

YESTERYEARS

A publication of

The Jefferson County

Historical Society

\$5

April 2022

CONTENTS – April 2022

Jefferson County Historical Society Officers	2
In Memoriam: Donna Mae Noble Ward	3
In Memoriam: J. Paul Flower	3
Jefferson County’s Orphan Train Children, 1911, by Donna Ward	4
“Kansas Will Mother Them All:” Orphan Train Children of Valley Falls, December 1910	7
Happy Allison Young: A Remarkable Life	9
Triple Wedding in Winchester, 1916	10
Say “Cheese”	10
Jefferson County Well Represented in Topeka	10
Roberts and Wilkins Family Roots in Kansas and New Jersey, by Linda Stehlik	11
“An Interesting Game of Base Ball:” Highlights of the 1887 Season	15
Jayhawkers, Squatters, and Enterprise in Kentucky Township: “Progressive Perry!”	16
Early Recollections of Kansas: Mouth of Coal Creek, by J.H. Bennet	19
Travels Back to Kansas, by Nicki Carper	21
Items of Local Interest	23
One Hundred Years Ago: The “Silents” in Meriden	25
Public Access to Old Jefferson Town Collections	26
Old Jefferson Town Opening Weekend, May 7 and 8, 2022	26
Farmers Market at Old Jefferson Town	26
Nortonville Clippings	27
New (to us) Books on the Shelf in the Genealogical Library	27
Be a Volunteer	28

Jefferson County Historical Society Officers

President: Leanne Chapman

Vice President: Lisa Leyva

Recording Secretary: Ardie Grimes

Treasurer: Mary Luse

Community Representatives: Kathleen McConnell, McLouth; Bev Schuler, Meriden/Rock Creek; Susan Schwinn, Oskaloosa; Deb Case, Ozawkie; Chris Hotchkiss, Perry; Bill Manville, Valley Falls; Rita Lyon, Winchester

Genealogy Committee: Ardie Grimes, Chair; Deb Case, Margaret Dick, Tom Grose, Jane Hoskinson, Lisa Leyva, Mary Luse, Marilyn Sharkey, Frank Shrimplin

Yesteryears editor, April 2022: Jane Hoskinson

Yesteryears is published online as a PDF document and made available on the Old Jefferson Town website. Primary source materials are available on the OJT website: <https://www.oldjeffersontown.com/>. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Jefferson County Historical Society, P.O. Box 146, Oskaloosa, KS 66066, email, oldjefftown@gmail.com.

Some individual articles from past issues of *Yesteryears* are posted online at storiesofyesteryears.blogspot.com.

In Memoriam: Donna Mae Noble Ward



Donna Mae Noble Ward, 91, of Oskaloosa, died Monday, October 25, 2021, at F.W. Huston Senior Living Center in Winchester. She was born May 2, 1930, in the Fairview Township of rural Ozawkie, the daughter of Levi and Rachel Ruth Hurt Noble. Donna attended the country school of the Ross District #59, Oskaloosa Junior High School, and was a 1947 graduate of Oskaloosa High School. She attended Pittsburg State Teachers College in 1947-1948 and taught two years at Sedan, Kansas, elementary school. She graduated in 1978 from Washburn University in Topeka and worked as a substitute teacher and taught 6th grade for two years at Oskaloosa elementary school. Donna was elected to serve as Jefferson County Register of Deeds, serving for 12 years before retiring. Her memberships and activities include the Oskaloosa First Presbyterian Church, a 50-year member of Order of Eastern Star Chapter #62, the Homemaker's Club, and extension units

Circle Ten and Night Owls. She was a charter member of the Jefferson County Genealogical and Historical Societies, a charter member of the Lucky Spur Saddle Club, and a founding member of the Kansa Prairie Quilters' Club.

Donna was one of the founding editors of "Yesteryears." She contributed much information and many stories to the publication and to JCHGS. She was the sole editor of "Yesteryears" from 1989 to 1991. Her story of Jefferson County's Orphan Train children is reprinted in this issue.

She was married to her husband of 68 years, Carl Franklin Ward, on December 31, 1948, in Oskaloosa. He preceded her in death on February 16, 2017. She is survived by two sons: Bruce Ward, Mayetta, Kansas; Jonathan (Angie) Ward, Oskaloosa, Kansas; two daughters: Colleen (Glenn) Dotter, Cotopaxie, Colorado; Joy (Roger) Hill, Dorrance, Kansas; one step-daughter: Judith (Ted) Plate, South Carolina; one sister: Shirley Sackechewsky, Great Bend, Kansas; six grandchildren: Jennifer Bostock, Jessica Willard, Jeremy Ward, Jamie Leonard, Regina Heggemeier, and J.R. Hill; three step-grandchildren: Olivia Jones, Teague Jones, and Eric Larsen; twelve great-grandchildren: Dakota Peterson, Will Binkley, Clay Binkley, Kyle Binkley, Zane Willard, Hunter Willard, Isabella Ward, Olivia Leonard, Cody Heggemeier, Justin Heggemeier, Shaunalynn Hill, and Hayden Lauren Hill. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Lauren "Laurie" Ward; one granddaughter, Windsor Langevin; one brother, Warren Noble; and two sisters, Anna Cooper and Thelma Carpenter.

In Memoriam: J. Paul Flower



J. Paul Flower, 88, formerly of Hugoton and Oskaloosa, Kansas, passed in peace at home in Lawrence, Kansas, surrounded by his family on March 19, 2022.

Paul was born in Liberal, Kansas, on August 8, 1933, to Fannie May (Smiley) and Jesse Ellis Flower. He married Joann Elizabeth McClung on Friday the 13th of May, 1966, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Liberal, Kansas. She survives, of the home. Paul and Joann were blessed to complete their family through adoption by adding first a son in 1967, Kevin John Flower (currently of Gadsden, Ala.), and then a daughter in 1969, Janet Elizabeth (Flower, Artman) Kelley (Allen), currently of Lawrence, Kansas. Paul also leaves behind seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a myriad of beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews (and beyond)! In addition to his extensive family are

the many friends, colleagues, and acquaintances he acquired through the varied outreaches to which he designated a huge part of his life.

Paul was preceded in death by a sister, Mary Carol (Flower) Quattlebaum; a half-sister, Goldie (Flower, Garetta) Barber; three nephews, Everett, Jack, and Roy Barber; and a great-great-nephew, Reece Harbour.

Paul was a true Renaissance man who wore many hats and touched many lives. He was a farmer, a talented and lifelong musician, a graduate of the University of Kansas, a veteran, the designated family caregiver, a traveler, a teacher, a scholar, a successful small business owner, a junior choir director, a church organist for over 70 years, and a lover of the arts. As an active leader in a wide range of community service ventures, he "volunteered relentlessly" his time and gifts. He was a life member of the Jefferson County Historical Society and served as JCHS president in 2008-2009. His greatest joys came when he was in active pursuit of the collective greater good, and he was tireless in his efforts on behalf of others.

Jefferson County's Orphan Train Children, 1911

By Donna Ward

Look back in time to the week of January 13, 1911. The lives of some of our citizens are scored by that date. That week, the people of Oskaloosa were discussing "The Orphans" who were coming from New York. Sentiments were divided on the topic of these children. Men and women whose empty homes had been denied children were anxiously waiting, daring to hope that their dreams would come true and a child be theirs to keep. Prophets of gloom were denouncing New York Easterners, the government and anything else convenient for dumping the slum-bred problems of New York in Kansas' clean, clear air. Others were sympathetically considering the alternative fate of children who would grow up into lives of degradation if left on the streets of the big cities. Some people were thinking in terms of gaining an extra pair of hands to help with the never ending farmwork. The majority of people, however, were simply curious; were these waifs different in some way? Who would come and choose?

The Oskaloosa committee had been selected. **Anna Laura Hill**, the children's escort, needed their help in placing the little ones in suitable homes. They inserted the following notice in the January 13th issue of the *Oskaloosa Independent*:

"Agents of Children's Aid Society have fifteen children from orphanages of New York State here for distribution this afternoon and evening, after the manner of the late distribution at Valley Falls. The local committee is composed of **Drs. McCreight and Smith, D.A. Bliss, W.E. Huddleston, G.N. Jacquemin, S.E. True, J.H. Morrow.**"

These men were influential in the community. They were cognizant of the position, temperament, and ability of most of the local residents. By practicing careful selection, the Children's Aid Society claimed a 90 percent record for permanent placement.



Anna Laura Hill

Although many of the children placed by the Children's Aid Society were adopted, that was not a requirement for placement. Even after the careful screening, Miss Hill returned from time to time to check on the children's progress, the suitability of their homes and education. Many of the children established close friendships with Miss Hill, and corresponded with her the rest of her life.

The children had traveled on a regular passenger coach. After forty-three hours on the train, they were grimy and disheveled when they arrived. Miss Hill worked with experienced hands to clean them up, scrub their faces, slick down their hair, and brush their clothing. They stepped off that train prepared to face a new life in a new state with new families. To their eyes, the people looked and sounded somewhat strange. The little ones hid their faces, the older boys vacillated between sullen stares and bravado poses, and the girls tried to look calm and pretty while blushing under the stares of the depot spectators.

Miss Hill gathered her group about her, much as a mother would collect her brood. The ride into town on the hack was a pleasant relief from the stuffy coach. She counted out the 25¢ fare and ushered the children into the hotel. In the privacy of the hotel, they attacked the grime of their journey in earnest. The older children helped the younger ones. Miss Hill soothed their nervous jitters and short tempers, and reassured the frightened ones with her calm attendance to duties. After the brief respite, Miss Hill began her conversations with the local citizens. Some families offered temporary housing for some of the children. The youngest child was **Friedolf Fredricksen**, age two. He ate his first meal in Oskaloosa with the **William Payne** family. With his blond curls, impish smile, and brave acceptance of what life was offering him, he quickly made friends in his new hometown.

The month before this trainload arrived, a group of children had been placed in Valley Falls. Circulars had been distributed there, but the *Oskaloosa Independent* of December 9, 1910, had quoted the bulletin in its entirety with a headline "New York Waifs in Jefferson County." Similar circulars had been posted in the city and passed around the county. Public interest was stirred.

At the appointed hour, the children were seated on the stage of the opera house, and Miss Hill addressed the gathered crowd. As people were attracted to certain children, they were interviewed by the committee, presented their recommendations, and were considered. Those who were chosen to receive a child were given a card with that child's history on it. They entered an agreement to provide proper care, education, and reports to the society. The society reserved the right to visit and inspect the home within a year, and to remove the child if they found it unsuitable.

Those children that were not placed in Oskaloosa were taken to Valley Falls to fulfill the requests from the earlier distribution. After the excitement, the following item appeared in the January 20th, 1911, issue of the *Oskaloosa Independent*, in the editorial comments:

The New York Orphans All Find Homes

The agents in charge of the orphans from New York state orphanages left town yesterday, having found homes for nine of their little charges in Oskaloosa and 6 going to Valley Falls where the former supply did not quite meet the demand, it seems.

