meisenheimer is stationed.

Huey-Weatherman

Mary Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Weatherman, 612 W 12th, and Walton L Huey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Huey of Adams, were married recently. Mr. Huey is an army aviation cadet, stationed at Gibbs Field, Texas.

Lewis-Davidson

Opal Davidson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.G. Davidson of Plevna, and Sgt. Joe B. Lewis of Camp Rucker, Ala., were married recently. Sgt. Lewis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Lewis of Sylvia.

May 21, 1943

Ott-Webb

Lucille, daughter of Mrs. Charles Sparks of Ellsworth, and Pvt. Fred Ott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Ott, Tescott, were married at Newton Sunday morning. Mrs. Ott is a half sister of Mrs. Ray Cannon, southwest of Hutchinson. She is employed by Central Fibre Products Co. here. Pvt. Ott is stationed at Ft. Sill, Okla., and has returned there.

Barker-Fleck

Clarice R. Fleck, sister of Mrs. Otto Standau, 734 East 6th, and Ralph F. Barker of Topeka were married Saturday afternoon in the Calvary United Brethren parsonage. Mr. and Mrs. Barker are at home in Topeka.

Powers-Klinger

Dorothy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Klinger, Nickerson, was married yesterday to Lt. Maynard B. Powers, McAllen, Texas. Lt Powers is the son of Mrs. Walter Seibel of Peabody. He is with the army air corps.

Wolff-Green

Gloria, daughter of Mrs. Florence Green of Wichita, and Robert R. Wolff, seaman 1c at the Hutchinson Naval Air Station, were married Sunday in Wichita Westside Christian church. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Wolff of Wichita, formerly of Hutchinson.

Kitson-Steinert

Lorraine Elizabeth Steinert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Steinert of Hoisington and Corp. M. O. Kitson, son of Mrs. Delia Kitson of Turon, were married May 7 in the Navy Yard chapel at Bremerton, Wash.

Meyers-Britton

Laura Maxine Britton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Britton, 701 East C and Harry Earl Meyers, fireman 1c at Hutchinson Naval Air Station, were married Sunday afternoon in the base chapel by Lt. Ernest A. deBordenave, chaplain.

McKee-Crawford

Lorrain Crawford, who came Saturday from her home in Powderly, Tex., was married Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock to S. F. McKee, seaman 2c at Hutchinson Naval Air Station. The ceremony was read by Lt. E. A. deBordenave, chaplain at the station, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Veatch, 100 East 30th. Mr. and Mrs. McKee are at home at 823 East Sherman.

THEN AND NOW

By Steve Harmon

This "Hutch - Then & Now Collection", takes us to the intersection of Second Avenue and Main Street.

The first photo is an aerial view of the corner that I personally took in 1972, from the roof of (when first built) the Baker Hotel but called the Hilton Inn at this time. The photo shows businesses like Meschke's North Store, Long's Pant Store, Biles & Long, Wolcott Building, Hutchinson National Bank and Earl Kirk Chrysler/Plymouth. The Court House is in the background.



The second photo is taken from the same vantage point, only today it's called the Plaza Towers Apartments. It shows the current businesses of The Sports Shack, Book Ends, Gale Wall Photography, Westphal Jewelers, DCI Building and Park and Sunflower Electric. The Court House is still in the background.



Photo from the Conard-Harmon collection

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 HUTCHINSON, KS 67504-0005

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Be sure to visit our blog for events & news : renocogensoc.blogspot.com

Births - Recorded Early Births of Reno Co. 1890-1911 & Index	\$5.00	Naturalization Records of Reno County Index 1875-1955 filed at courthouse	\$8.00
Cemetery Book of Reno County, 1865-1978	SOLD OUT	Teachers of Reno County, 1884-1966	\$15.00
Cemetery Records of North Inman, Superior Township, McPherson County, KS	\$5.00	<i>The Sunflower</i> Back Issues - CD ONLY	\$10.00
Deaths - Recorded Deaths of Reno County 4 volumes, 1890-1911 & Index	\$5.00	Harper's Weekly 1888 - City of Hutchinson featured supplement - PDF on CD	\$5.00
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		Kansas residents add 8.05% sales tax	

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