A great deal of interest in the children was shown here, and several families entertained children until homes were found for them.

Legal adoption is not required and the children are really taken on trial, the society agreeing to take the child back if anything goes wrong. They are visited twice during the first year and then annually for a time, and families taking children are required to make yearly reports.

The best appearing children, and those in good health, are picked to bring to Western homes.

Otto Lantz, who lives 4 miles southeast of Oskaloosa, took a little German boy aged 3½ years, named **Samuel Dubar** — a bright little chap who speaks German readily.

Chas. Winans, at the old Fair grounds, has a little 2 year old German girl, **Fredoff Fredericks**.*

F.H. Corson, at the edge of town on the northwest, takes **Katie Fichtner**, aged 11.

Louis A. Kimmel, a mile east of town, has the oldest two of the lot, **Anna Potthoff**, aged 15, and **William**, her brother, aged 13 years.

Owen Johnston, 3½ miles northwest of town, has a little 6 year old maiden, **Adelaide Loggman**.

Harvey Wood, who recently came from Missouri and is on the Critchfield farm, 2½ miles southwest of town, has a boy, aged 9, **Henry G. Palmer**.

James Quakenbush, just east of town, takes **Eva Grant**, aged 10 years.

Thomas Davis, on the old Snyder farm, southwest of town, has **Mildred Grant** aged 12.

This lot of youngsters have certainly found good homes, and it is to be hoped will grow into good, strong, bright young men and women.

Of those sent to Valley Falls, **Norman Deacon**, aged 5 goes to **Jessie _____**; **Fred Valentine**, aged 6, to **Newton Bilger**; **Wm. Bugglen**, 12 years, to **A.H. Jurgens**; **Wm. Hoyt**, 8 years, to **J. Irvin Spence**; **Marvin Miller**, aged 6, to **A.J. Jurgens**.

The agents say that only about one in ten of the children are ever taken back, nearly all of them being acceptable to the families taking them.

*Fredoff's name was **Friedolf Fredricksen**, and he was of masculine gender and of Swedish heritage.

Friedolf Fredricksen was clothed in a dress, the normal attire for baby boys of that period. The **Charles Winans** family did not have other children, and chose **Friedoff** for their own. Before the end of the same year, they had completed the legal adoption. They considered him their son and never discussed his origins with him. In later years, his mother was unhappy that he tried to find his family.

Samuel Dubar was the 3½ year old German speaking child adopted by the **Otto Lantz**s. A picture of him in Friedoff's possession shows a dark haired, delicately formed lad, with a fresh bright smile. The inscription on the picture is, "Otto Frederick Lantz, age 4 years, 1911." The Lantz parents separated and all contact with the child was lost.

Mr. and Mrs. Kimmel took two of the older children. **William** was 13, and **Anna** was 15. Anna died a few years later, according to Friedoff, my informant.

Adelaide Loggman, age 6, was adopted by **Mr. and Mrs. Owen Johnston**. Of all the children, she was the one who tried to keep contact with the others, and she corresponded with **Miss Hill**. She clerked in the town stores, tended to the needs of her family, and became the typical old maid in town. Late in life, she married a **Mr. Brown**, living out of town for four or five years before she died of cancer.

Eva Grant, age 10, was adopted by **Mr. and Mrs. James Quakenbush**. She married **Omer Frazier**, the brother of Friedoff's wife. Eva raised four children, **William T.**, **Harold**, **Doris**, and **Betty**.

Eva's sister, **Mildred Grant**, was given a home by **Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davis**. Because of friction in the home, Mildred left while still young. She married a **Mr. Harness**; they made their home in California.

Most of the families discouraged the children from looking into the past. It was seldom discussed either with the parents or with each other. However, **Mildred** and **Eva Grant** did go back to find their brother, **Gus**, and sisters with whom they held a close relationship.

When **Friedoff Winans** needed his birth certificate, he wrote to the orphanage. Their answer was a one-line sentence telling him that he was born in McNabb, Illinois. Knowing he had come from New York, he had always supposed that city was his birthplace. His son-in-law, **Dick Wolnick**, was raised at Gurney, Ill., and while traveling with them, Friedoff visited McNabb. He had sent for his birth record, which gave him a little information about his family. He pieced together the information.

His mother **Ingrid Fredricksen**, lived in Sweden and became ill. Thinking that she might recover, she came to America where her infant son was born February 16, 1908. The father, **Verberg Fredricksen**, did not come. Friedoff was the second born child of his mother, but had no idea where the other child was. Her health did not improve, and she was trying to get home to Sweden when she died in New York. Friedoff was nine months old.

Several people have tried to help him locate more information about his family. A friend at Oskaloosa had been born within twelve miles of McNabb; they shared the same doctor. His mother could not locate any information.

When Friedoff was in McNabb, he talked with an old woman at the feedstore, who said, "I'll write to you in six months and tell you all about it. I'll find out!" However, when she wrote, she had found nothing.

He talked with a farmer in the area who thought his elder brother would know. The old gentleman would not talk about it, but left the impression that he knew something.

Another of Friedoff's sons-in-law, **Howard Smith**, located an elderly aunt in South Dakota with whom **Ingrid Fredricksen** had stayed when she was in McNabb. The aunt remembered Friedoff's birth, but her memories were vague and they could not get much more from her.

Approximately twenty-five to thirty children were placed in Jefferson County homes by the New York Children's Aid Society in 1910 and 1911. They were absorbed into the community, and few people outside their homes and close circle of acquaintances knew their stories.

Miss Hill was asked, in another community, if she was going to bring another party of children soon. "No, not now," was her reply. "It will be better for these people to think that it is a privilege to have the children than that it should become too common an occurrence." (*The Outlook*, pub. N.Y., Vol. 101, May-Aug. 1912, pg. 80, "The Spectator.")

Those emigrant children who came to Jefferson County grew up, established homes, served their communities in many capacities, and have been thankful to have been spared the alternatives of being waifs on the city streets of New York. The first orphan train children were taken to Kansas in 1857, of which no records were kept. By 1893, the New York Children's Aid Society had placed 960 children in Kansas, of an average age of 12.3 years. Of the 960, 129 were girls. Their records showed that 84 percent of those under 8 years of age did well in their new homes. That record improved with later placements under **Anna Laura Hill**. The last orphan train left New York in 1924. (*The Charitable Review*, Feb. 1893, Vol. 11, No. 4, by Francis H. White.)

My informant was **Friedoff Winans**, and his wife **Alberta Frazier Winans** of Oskaloosa, Kansas. I knew of his history over the years as friends, and conducted interviews for "Yesteryears" during June and July 1981. Friedoff and Alberta Winans had three children, **Alvis Winans**, **Nedra Wolnick**, and **Fredonna Smith**. They had six grandchildren. His work experiences covered a variety of occupations, from farming, farm labor, railroad labor, working in gunpowder production at Sunflower Ordnance Plant during World War II, and insurance agent. — **Donna Ward**

Donna Ward's story appeared in "Yesteryears" in October 1981, with an addition in April 1982 and a reprint of the Independent article in April 1995.

The National Orphan Train Complex, Concordia, Kansas (<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/>), provides this background information: "Between 1854 and 1929, an estimated 250,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children were transported to rural communities across the country in hopes of providing a better life for them.

"The orphan train movement was started by **Charles Loring Brace** and his organization, the Children's Aid Society. Brace recognized the inadequacy of New York's welfare institutions, and, at the same time, saw the Western states as places full of opportunity. He devised a system whereby disadvantaged children would be sent to rural communities, traveling by train and with a Society Agent, where they could be taken in by families who would teach them good morals and provide for their needs.

"Other organizations quickly adopted Brace's system, and for nearly 80 years, children migrated across the country to find new homes. Finally, in 1929, amidst growing objections and changing welfare systems, the orphan train movement came to an end."

Donna Ward's story of the orphan train's arrival in Oskaloosa mentioned its visit to Valley Falls a month earlier. The Valley Falls Vindicator covered the arrival of these orphans and their placement in local families.

“Kansas Will Mother Them All:” Orphan Train Children of Valley Falls, December 1910

From the *Valley Falls Vindicator*, Dec. 16, 1910

Homes for Orphans

“Rejoice, for unto us a son and daughter are born, and his name shall be Ernest and her name Elsie,” — but ere they could coo in infant glee, or prattle the name of mamma or papa, the life of the parents had gone out from the children, and they became homeless waifs, tender, helpless infants in a cold and cheerless world, but for the hand of sweet charity — and the greatest of these is charity, — in the orphan’s home in a great city, whence after training and discipline they are sent abroad and placed in good homes.

Not only two but a dozen and one, sweet faced, innocent babes, so born into this great world, found their long way to Valley Falls, Kansas, last Saturday. Not for many a day has the local opera house, where a real drama in human life was there presented, been so thronged with people so deeply moved and interested in the heart subject, the finding for and giving homes, homes in the fullest sense of the word, to five little orphan girls and eight little bereft boys, all the way from New York City.

The coming of these little ones and the gracious reception accorded them at the hands of strangers was most wonderful and heart touching, bringing tears of joy to many. Is there anything from which good may not come?

An hour was spent with the children at the opera house in the forenoon Saturday after their delayed and tiresome journey, in charge of **B.W. Tice**, western agent of the Children’s Aid Society of New York, and **Miss Anna Laura Hill**, visiting and placing agent.

After a personal sketch of each of them, Mr. Tice went on to speak in general terms of the children.

“They’re as sweet and refined and clever as any you may have in Valley Falls,” he said, “and would be a credit to any father or mother here. I personally selected them from the cheerless orphans’ homes in and around New York and will guarantee that they all are obedient and well mannered. If any of you good folks are a bit reluctant about taking them in your homes, fearing that they may be boisterous and undesirable, we will let you have them on trial for a few days. Miss Hill and I will remain in Valley Falls a little while and no one need close a contract for a child until he is satisfied.”

KANSAS WILL MOTHER THEM ALL

Valley Falls Prepares to Welcome the Little Homeseekers From New York.

VALLEY FALLS, KAS., Dec. 2.—A distribution of New York orphan children will be held here next Thursday. The following notices have been sent to all persons who may be interested in finding homes for these children:

Wanted!

Homes for orphan children.

A company of orphan children under the auspices of the Children’s Aid Society of New York will arrive at Valley Falls, Thursday afternoon, December 8.

These children are bright, intelligent and well disciplined, both boys and girls of various ages. They are placed on trial and if not satisfactory will be removed. Parties taking them must be well recommended. A local committee of citizens of Valley Falls has been selected to assist the agents in placing the children. Applications must be made to and indorsed by the local committee. Bring your recommendations with you. The following well known citizens have agreed to act as a local committee: J. T. B. Gophart, L. H. Burnett, Alex. Kerr, A. D. Kendall, Dr. A. D. Lowry and Nell McLeod. Distribution will take place at the opera house, Friday, December 9, at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m.

Come and see the children and hear the address. B. W. Tice, Western agent, 195 East Twenty-second Street, New York; Miss A. L. Hill, visiting and placing agent, 195 East Twenty-second Street, New York; W. W. Bugbee, state agent for Kansas, Eldorado, Kas.

From the Kansas City Times, Dec. 3, 1910

A reporter and artist for the Kansas City Star were present to make a special report of the touching event and behold the children fancy “how the threads of their future were woven among that film of faces in front of them.”

J.W. Swann, Missouri agent of the Society, who was here the week before to arrange for the coming of the young home seekers, told on what conditions the orphans would be placed in homes, and some of their

experiences at other places, making it plain, that the Society wanted real homes for the children, where they would be loved, educated, taught the lessons of frugality and industry, the foster parents to treat them as model parents would their own children, that they may become worthy citizens of the state. The little ones must not be abused, are not for mercenary or selfish purposes, because hired help is scarce, or some one is needed to start fires at four in the morning.

O, No! No cruelty or unjust hardships would be tolerated with these little ones. One of the boys in the charmed circle, **Cornelius Van Tassel**, was removed from an unworthy home in Nebraska, where he was found doing nearly a man's work, husking 50 bushels of corn a day, — made to do it. Cornelius was taken to Topeka.

The expense of bringing these orphans from New York and placing them in homes at Valley Falls or elsewhere, was borne by one kind man, in exchange for a group picture of the "kiddies," and at the noon hour they spent a few minutes at the Art Gallery for that purpose.

In the afternoon the opera house was over crowded by anxious people to witness the closing act in the little drama, the placing in homes of the little ones.

Rev. Beauchamp offered prayer, **Mr. Tice** and **Mr. Swann** again explained the conditions on which the foundlings were to be given homes, and invited applicants to come forward and sign with the committee, composed of **Neil McLeod, A.D. Kendall, Dr. L.H. Burnett, Dr. J.T.B. Gephart, Dr. A.D. Lowry,** and **Alex Kerr**. There were more applicants than children.

The committee proceeded in the work before it with the following results.

Anna O'Brien, 8 years old with **W.W. Withers**, Valley Falls, Ks.

Edgar O'Brien, 6 years old with **Arthur Booth**, Valley Falls, Ks.

Clinton Bailey, 12 years old, **Elsie Bailey**, 4 years old with **B.A. Mallory**, Holton, Ks., RFD No. 2.

Walter Bailey, 6 years old with **Phillip A. Reichart**, Valley Falls, Ks.

Ada Elizabeth Mortimer, 11 years old with **Leonard H. Ott**, Half Mound, Kansas.

Herman Victor Dahlquist, 8 years old with **A.B. Carter**, Valley Falls, Ks.

Willie Bennington, 6 years old with **George Wesley**, Bancroft, Ks.

Stanley Drombroski, 7 years old with **Roy Irwin**, Valley Falls, Ks.

Ernest Schick, 10 years old with **Isaac Booth**, Valley Falls, Ks.

Cornelius Van Tassel, 9 years old with **J.R. Michael**, North Topeka, Ks.

Mildred Grant, 11 years old and **Eva Grant**, 9 years old, not placed.

On Dec. 23, 1910, the *Valley Falls Vindicator* reported: "**Mr. B.W. Tice** and **Miss Anna Laura Hill**, agents of the Children's Aid Society of New York, left for Seneca and Sabetha Monday. . . . They left **Mildred** and **Eva Grant** with **Mrs. Maud Burkert** until their return here next month."

On Jan. 20, 1911, the *Oskaloosa Independent* reported that the Grant girls had been placed: "**James Quakenbush**, just east of town, takes **Eva Grant**, aged 10 years. **Thomas Davis**, on the old Snyder farm, southwest of town, has **Mildred Grant** aged 12."

The **National Orphan Train Complex Museum and Research Center** in Concordia, Kansas, offers advice to anyone seeking to locate orphan train riders and their descendants.

Family Tree sites are a good place to start your research. They allow you to build a virtual family tree, and search for and save vital records. Many of these sites allow you to access public records such as censuses, marriage certificates, draft cards, obituaries, or ship manifests.

Local libraries, archives, historical societies, and museums often keep records of local newspapers, photographs, or other items to help you learn more about your orphan train rider.

Orphanage records and genetic genealogy and descendant groups may also offer assistance.

For more information, contact
National Orphan Train Complex
300 Washington St.
P.O. Box 322
Concordia, KS 66901

Phone: 785.243.4471

email: info@orphantraindepot.org

For a full list of research resources and contact information, visit their website:

<https://orphantraindepot.org/research-and-registration/genealogical-research-resources/>

Happy Allison Young: A Remarkable Life

Happy Allison Young was born in 1811, probably in Montgomery County, Kentucky. She was sold on the auction block as a child. She was enslaved by **James Allison** in Kentucky. In March 1856, Allison wrote a will freeing Happy and her daughter Sarah. Happy kept her copy of that document all her life. Happy and Sarah moved to Missouri in 1856 and lived there for almost ten years before moving to Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas. Happy and **Sarah Allison** are enumerated in the 1865 Kansas State census, living in Oskaloosa with the **Milton Jones** family.

Sarah married **Eli Hampton** on Oct. 5, 1870, at Big Stranger, Leavenworth County, Kansas (Jefferson County Marriage Records, Book A, page 186). Eli was a Civil War veteran who served in the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry (83rd Regiment, USCT). Happy lived with Sarah and her family in 1875. Eli died in 1880. Happy and Sarah continued to live together in Oskaloosa, raising Sarah's children and grandchildren.

In 1912, the *Oskaloosa Independent* published a feature about Happy Allison Young, describing her as a "quadroon whose straight black hair long ago turned to snowy white, and whose eyes failed, too, but in her blindness and extreme old age her strong religious faith has kept her happy, as her name implies." Her age, the article said, is "beyond much question 101 years old." The paper also published the text of James Allison's will, still in Happy's possession.

"I James Allison of the County of Montgomery and state of Kentucky being of sound mind and disposing memory and having sold out my estate in Lands and most of my personal property with a view of emigrating to the western country and not knowing at what hour it may please my maker to call me from time to eternity and feeling it a duty incumbent upon me as a good man and a good citizen to make disposition of a portion of my slave estate as hereinafter indicated do for the purpose make and ordain this instrument of writing as my last will and testament.

"Item 1. It is my will and desire that all my just debts (if any) be punctually paid out of my estate.

"Item 2nd. It is my will and desire that my negro woman Happy who is now about Forty five years of age be free after my death. I also desire that her child named Sarah about Eight years of age be also free after my death. I do therefore declare it as my will and intention that each of them be free and released from all servitude, to take effect immediately after my death if they or either of them survive me.

"Item 3d. It is furthermore my will and desire that a sum of money out of my estate sufficient for said purpose be appropriated to remove said Happy and Sarah out of this commonwealth so as to meet a compliance with the laws of this state upon the subject of emancipating slaves and I hereby devise, set apart and appropriate said sum for said purpose to the benefit of said Happy and Sarah which money shall be paid out of any estate I may have left after paying my debts and which shall be used for said purpose by such person or persons as may administer my estate after my death or as I may appoint executor of my estate by any subsequent last will and testament or by any codicil or amendment I may hereafter be pleased to make to the present will.

"In testimony whereof I have here unto set my hand and affixed my seal at Mount Sterling, Kentucky, this 20th day of March 1856.

JAMES ALLISON.

"Signed sealed and delivered in presence of Walter Chiles, James A. Connor."

Happy Allison Young died May 2, 1917, at the age of 106. The *Oskaloosa Independent* said, "Legal papers from her old Kentucky master when she was a young woman give her age, so there is apparently no mistake about it. She had been blind for several years and bedfast for one year, but retained her patience to the last, supported by her religious faith, for she was a devout old woman of good character. She remembered being sold on the auction block when she was a child. The funeral was held at the colored Methodist church yesterday afternoon, **Rev. Mr. Nichols** officiating in the absence of the colored minister."

The *Jefferson County Tribune*, May 11, 1917, reported, "Happy Young was married to **Ned Young** about 1831 in Kentucky and to them were born twelve children, all of whom have passed away but one daughter, **Mrs. Sarah Hampton** of Oskaloosa, Kansas.

"She was a remarkable woman, living the simple life which no doubt accounts for the length of her years. She was very industrious all her days, up to the very eventide of her life.

"She was a loving mother and grandmother. It was a great treat to talk with 'Aunt Happy,' as she was known. She had good recollection of **Andrew Jackson** as president; also the Mexican war, and was fifty-four years old at the close of the Civil war.

"She had 28 grandchildren, 100 great grandchildren, and a host of great great grandchildren."

— Research by Tom Grose and Liz Leech

Triple Wedding in Winchester, 1916

From the *Winchester Star*, Dec. 29, 1916

Curry—McDermond

Whitaker—McDermond

Lindsay—McDermond

On Wednesday, December 27, at 3:00 P.M., at the home of **Mrs. Alice McDermond**, occurred the most unusual event which has ever been known in this part of the state, when her three oldest daughters were united in marriage. The contracting parties were **Mr. James C. Curry** and **Miss Katherine I. McDermond**, **Mr. Harry Whitaker** and **Miss Ina May McDermond**, and **Mr. Richard Lindsay** and **Miss Agnes Belle McDermond**. Only the immediate families were in attendance to witness the ceremony.

At 3:00 o'clock **Hazel McDermond**, sister of the brides, sang "I Love You Truly." To the strains of the wedding march played by **Miss Mary Irene Whitaker**, the bridal procession entered the living room and took their places under a canopy of green and white, where **Rev. W.F. Graham** of the United Presbyterian Church performed the ceremony.

The brides' gowns were of white silk crepe de chine and chiffon.

Following congratulations a dainty lunch of brick ice cream and cake was served by **Mrs. C.B. Sloop** of Nortonville, and **Mrs. A.L. McDermond**. Many beautiful and useful gifts were received.

The happy couples went to house keeping immediately. Mr. and Mrs. Curry and Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay will make their home in Winchester. Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker will make their home on a farm one mile north of Nortonville.

The Star joins their many friends in wishing them a long and happy wedded life.

(Contributed by Leanne Chapman)

Say "Cheese"

From the *Daily Reporter*, Valley Falls, Apr. 28, 1917

Limburger cheese laid away in cupboards and refrigerators will drive away ants. No doubt about it. It will drive a hog out of a tan yard; it will drive a spike in a brick; it will drive a tramp away from a meal of victuals; it will drive a mule through a barb wire fence; it will drive a herd of cattle over a precipice; it will drive a man to insanity who stays five minutes within ten feet of its unsavory presence. And yet some men will sit up and eat the stuff and profess to like it. —Perry Mirror.

(Contributed by Leanne Chapman)

Jefferson County Well Represented in Topeka

From the *Parsons Daily Sun*, Parsons, Kans., Jun. 19, 1926

Oskaloosa, Kans., June 18, 1926 — (AP) — Jefferson county boasts of her sons and daughters who help run the state government in Topeka.

Mrs. Ben S. Paulen, the first lady of Kansas, was born in Oskaloosa. To her **Governor Paulen** attributes his success as a business man and as a statesman. Mrs. Paulen's father, the late **Tom Ellis**, was at one time the sheriff of Jefferson county.

Three heads of state departments are natives of Jefferson county: **Dr. Earle G. Brown**, secretary of the state board of health; **Maj. Carl White**, state treasurer, and **Walter V. Buck**, state highway engineer.

Frank H. Roberts, secretary of the state board of administration, is the publisher of the Oskaloosa Independent and several other Jefferson county weekly newspapers. **Capt. William A. Smith**, assistant attorney general, who commanded Company B, 139th Infantry, Jefferson county's unit in the Thirty-fifth division [World War I], is a resident of Valley Falls. He formerly was county attorney.

John McBee, keeper of the keys to the dome of the capitol, was a Jefferson county pioneer. **Perry Daniels**, who carries the mail to Governor Paulen's desk every morning, formerly lived in this county. **Curt Jones**, the janitor who sweeps the governor's office, was born in Oskaloosa.

Other "Jeffersonians" in the state house are **Miss Anna Goddard**, formerly county superintendent of public instruction, now on the staff of the state superintendent; **Miss Susan Dick**, clerk in the horticultural office; **Mrs. Ruth Snyder** of the board of agriculture; **Miss Lucy Raines**, stenographer in the treasurer's office; **Miss Maymie Saunders**, stenographer in the highway engineer's department, and **Earl Farrish**, claim adjuster in the insurance superintendent office.

George W. Plummer, farmer near Perry, is the Jefferson county representative in the state legislature.



Emma Lippincott Wilkins Roberts and Francis Henry Roberts

Roberts and Wilkins Family Roots in Kansas and New Jersey

Exploring the Roberts line took me to familiar territory.

By Linda Stehlik

[Editor's note: Linda Stehlik lives in Middletown, N.J., and is the granddaughter of John Wilkins Roberts, the final member of the three-generation Roberts newspaper family of Oskaloosa, the great-granddaughter of Francis "Frank" Henry Roberts, and the great-great-granddaughter of John Wesley Roberts, the founder of the Oskaloosa Independent.]

Family Roots in Kansas and New Jersey

My grandfather, **John Wilkins Roberts** (1880-1970), the last Roberts family editor of the *Oskaloosa Independent*, was very interested in family genealogy. He and his father had collected as much information as they could. He passed down all his family history notes to me, and I also became interested. He lost his mother, **Emma Lippincott Wilkins**, at an early age, which must have left him sorrowful and bereaved. He wrote down as much as he knew of her heritage, and saved photos and a memorial card from her funeral. He never found out enough about her ancestry to satisfy him. His middle name came from his mother's maiden name, Wilkins. But her middle name, Lippincott, did not seem to come from anyone on the family tree. I hoped to use that clue to find out more about her.

This is the story that I discovered about Emma Lippincott Wilkins. She was a resident of Oskaloosa who had a remarkable background that perhaps few people know about. I was surprised to learn that her life's path led to Oskaloosa from New Jersey, my own home state.

We can imagine some of the events in her early life in a very general way.

Here is what my grandfather wrote: "Emma Lippincott Wilkins (Vittie) was born in Bridgeboro, Burlington County, N.J., on July 21, 1852. Shortly before her 15th birthday she moved with her parental family to South Bend, Ind. Following her father's death she moved with her mother south to Sugar Grove, near Crawfordsville," in Tippecanoe County. (I never discovered how her nickname, Vittie, came about.)

Emma Wilkins came from generations of Quakers who lived in rural New Jersey, but her family moved to the Midwest in 1867. She had one older brother, one older sister and three younger sisters. Customarily, Quakers lived in communities surrounded by their relatives and friends who knew your life story and kept track of your every move to be sure it adhered to their rules. Life must have been very hard for Emma's parents, **William and Ruth Anna Rogers Wilkins**, for them to have left Evesham Township, in rural Burlington County. The family did not own a home and William had been cast out of the Quaker meeting (disowned). Perhaps they just decided to try to make a new start in the West. It was after the Civil War and prosperity had returned to the country. The family would have started out by hiring a boat to cross the Delaware River, then obtaining horses and a wagon. They most likely would have crossed the lowlands of Pennsylvania and Ohio, then turned northwest, to arrive in South Bend, a small town in Indiana near Lake Michigan. Everything was new for the family who had probably never been out of Burlington, N.J., in their lives. Emma wouldn't have imagined that in eight years she would travel in another wagon still farther west to Oskaloosa, Kan.

After reaching South Bend, the eldest son (**Harry**) married, and the rest of the family moved to Sugar Grove, a farming community. In the 1870 U.S. Census, **William Wilkins** was listed as a farmer. Daughters **Ida** (11), **Ella Ballinger** (8), and **Martha** (6) were at home, but **Annie** (18) and **Emma** (17) were no longer listed with the household. Emma was working as a domestic servant for the **John Kirkpatrick** family, nearby farmers. Annie was working as a domestic servant with the **Devore** household. William died in 1872 and was laid to rest in a cemetery nearby, where a round stone marks his grave. In the 1880 U.S. Census, Ida was listed as a domestic at the **Charles Lang** household, and only **Ruth Anna** and her daughter Martha remained at home. I asked the assistance of **Quentin Robinson** of the Tippecanoe County Historical Society, and he searched county and Quaker records. They did not show that the Wilkins ever owned property or belonged to the nearby Quaker meeting. No family names of other Quakers from Evesham, N.J., are shown on Tippecanoe County maps of property owners or in the 1870 census, so it appears they moved all by themselves instead of joining other families they knew from home, the way many settlers did. They may not have been active in Quaker meetings, but my grandfather said that when his aunts and grandmother talked, they used the traditional “thee and thou.”

To organize family history

I wanted to organize and update the information about our family history, and to trace back Emma’s ancestry to find the origin of her Lippincott name. Online genealogy programs have recently become available. They are an improvement over the hand-drawn family trees and notebooks with numbered generations that were passed down to me. What used to be done in person by traveling to libraries, or having copies of documents mailed, can now be done by computer. Ancestry.com is the program I use to search and organize my family’s history and share it with others. On that site the convention of placing women’s maiden names on the family trees is used, so I have continued that practice.

To make sense of the family genealogy I numbered the generations. Instead of **F.H. Roberts’** numbering system which counted backward from himself, I chose as Generation 1 the first generation of my ancestors who arrived here from Europe in the mid-1600s (as in *Genealogy of the Stokes Family**). **Thomas Stokes**, Generation 1, arrived in 1677. The first Roberts to arrive was in the 1690s (Generation 3). F.H. Roberts and Emma are therefore Generation 8, and I am Generation 11.

I discovered that almost every detail on the Roberts’ and Wilkins’ sides that was passed down from my grandfather is verified in the online records. The Robertses wrote down family stories and kept birth and death records in family Bibles. You can now access federal, state, and county census records with names, ages, birth locations and occupations, and military documents. States and counties have records of births, marriages, and deaths. Cemeteries, including Pleasant View in Oskaloosa, have websites with photos and information about those buried there. If you have Quaker ancestors, you can see the records in their own handwriting.



Vittie Wilkins’ newspaper costume, 1876

Clippings from the *Oskaloosa Independent* continue the story.

Emma Wilkins was really lucky to have found work with the Kirkpatrick-Hamilton family. My grandfather's writing continues: "In 1875 Emma Lippincott Wilkins (Vittie) moved to Oskaloosa, Kansas with her 'aunt' **Emma Kirkpatrick Hamilton** (formerly of Sugar Grove) who was carrying her first baby." Emma's husband **W.A. Hamilton** had a dry goods business in Oskaloosa.

February 19, 1876: "Centennial Promenade. Most of the centennial costumes present at the reception, the week previous, were out again, and, also, some new ones. Among the latter was a costume made entirely of newspapers, worn by Miss Vittie Wilkins, which ... excited much curiosity and admiration. Covered with newspaper headings, as she was, she made an excellent walking newspaper directory."

December 16, 1876: "**Mr. Insley** and **Mrs. Hamilton** have charge of the musical part of the Sunday school entertainment Christmas night, and will introduce some character pieces rendered by the school children. **Mrs. Conwell, Mrs. Balsley, Misses Briner, Boucher, Bliss** and **Wilkins** will attend to the refreshment part, and **Messrs. Boucher, Blackmon** and **Roberts** have the tree in hand."

June 9, 1877: "Mrs. W.A. Hamilton and Miss Vittie Wilkins departed for a visit of several weeks to their old home in Indiana."

May 18, 1878: "Married:—On Tuesday morning, May 14, 1878, at the residence of the bride's mother, near Sugar Grove, Ind., by **Rev. D.G. LeSourd, F.H. Roberts**, Esq., the junior editor of the *Independent* and **Miss Emma L. Wilkins** of the former place. Of course all connected with this office extend congratulations to the JUNIOR on the eventful occasion while they 'rejoice and are glad' that it has been his good fortune to draw a prize in the matrimonial lottery. May the united pair realize to the fullest all their bright dreams of the future."

F.H. and Vittie divided their time between living in Oskaloosa and Topeka while her husband was then City Editor of the *Topeka Evening Capital*. She first gave birth to **John** and then to **Eugene** (1881). Due to Vittie's bronchial illness, her doctor suggested she stay in the mountains. She moved to Manitou, Colo., in July 1891, joined by her mother and sister, later by her husband and children, until her unfortunate death in November of that year.



*Roberts family, Pleasant View Cemetery, Oskaloosa, Kansas:
F.H. & Emma L. Wilkins Roberts,
John W. & Eugene S. their sons
Emma
Dedicated Wife and Mother
Died Nov. 21, 1891
Her last words: "God is Love"
Frank H. Roberts
July 25, 1851 — Sept. 26, 1945*

Looking backward

Generations of Wilkinses, including Emma (Generation 8) and her family, lived in Burlington County, N.J., a farming area settled mainly by Quakers. Her grandfather **Joshua** (1791-1821) was Generation 6, his father **William** (1757-1818) Generation 5, and his father **William** (1709?-1758) Generation 4, but documentation is not clear enough that I can verify anyone from Generation 3. All lived in Evesham or other nearby townships. Their first meeting houses were replaced by newer buildings, which are still standing. Their places of burial are on record, but grave markers older than about 1850, whether of stone or wood, have worn away. Wilkinses still own property all over the county.

Emma's grandparents **Joshua Wilkins** and **Rebecca Ballinger** married in 1812. Quaker records show that both of them died when their son **William** was three years old, and he and his brother **Joshua** and sister **Sarah** were transferred to the Upper Evesham meeting and disowned. Disowned, in the Quaker tradition, means that the body of the Meeting does not believe you are following their principles. It does not mean you cannot attend a Meeting or petition to be reinstated, although that is uncommon. Documents show that William's brother and sister went to live with their grandfather **Joshua Ballinger**, later started their own families, and rejoined Quaker meetings, but William is not mentioned again in any Quaker records that I could find.

William's wife **Ruth Anna Rogers** (Generation 7) was descended from Quakers, but may not have been a Quaker herself. Her mother **Ruth Matlack** was disowned from the Rancocas meeting for marrying out of unity (outside Quaker meetings) in 1810. But Ruth Anna was the ancestor whose past turned out to hold the answer to where the Lippincott name came from. Her father was **Elton Rogers** (Generation 6), and his ancestor in Generation 3 was **Job Lippincott**, whose father was **Samuel Lippincott** (Generation 2), whose father was **Restore Lippincott** (Generation 1).

Restore Lippincott was born into a Puritan family, thus his distinctive given name. He and his father **Richard** (1616-1683) lived in a Puritan colony in New England but left in dissent and sailed back to Plymouth, England. There they met **George Fox** and joined the Quaker movement. They then returned to the Colonies and settled in Shrewsbury, N.J., in 1661. Restore Lippincott and his family did not stay in Shrewsbury very long, but moved south to Burlington County where farmland was available. Like the Wilkins family, Lippincotts still own property all over the county.

The Shrewsbury Quaker Meeting was the first one established in New Jersey. That meeting still exists today. Its present building is wooden with a slate roof, located a few blocks north of where the original building stood. It dates from 1816 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. I attended a Sunday morning meeting there two years ago. It turns out that ancestors of my great-grandmother lived for a time in a town that is only ten miles away from where I now live — an unexpected connection. I imagine that the Wilkins family remembered with pride how their ancestors helped settle the new world and so they handed down the Lippincott name.

As an aside, one of the treasures passed from my grandfather **John Wilkins Roberts** to me was a book by **Elizabeth Ballinger Collins** (1755-1831) about her life as a Quaker minister. She lived in Upper Evesham Township. She was the daughter of my sixth great-grandfather **Joshua Ballinger**, and was the second great-grandaunt of **Emma Wilkins**. Elizabeth had 14 children, but she acted upon her calling to become a minister, to testify of her faith, to visit Quaker families across the state, and to write her memoir, which was a series of journal entries that were published in 1834. She outlived two husbands and nine of her children.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the late **Richard Wellman** and other members of the Jefferson County Historical and Genealogical Society; *Oskaloosa Independent* editor **Rick Nichols**; the Friends who welcomed me to the Shrewsbury Quaker Meeting House and shared historical information; members of the Burlington County Historical Society; and **Quentin Robinson** of the Tippecanoe County (Ind.) Historical Society. Thanks also to my husband, **John McCarthy**, from New England, who became involved.

Sources

The Oskaloosa *Independent*

Ancestry.com

Find a Grave®

* Genealogy of the Stokes Family: Descended from **Thomas and Mary Stokes** Who Settled in Burlington County, N.J. (online)

Frank Henry Roberts of Oskaloosa, KS., Ancestry Records. Compiled by **Alice (Roberts) Stark** about 1908. Transcribed by **Richard Wellman**, 2012. Unpublished, Jefferson County Genealogical Society.

This story first appeared in the Oskaloosa Independent, Dec. 2, 2021.



Shrewsbury Meeting House, 2018

“An Interesting Game of Base Ball:” Highlights of the 1887 Season

Winchester vs. Valley Falls

From the *Winchester Argus*, Jul. 14, 1887

The “Dudes,” the old champion base ball club of Jefferson county, has been reorganized at Winchester, and are open for engagements. It will be at the head of Amateur club.

From the *Valley Falls Register*, Aug. 5, 1887

The Winchester Dudes will play the Valley Falls base ball boys a matched game at Valley Falls, on Saturday, Aug. 20th.—Argus

From the *Valley Falls New Era*, Aug. 25, 1887

The Valley Falls and Winchester base ball clubs played a game here last Saturday afternoon, the score standing 19 to 12 in favor of the visitors. The first part of the game was very rotten, the Winchester batting the ball at will. Finally, **Tommy Hatfield** was placed in the box, from which time on the Dudes were held level. **R.D. Simpson, Jr.**, umpired, and did his work to the general satisfaction of everybody. We understand our boys propose to play a return game in about ten days.

From the *Winchester Argus*, Aug. 25, 1887

Our base ball boys went up to Valley Falls last Saturday and “done up” the Fall’s boys in a game. Score 19 to 12. The Dudes are always on top.

From the *Valley Falls Register*, Aug. 26, 1887

An interesting game of base ball between the club of Winchester and the club of this city took place here last Saturday and resulted in a score of 19 to 12 in favor of the Winchester club. It is strange that a base ball club can not be jumped up here which can win a game from somebody. Quite a number of Winchester people came over to witness the game and are proud of their players.

Match and Rematch

From the *Valley Falls New Era*, Jul. 7, 1887

Quite an interesting game of base ball was played the morning of the Fourth between a nine of white boys and one of colored. The former captured the game with a score of 18 to 19, the game being called on account of rain at the end of the eighth inning.

From the *Valley Falls Register*, Sept. 2, 1887

As we go to press this Thursday afternoon, an interesting game of base ball, in which some financial interests are at stake, between the white and the colored nine, is in progress. *Later*—the game of base ball resulted in favor of the colored nine by a score of 12 to 5. What is the matter.

Disappointment

From the *Winchester Argus*, Aug. 4, 1887

We witnessed a game of ball last Tuesday at Oskaloosa between the Dudes and the Normalites, but it was so poorly played by both nines that mention of it should not be made. Of course the Dudes were the victors.

Editor vs. Editor

From the *McLouth Times*, Jun. 24, 1887

Last Sunday was a noted one for Winchester in the way of athletic sports. For their entertainment there was a match game of ball, a running race and two wrestling matches. The game of ball was between the clubs of Nortonville and Scott Grove, which resulted in a victory for the latter club by over three to one.

The running match was between **Bevin Jeffries** and **William O’Brien**, a distance of fifty yards, which was easily won by Jeffries.

The wrestling match between **George Yeck** and **T. Farris**, catch-as-catch can, was won by Yeck in two straight. The other wrestling match was a draw.

From the *Winchester Argus*, Jun. 30, 1887

A Falsehood

The reporter of the McLouth Times at Winchester is either a base fabricator, a pusalanimous nincompoop, or a greenhorn. He says that on last Sunday there was a match game of base ball played here, which is not true. He says also there was a running race and two wrestling matches here on Sunday, another falsehood. The Winchester people are lively and full of fun but not a Sabbath breaking people, neither do they egg or stone public lecturers on sacred history. **Prof. Norvell** would not be molested in Winchester. Get your items correct, brother **Mills**.

[Editor’s note: The Scott Grove-Nortonville game was played on a Saturday. Enforcement of Sunday-observance laws was under scrutiny in Kansas and Missouri.]

Ladies and Gentlemen

From the *Valley Falls New Era*, Sept. 22, 1887

The Baptist Sunday School came out in full force and had a delightful picnic in the yard and grounds of **Robt. Utz. A.V. Davis** headed the procession with the band wagon full of little folks. An excellent dinner was spread under the maples, of which three score of people partook and there was plenty left for another score or two. An interesting game of base ball was played, in which young ladies and gentlemen both participated.

Jayhawkers, Squatters, and Enterprise in Kentucky Township: “Progressive Perry!”

From the *Oskaloosa Times*, Sept. 3, 1897

Pen Pictures of Some of Her Enterprising, Prosperous People

The “Times” Gathers Items — Historical and Biographical — Of Interest to All

Kentucky township probably derived its name from the fact that a great many of the first settlers were originally from Kentucky. The township as such was organized in May 1856. It being a large township the county commissioners concluded to give them four justices of the peace, in the persons of **Alex. Bayne, David S. Gray, W.H. Bayne** and **V. Fielding**, with **William G. Steele** as constable.

About the first settler in the township was **John Scaggs**, locating as early as the fall of 1854. He was an enthusiastic pro-slavery man, and brought fourteen slaves with him, eleven men and three women, and some of the descendants of Scaggs’ chattels are still to be found in the township. There were other parties who believed in the divinity of the institution, and also brought slaves with them and settled not far from Scaggs, among the number **Thomas Scaggs**, a brother of **Henry**, and **Alexander Bayne**. Mr. Bayne, however had but two, one man and one woman. At that time all told there were sixty-nine slaves held in the county, the greater portion by persons in Kentucky township.

There were no lands really in the township to settle upon, although they did, taking possession of the Kaw half breed tracts. The other lands were all Delaware reserve. Those who did settle on the half breed tracts had a great deal of trouble, being ordered off and were forced to leave, and in a number of cases the early settlers’ houses were burned down.

Rising Sun was the first town in the township, being just opposite Lecompton. It was laid off by **Joseph Haddox**, and he took in the organization with him **Jerome Kunkle, Louis Lutt** and **J. Menzer**. Lutt was the postmaster, as well as storekeeper. Kunkle run the ferry, and Haddox a hotel, while Menzer dispensed the whiskey. It was a lively town for several years, and we might say up to the building of the Union Pacific railroad, when it suddenly collapsed, moving up in a body and christening their new town Medina. The railroad company laid off Perry, and as between the two points there was great rivalry for a number of years, the town of Centerville springing up between the two, and with a big town hall built by **Collins**, threatened for a while to eclipse both Medina and Perry. There were no prohibitionists in the bottom those days. No less than nine saloons in the three places, four each in Perry and Medina, and Centerville with one, but it was the most gorgeous of the whole lot, and did a thriving business.

Medina had a newspaper, **Father Weaver** publishing the New Era, which he afterwards moved up to Valley Falls. Had all these points concentrated their efforts, Kentucky township might have had to day one of the best towns in the county.

The first marriage in the township was on the 4th of December, 1855, the contracting parties being **Thomas Scaggs** and **Sally Scaggs**, **Judge Samuel D. Lecompte**, the chief justice of the supreme court of the territory, joining the two in wedlock.

The first church organization in the township was the Southern Methodist, who built a small house for worship at Rising Sun, with **Rev. S.B. Statcler** as minister. The first sermon, however, was preached at the home of Alex. Bayne in June 1857, by **Rev. Nathan Scarrett**, presiding elder of the Missouri conference.

Now, for something about the first school. It was taught by **Anna Foster**, daughter of **Woodin Foster**, at one time county commissioner. The first public school, district no. 35, was not established until sometime in 1868.

During the war, the bottom was bothered more with jayhawkers than any other portion of the county. At that time the settlements were most wholly on the Kaw half breed lands, and nearly every one was possessed of fine horses, besides cattle and hogs. The settlers were termed southern sympathizers, and it was a good field for the jayhawkers, for there was plenty of timber and brush to hide in. The whole country was over-awed but the tide was finally turned by the death of **Bill Blake** at the hands of **Joe Caruthers**. The whole bottom was literally afire. **Phillips**, a companion of Blake, was shot at the mouth of the Delaware and his body thrown into the Kaw river. In the meantime, **Lemcool**, another companion of Blake’s, had gone to Ozawkie for a wagon to haul home the body of Blake, and by the time he put in his appearance excitement was at a high pitch, and he too was killed. Some one dragged Phillips body out of the river, and the three dead men were all placed in the wagon. **Hod Gibbs** was sheriff at the time, and while there as an officer of the law, the infuriated populace ordered him to take the three dead bodies to Ozawkie for burial. This was the last of the jayhawkers in Jefferson county, three of the most desperate ones meeting death in their last raid.

Bill Blake was a stout athletic young man, six feet in height, and weighing near 200 pounds. He had a grudge against **Caruthers** and went to his house for the purpose of killing him. Joe had been forewarned and was waiting for him. As Blake and his party approached the house, Caruthers put his gun through a crack and fired. Blake fell, while his confederates scampered away. Joe rushed out and shot **Phillips** through the arm as he was running. By this time Blake had got to his feet again, the first shot over the eye not effective, and a desperate encounter took place between Joe and Bill, a life and death struggle, but Joe finally got the advantage and shot Blake three times in the side, and once in the back of the head, killing him almost instantly.

From that moment **Joe Caruthers** was the hero of the hour. Oskaloosa people were well pleased and took the side of Joe, and started a purse to make him a handsome present. A silver mounted revolver was purchased, and a proper presentation made to the man who killed the notorious **Bill Blake**.

— **A.G. Patrick**

A.G. Patrick, in the foregoing, has well related some of the early history of this county and township, but this is all changed now and Kentucky is one of the richest and most prosperous townships of the county—justly proud of her metropolis—Perry, the pride of the Kaw.

The township has a population of about two thousand people, with an assessed valuation of about half a million dollars; is right in the center of the best potato raising country that the Lord ever created, feeds and ships more cattle and hogs than many other townships ten times its size. As a class her farmers are progressive and enterprising.

In Perry all leading religious denominations have houses of worship, the school facilities are of the finest, and when the bridge across the Kaw is built, as it will be this fall, the college at Lecompton, just across the river, will be of easy access.

If looking for a home, in every sense of the word Perry offers advantages which are equalled by few towns of its size and surpassed by none.

**Boyle Bros, Butchers,
Dealers in Fresh and Cured Meats, Poultry, Etc.**

These enterprising young men were born in Monroeville, Huron county, Ohio, and came to Kansas in 1868, locating in Jefferson county near Oskaloosa, and later near Newman, coming to Perry in March 1896, and purchasing their present business of **H.M. Wise** in the same month and have been engaged in the butcher business ever since. They are two of Perry's most progressive young citizens and their standing in the community is of the best.

Their place of business is neat and clean and they endeavor to keep only the best of meats. They were comparative strangers to Perry people when they engaged in business here, but by their uniform courtesy, gentlemanly bearing and strict attention to business have built up a large trade and made many friends.

Keeping constantly on hand the best of fresh, salt and cured meats, butter and eggs, poultry, etc., they are able to supply the wants of all. They have a large improved refrigerator, the latest choppers, scales, etc., in fact an up-to-date, first-class meat market that always caters to the tastes of the public. It is such men as these that help build up a town, and Perry is to be congratulated on having them in her midst.

Large variety of writing tablets and school supplies at prices that defy competition, at **Diggs' Drug Store** at Perry.

**Jonathan Thomas,
Dealer in Lumber, Building Material, Coal, Etc.**

The name of **Jonathan Thomas** is known all over the west as one of the most extensive dealers in lumber in the state of Kansas and has a reputation for fair dealing second to none. Mr. Thomas has yards at the following places in this state:

Topeka, 614 Van Buren St.; North Topeka, Kans. Ave. and C. St.; Rose Hill, Kans.; St. Marys, Kans.; Belvue, Kans.; Americus, Kans.; Emporia, Kans.; Madison, Kans.; Perry, Kans.; Hartford, Kans.

The yards at Perry are under the management of **Frank M. Stark**, a man of years of experience in the lumber business.

Mr. Stark was born in Ingham county, Mich., January 19th, 1854, and came to Kansas in October, 1865, attending school at Lawrence during the fall and winter term of '65 and '66, moving to Jefferson county in 1866. He was joined in matrimony April 9th, 1875, to **Miss Etta Armstrong**, of Perry, a most estimable young lady, a former school teacher of Perry and Oskaloosa, and at present one of the leading social lights of Perry.

In 1883 Mr. Stark engaged in the lumber business here and successfully conducted the same until September 28th, 1874, (*sic* - 1894?) when he sold out to Jonathan Thomas. He was appointed manager by Mr. Thomas and his untiring energy and attention to business has been the means of controlling the lumber business of this vicinity. His integrity is unquestioned; ceaseless in his devotion to his employer's interests, has won for him the confidence and respect of all, and it can truthfully be said of him that he is a gentleman in every respect, one whom it is a pleasure to know.

Mr. Stark will be pleased to quote you prices on anything you want in the lumber line.

Dr. A.C. Zimmerman.

A Promising Young Physician of Perry—A Good Record.

Dr. Zimmerman was born in Jefferson county, Kansas, April 9th, 1874, and has lived in the county ever since. Determining to follow the profession of physician and surgeon he commenced work in that line under **Dr. A.G. Smith**, of Oskaloosa, remaining with him one year, and then in September, 1894, entered University Medical college, Kansas City, Mo., graduating from there March 23rd, 1897.

Recognizing the necessity of more thorough knowledge of such branches of medicine as obstetrics, gynecology, ophthalmology and microscopy, he took special courses in the above branches as follows: Obstetrics, under **Dr. L.A. Berger**; gynecology, under **Dr. C.W. Adams**; ophthalmology, under **Dr. Flavel B. Tiffany**; microscopy, under **Dr. Leon Rosenwald**, all of which are connected with University Medical college in their respective branches.

Dr. Zimmerman commenced the practice of his profession in Perry last May, and has had the best of success, not having lost one of his patients by death, and his class of patrons is of the best, and steadily increasing. He is a young man of sterling character and applies himself assiduously to his profession and gives promise of becoming one of Kansas' foremost physicians and surgeons.

Though a young man in years and practice he has a thorough education and understands the physicians' alphabet from A to Z and can be relied on in all cases where skill and knowledge are required.

H.D. Larimer,

**Carpenter, Contractor and Builder,
Wind Mills and Metal Roofing.**

The subject of this sketch, **H.D. Larimer**, is a native of Pennsylvania, but has spent the larger portion of his life in Kansas, removing from Mitchell county, Kan., to Perry fourteen years ago, where he has made his home since.

Mr. Larimer has devoted most of his life to the carpentering and contracting business and since coming to Perry has made a reputation for fair dealing and good workmanship that is equalled by few and excelled by none. He is the principal contractor in Perry and does a large business, and is withal not only a good mechanic but a gentleman with whom it is a pleasure to do business.

Mr. Larimer also handles wind mills and does metal roofing and those desiring anything in this line will do well to see him, as he can save you money and at the same time furnish you the best to be had.

Diggs at Perry is selling lamps at cut prices. When you need a lamp don't fail to see him.



**Your New Spring Hat
Style is Here**

Every new color and shape. Stetson, Knox, Mallory, Crofut & Knapp.

\$4 \$5 \$6 \$7 \$8

From the Perry Mirror, Apr. 3, 1919

Early Recollections of Kansas

J.H. Bennet

Original Sketch

Written for the *Independent*

Published Saturday, July 27, 1878

MOUTH OF COAL CREEK

This settlement was sparse indeed when we went in there. **Melchior Ott** was our nearest neighbor. **Kaspar Abbuehl**, then a single man lived with him. They must have come in there in the fall of 1855; at any rate they had a good hewed log house, and some improvements. They dug the first well after we arrived, in May, 1857. **John Ratz** also lived with them, and had as his wife, a daughter of **Mrs. Ott**, a sister of Kaspar. This was the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of [Section] 36, [Township] 7, [Range] 17, and Kaspar lives there yet, has lived there all the time, and has all the time maintained the old time Swiss character of intelligence, independence, industry and containment. He married a daughter of old **Antoine Richard**, who moved on to their present farm in March, 1857, bringing with him **Christina, Fred, and Abe Stauffer**. This was an adjoining tract, and both had the four necessities of the times, wood, water, prairie, and Swiss enterprise. **Ephraim Lowman** lived a little farther down the creek, near where the lower "Richard's" house now is. **Willis C. Frakes** lived a little to the west of Lowman, and also on the north side of the creek. Still farther to the west and on the west side of the Grasshopper, was **Franz Ammen**, and just north of him **Jack Frakes**.

The nearest place to the south-east of us was a little bit of a cabin owned by **Mark Weeks**, into which **Major J.F. Bliss** and family, moved within a week. Just south of him, and on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of [Section] 36, [Township] 7, [Range] 17, **Walter W. Williams** had a shanty, a wife, and some children. To the north-east, our nearest neighbor was **Simpson Smith. Albert**, then single, lived with him. Beyond that to the north-east still, came first, **William Lewis**, and then **Jacob Weber**. At the northeast corner of the upper Half Mound was a hewed log house afterwards owned by **John P. Philp**. All that long promontory between the Grasshopper and Coal Creek was vacant. The nearest neighbor on the eastern prairie was **Gordon**, where **Greene** now lives, and the nearest toward the Walnut was **Benedict Meier**.

Mark Weeks was a lazy dog. He could work, but it was like eating crow; he didn't like it. He had a puny faced Hoosier associate, whom we called "**Indiana**." The two drove our cattle a little, away up into Atchison County, speculated a little in claims, and boarded round. They left the States on account of the inclemency of weather—there was a woman in it—and when the weather cleared they returned to their father's house, penitent of course.

Willis Frakes and **Jack** were crushers;—proslavery to the backbone;—and during all the time they remained in the neighborhood could not conceal their contempt for a yankee. After the free element was most undoubtedly paramount, they subsided somewhat; but in their cups they were very quarrelsome. Once upon a time, a quarrel between these two brothers and **John Considine** and John's wife's brother, in which two pistols, a carving knife and an old scythe were conspicuous, was quelled only by actual force, the peace party being **Geo. Hillyer, S.S. Ellis, old Peter Craft** and **John Beland**. No blood was shed and no scalp taken, but I was always dubious of the Frakes afterward.

John Philp was a Scotchman, at that time an old bachelor, industrious, hard-working, not very ambitious in anything, careful and reserved in his politics, but truly carrying an abiding faith in the final overthrow of the slave power. And yet he had escaped persecution during all the border ruffian troubles. He married late in life and his happiness and prosperity were after that abundant. He was as true a friend as this writer ever had.

John Ernst was another of these old settlers, who, though living now out of the county, yet still lives in the near neighborhood. He must have sold his claim to **Dickey, John J.**, where the brick house is, and took up the claim where he now lives after we come here. He is another example of the sure success attending a German of steady, careful, industrious and contented habits.

Rasselas Munroe came to this country with me, and made his settlement the same day, April 6, 1857, on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of [Section] 25, [Township] 7, [Range] 17. I took up the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of [Section] 26, [Township] 7, [Range] 17. **Putnam** and **Curry** never took claims at all; they got homesick too soon. Munroe bought his claim because it had a *house* on it;—a little pole shanty with a door and fireplace, but no floor. We had bro't some camp cooking utensils from Parkville, Mo., and had some mattresses and blankets. We immediately arranged, or they were there already, some bunks against the side of the house, cleaned out the fireplace, bro't rocks with which to steady our cooking utensils, and explored for firewood and water. We then traced the boundary line between my claim and Munroe's, and I planted some young trees along it. Poor things, they grew a couple of years, and were then trampled out by the roving cattle. At supper, Munroe, who was a natural tyrant, put me through a course of sprouts because I had dirty dishes; remarking sarcastically that his coffee cup, (tin) looked like a last year's bird's nest. I got on my ear, of course, but Putnam laughed me out of it, and before I laid down every tin in the establishment shone like silver. The next morning I had Putnam started bright and early to Ott's for some milk, and on his return we had glorious coffee, nice, white, light biscuits, and the best boiled ham you ever saw, all ready. While we were eating, **Gus Bonjour**, whose claim I had "jumped" the day before, came abruptly into the cabin. We were four to one, though, and there was no faltering. Squatter's law, as he understood it, gave him the claim, but he finally agreed that if his foundation had never been on my claim, he would give up to me and we started out to run that line. Munroe ran after me in a moment to give me my pistol, and I nearly blushed as I took it; but the Frenchman didn't seem to notice that it was extraordinary, and I soon convinced him that *he* had made the mistake by jumping Ratz' claim, and not I, by jumping his.

The weather this morning was simply glorious. April 7, A.D. 1857. After settling with Bonjour, and knowing that the boys were to be gone all day, I walked due west, on my south line. What visions of a happy home I did conjure up that morning. Here I would have my house; all that little side hill I would plant in forest; that rough place at the head of the hollow should some day be a pasture; away to the southeast was a big dead tree, on Ratz' claim, and O, *didn't* I wish I owned that claim too; *couldn't* I raise wheat down that slope. (By the way **Hen. Legler** owns just the farm I then wanted, and he is as good a boy as ever stood on that prairie.) I went on west yet; up and over the south end of that narrow ridge which almost connects itself with the Upper Half Mound; hunted listlessly backward and forward through a strip of timber that skirted the Grasshopper, and studied botany, geology and entomology. Suddenly the sight of a little water-logged canoe nearly took away my breath. "Indians," was my first thought, and I hurried up that muddy bank, and off towards the east at a double quick, across a little bog, through tangled briars, up a steep place, and came out on to the prairie on the top of Lower Half Mound, and sat down.

I have never been there since, but that picture is as plain as a mule's ear to this day. There is little to describe more than what I have already written. By hunting carefully with my eye, I could detect **Willis Frakes'** cabin, and **Weeks'** also. Both these might be Indian shanties for any appearance of civilization around them. An old five prong buck stood as tho' carved in rock, only two hundred steps away, gazing at me with moist, round, astonished eyes. Timber and prairie appeared to me at the moment about equally distributed. I had truly gone west; and I then and there drank in the first draught of delight for myself, that has made the average Kansas citizen proverbially worshipful and boastful of his State.

Travels Back to Kansas

By Nicki Carper

My name is **Nicki Allee Carper**, I am the daughter of **Mary Mayer Allee** who was the daughter of **Alma Leech Mayer**, the daughter of **Wilbur** and **Mary Leech**. I have been asked to recount the journey of the pictures of my great grandparents in their return to Oskaloosa. My parents, **Bob** and **Mary Allee** left Southern California on vacation some time in the mid 1960s. During this trip they visited Mom's remaining family in Oskaloosa and when they came home the pictures were with them.



Wilbur Frederick Leech



Mary A. Vandruff Leech

[Editor's note: Wilbur and Mary Leech are the paternal grandparents of JCHS founder William C. Leech.]

From then on, these pictures hung on the wall in the living room above the couch, first in Placentia, CA, then in Colfax, CA, in 1970 and then in Red Bluff, CA, in 1972. After the death of both my parents the pictures hung in the home of my husband, Larry, and me. That is until we decided to sell our home in Red Bluff, store what we wanted to keep, and fill our travel trailer with what we thought we'd need, and travel for awhile all around this beautiful country.

After this decision was made, I asked my brother if he wanted the pictures, but we both decided we should give them back to Oskaloosa. We knew the courthouse had burned and most of the documents and pictures had been lost, so this seemed like a good thing to do. Also in my possession was the family Bible of Wilbur and Mary, listing all their children with birth and death dates. As I have family tree listings, I felt this was also something that the historical society of Oskaloosa should have. Thus began the final journey home for my great grandparents.

On June 10, 2021, the journey began with the Bible and pictures packed and loaded in the back of our truck. First, we went south to see some friends and family before we left California. Then back up the state and north up through Oregon and into Washington. We then headed east through Idaho, into Montana and then down to Wyoming to see some family. From there we went into the Dakotas, then south into Nebraska and over into Iowa. A lot of this was showing each other some of our childhood memories.

After that we headed northeast towards the Great Lakes. On July 20 we were almost to the tip of Lake Superior when we got a call telling us our son-in-law had just died, totally unexpected. We immediately turned around and headed south.

I flew and Larry drove for two days before putting the trailer in storage in Indianapolis to allow him to travel much faster. We spent a month with our daughter in Florida before we resumed our trip. When we picked up our trailer, we discovered one of the refrigerator hinges had broken. We spent a week waiting on parts. We then headed out knowing our time was getting shorter as fall was approaching quickly.

We left Indiana for the Great Lakes. What a weird feeling for us to see three-foot breakers in fresh water, knowing they are caused not by tides but by wind. Strange! We are used to surf and breakers in the Pacific Ocean, never in fresh water. On over into New York state, one more odd thing, grape arbors and wineries. We had NO idea New York had wineries, let alone farming! Niagara was fantastic! So beautiful. Then on to Ellis Island where I wished for three days instead of three hours. The amount of history there is absolutely amazing! Then on over to Liberty Island. What an awe-inspiring sight to be so close to "The Lady". Next day we went into NY City. We both felt it was too big, too busy, too many people. Glad to get out of it.

On down to visit friends in New Jersey, then to Pennsylvania. We had planned to go to Philadelphia, but it was raining so hard we had to yell at each other to be heard over the pounding of rain on the trailer roof. When it finally quit, we went to check on the great grandparents in the back of the truck. Very pleased to find everything was dry! Finally got to Philly, went to see the Liberty Bell, very interesting. Had to show we were inoculated and prove we were who we said we were. Also everything had to go through an x-ray thing like the airport. Because of Larry's knee replacement he set off the bells and had to be scanned to get in. Took the sight-seeing bus around the city, very informative and beautiful.

Next a couple of days spent at Gettysburg. Absolutely amazed by the size of the battlefields. It was mind boggling. On to Virginia and more Civil War battlefields. The Manassas and Bull Run sites. I was amazed that some Civil War cannons were able to shoot a mile and a half! Went to Shenandoah National Park and drove across the Blue Ridge Mountains. Beautiful.

Camped on the Rappahannock River outside of Warsaw, VA. The river was a mile wide at this point. Went to George Washington's birthplace on Pope Creek. It looked like a wide river to us, but a mile further down it runs into the Potomac River. The river is 10 miles wide at this point. Maryland is across the river; however the state boundary is the river, so if you are standing in Virginia and step into the river you are in Maryland!

Next down to the Outer Banks (OBX) in North Carolina. The sand on the beach is extremely fine, quite amazing. Went to Kitty Hawk and the Wright Museum. Very interesting and informative. Quite amazing to think that is how air travel began. On south into cotton growing country, where they roll their cotton into huge rolls, not bales, looked like grass hay bales we are used to, but it is all wrapped in plastic, except for the ends. On down into Georgia and into Savannah. Beautiful old city with gorgeous old homes.

Back to Florida, where Larry went to the Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine, and I went shopping. Next day on down further to our daughter's for a couple of weeks more. While we were there we drove down to Key West. Interesting, but not a place I would want to live. Must say though that the Florida weather was much better than it was in July and August, not nearly as humid. We took an airboat ride to get a chance to see alligators in the wild. Amazed they were black! We always thought they were greenish, but not apparently in Florida. Saw lots of birds and turtles, plus a golden eagle flying with a fish it caught.

We left Florida on November 3 to go to New Orleans, then on to Arkansas to visit more family. In Arkansas it got cold and we had heavy frost. Figured it was a signal to get our act together and get to Kansas to deliver the pictures. The weather forecast was not favorable for a trip into Kansas the latter part of November, pulling a trailer. I called the historical society, explained the situation, and figured we'd manage to get the pictures to them in 2022. However, **Margaret Dick** had a better idea, and my great grandparents' pictures finished their long trip across the United States and went home to Oskaloosa from Texas. We look forward to seeing them hanging on a wall in Oskaloosa.

*From Margaret Dick: When **Nicki Carper** called to say they would not be able to come to Kansas, I asked where she was located. She said just outside of Fort Worth. I asked if she would be willing to meet up with the mother of my daughter-in-law. She lives just outside of Fort Worth. Nicki was excited to do so.*

***Kay Metcalf Isbell** met Nicki in a parking lot on the edge of town. She took the pictures and Bible to her house. Since it was during holidays, I thought Kay could bring them to Kansas on her next trip north. Then a few days later, I discovered a good friend was in the Fort Worth area visiting her daughter. I contacted **Becky** and **Dean Chapman** to see if they were willing to pick up the pictures and Bible and bring them back to Kansas. The Chapmans were very willing to help. They not only brought the treasures back to Kansas but delivered them to Old Jefferson Town!*

So glad to have wonderful friends and their willingness to bring history back home!

Items of Local Interest

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Jan. 10, 1863

We shall be pleased to have our readers from all parts of the County send us items of local interest. If not accustomed to writing, furnish us with the facts, and we will put them in shape for the press. Notices of marriages and deaths are cheerfully published in our columns without charge. Send in your items and incidents, friends; they will cost you nothing, and yet prove of interest and value to all.

Blue Mound Doings

From the *Farmer's Vindicator*, Valley Falls, Nov. 8, 1918

Lovely weather at this writing and the wheat is spreading its self.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bower made a business trip in their car, in Topeka last Saturday.

Give our school board a little time and they will do things up-to-date about their school house and premises.

Mr. White and son also **Byron Hays** were near Nortonville last week gathering their corn and selling it at \$1.30 per bushel.

Our Sunday School opened up again on last Sunday but the house wasn't crowded and won't be until the [1918 pandemic] flu is sure banished.

Our road boss is out on our roads this week with the grader, touching up the worn down grades and putting them in better shape and condition for the drag.

Messrs. A.R. Means, Ollie Campbell and Will Irwin went to St. Joe last Monday in the latter's car to buy a car load of stock cattle.

The school board had made arrangements for our school to open up on last Monday but some of the patrons got busy and said no not for a week at least and so it had to be.

Counts & Owen were in this vicinity buying cattle from those who had more than they had feed for, then prices were not high but some thought it better then to buy high priced feed to winter them.

Mr. Geo. Rule has left his monument business in Valley Falls and came out here for a few days outing in the country where the air is pure and free and for exercise in building the cement foundation for **Mr. and Mrs. Ed Chatham's** new home. Mr. R.'s son **Alex** of Philadelphia, Pa., who is out on a visit came along and what did they do but give him a scoop and set him to work.

On last Sunday morning **Mr. and Mrs. John G. Campbell** clambered into their sedan and struck out north towards Nebraska just to see the country. They drove north until they became tired thence west through Holton to the Indian reservation and back home.

During the two weeks vacation while the [1918 pandemic] ban was on our school board got busy and had the house papered and painted inside, filled the coal house with coal. Prior to this they had built a cement top on the well and shields to the outhouses and otherwise put the house and grounds in good condition. Take a look at the place as you pass by and tell us if yours is as nice or even better.

Mr. Oliver has the improvement spirit, loves to see his farm and premises looking well therefore has been busy pulling out hedge fence along the public road, getting rid of a nuisance besides improving the looks of his farm. Away back yonder in about 1875 this county allowed a rebate on every farmer's tax who had set out eighty or more rods of hedge fence. Now it would be a wise move if they would allow a rebate on every rod pulled out especially at the road corners where it has grown up and hides the view of the traveling public.

Colored Folks Items.

By Grace Todd

From the *Oskaloosa Times*, Aug. 24, 1900

Miss Grace Todd visited in the country last week.

There will be a banquet in Perry Saturday evening.

Mrs. S.E. Todd made a trip to Leavenworth, Thursday.

Rev. R. House was visiting in the country the first of the week.

Quite a number of our citizens attended the reunion at Topeka.

Mrs. Porter and daughter, of Atchison, are visiting the **English** family.

Daniel Todd, of White Cloud, Kas., is visiting his brother **Adam Todd**.

Miss Blanche and **Ethel Rosby** are down from Topeka visiting **Ellen Todd**.

Miss Luezetti Todd has returned to her home at White Cloud, Kas., after visiting relatives here.

Mrs. Amanda Jones and daughter, of Eudora, are visiting her sisters, **Mesdames. Mary Wilson and America Todd**.

For the Want of Room

From the *Valley Falls New Era*, Dec. 29, 1877

We are forced for the want of room to give any of our local correspondents a space this week. We are sorry for this. Matter has so accumulated within the last week or so, as to fill our columns.

Bittersweet had some very interesting items, but their non-appearance will give her more ground work for our next issue.

Sylvester was on hand with a readable batch. He claims something the matter with the weather and calls upon **Messrs. Weatherholt, Summerfelt** and **Winterburg** to rise and explain.

The Prairie Hall **Itemiser** claims that Santa Claus was around there, but had but few presents to deliver.

Prairie View speaks of a gritty couple, who had just got married and arrived by train at Nortonville, for the want of conveyance, walked six miles through mud by moonlight.

They showed pluck, and their success in life is assured.

Farm and Household.

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Jul. 18, 1860

Sponge Cake.—Take the yolk of ten eggs, one pound of sugar, roll them well together; add the whites, after having beaten them to a froth, with ten ounces of flour, It ought not to be put in until just before it is set in the oven.

Shrewsbury Cake.—One pound of flour, twelve ounces of sugar, one pound of butter, five eggs, rose-water and essence of lemon.

Training Cake.—Three pounds of flour, 12 ounces of butter, 12 ounces of sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg to your taste.

Number Cake.—One teacupfull of butter, two do of sugar, three do of flour, four eggs, nutmeg, flavor.

Short Cake.—Five pounds of flour, 12 ounces of sugar, 3 ounces of butter, 8 eggs, rose-water, nutmeg.

Cup Cake.— Three teacups of flour, three eggs, two teacups of sugar, one do of butter, one of milk, pearlsh, flavor, mace or nutmeg.

Sugar Cake.—One and a half cups of flour, one of butter, half a pound of sugar, lemon, rose water.

Rusk.—One quart milk, a teacup of yeast, a little salt thickened with flour; let stand over night. Mix six boiled potatoes with the sponge, and let rise again. Take half a pound of butter and mix with flour, half a pound of sugar, if you like, and the whites of three eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Pour your sponge in and then the egg; grate in some nutmeg, mix tolerably stiff, and let rise; then butter your hands, and mould in small cakes, and let rise again. Bake in a quick oven half an hour. The rusk will be unequaled.



Used Cars

BUY NOW

You can just now get your choice of several good used cars of the makes we have handled in this territory for years at attractive prices. These cars are fully guaranteed and will give you Satisfying Service and will come under our constant, country-wide service care.

Call Us Up Today!

The L. R. Tripp Motor Co.

OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

Phones 7 and 25	L. R. TRIPP, Manager	Meriden, Kansas
Oskaloosa Ozawkie	McLouth Meriden	Winchester Perry

From the *Meriden Ledger*, Nov. 8, 1918

Rice Pudding.—One quart of milk, one teacup of rice, one of raisins, salt. Sweeten to taste, and season with nutmeg. Bake two hours in a slow oven.

Bread Pudding.—Boil the milk, and pour over the bread, cover it up until it cools; put in three well beaten eggs, one teaspoonful of butter, one of ground cinnamon, sweeten to taste, and bake an hour and a half. It will be found good enough to repeat, and economical.

To Restore Varnish.—One pint of alcohol, half a pint Balm of Guilead buds, put them together and let stand a few days before using. Shake up frequently. It will restore scalded varnish. E.L.T.

Gingerbread.—Two cupfulls of molasses, one of sugar, one of sour milk, one of butter, five of flour, one teaspoonful of saleratus, and one tablespoonful of ginger.

Cream Cake.—One cupfull of butter, two and a half of sugar, four of flour, five eggs, one cupfull of cream, and a little saleratus. Season with lemon or cinnamon.

Sugar Cake.—One cupfull of sugar; half cupfull butter; one tea-spoonful saleratus, salt, and nutmeg. Mix slowly together, with half a tea-cupfull of water. Roll thin. Bake quick.

F A wonderful
Spectacular
A Picture,
Featuring
Constance **L**
Talmadge
and 17 Stars **L**
with a cast of **L**

O 125,000
persons
75,000 **f**
horses

B At the
Meriden
A Theatre
Tuesday
B April
25

Special **Y**
Actress
In Person **L**
with the
Picture. **O**

Prices **N**
this night only
15c, 40c
Don't miss it!

From the Meriden Message, April 21, 1922

One Hundred Years Ago: The "Silents" in Meriden

Big Picture Coming

From the *Meriden Message*, Apr. 14, 1922

In view of numerous requests for a change of faces and type of pictures on the screen, the board of directors of the local picture show have secured David Wark Griffith's greatest production, "The Fall of Babylon," to be shown here Tuesday night, April 25. It was impossible to get a Saturday night date, so it was decided to use it on the only open date, which was Tuesday.

It is very seldom the opportunity offers to see a picture of this calibre in the small towns, and it was necessary that the adult admission be changed from 25¢ to 40¢ for this one night, which the producers claim is much lower than usual. No change was made in the child admission price, so that all the youngsters can get in with the usual 15¢.

This picture comes very highly recommended, has the sanction of the clergy throughout the country, and is the most marvelous reproduction of a Bible story ever filmed. 125,000 people were used in the picture, including 17 stars; over 7000 horses were used in some of the scenes. The walls of Babylon, 300 feet high, with the drive on the top are shown, and when Cyrus attacks the city you will see some very realistic fighting of Bible times.

A regularly equipped field hospital was carried in the making of the war scenes, as a number of the actors were injured in spite of all precautions during the fighting on the walls of the city.

In addition to the 7 reels of entertainment a special actress comes in person, and will be here positively that night, giving some of the dances shown and illustrating the scenes in the picture as it is shown on the screen.

All in all this is a picture everybody should make an effort to see at this price, for the opportunity won't come again. Also your patronage of this show will determine whether or not we will continue to have a real big picture come to town once in awhile, for if the management lose money on this one, it isn't likely they will book another soon, so let's boost for a good thing and go.

Babylon Fell—And So Did Meriden

From the *Meriden Message*, Apr. 28, 1922

The great show came and—went. And it was the town topic next day. A large crowd saw the picture, and if it had not been for the muddy roads it is evident the hall would have had standing room only. As it was, the receipts were \$75 and the company comes out all right under the guaranty and is satisfied.

This show has been advertised all over the United States as one of Griffith's masterpieces and our community was entitled to see it and had the chance, thanks to the local management. Nevertheless the picture was not very highly appreciated—with its special feature of a dancing girl. The views of the walls, the fighting towers, the chariots, armored warriors and their

implements of battle, the battles themselves, and all that, made up a great picture—one requiring a vast outlay of money as well as of time and patience and research work. As such it was well worth attending and was instructive to those looking for that part of it. The weakness of the great picture and that which detracted from its dignity and consistency was the modern, baby-face movie girl and her cheap love story.

Then the innovation of a dance between reels failed to bring anything but ridicule and laughter and criticism from the people of all classes. The idea of course was to depict a wild dance as typifying Babylon's debauchery, and the fall of the girl on the stage meant the fall of the wicked city. But instead of a voluptuous eastern dance by a maiden robed as an Assyrian or Persian, with a typical dance of the times, this girl went thro wild leaps, contortions and gyrations that had neither grace, rythm (*sic*) or beauty about it. Her scant attire above the waist exposed the skimpy outlines of her bony figure in their unattractiveness and disgusting boldness, while her "trousers" were so tight as to be anything but respectable and resembled a cross between an Indian's leggings and a cowboy's "chaps" after a runaway thro a barbed wire fence.

David Griffith talks much about high artistic effects—if the dance is a part of his creation, here is a gratuitous tip: Cut it out.

[Editor's note: D.W. Griffith's silent movie "The Fall of Babylon" (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0010108/>) was released in 1919. Griffith is best known as the director of "The Birth of a Nation." IMDB says, "Griffith never again saw the same monumental success as his signature film and, in 1931, his increasing failures forced his retirement. Though hailed for his vision in narrative film-making, he was similarly criticized for his blatant racism. Ironically, the release of 'The Birth of a Nation' (1915) inspired many African-Americans to start making their own films in an attempt to counter the film's depiction of them and to offer positive alternative images and stories of the African-American people."]



Built in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1875, the Bow String Bridge at Old Jefferson Town originally crossed Rock Creek north of Meriden. In the 1950s it was relocated to southeast of Valley Falls. It was moved to Old Jefferson Town in 1975. Photo courtesy of Old Jefferson Town.

Public Access to Old Jefferson Town Collections

OJT volunteers have been working diligently since January 2021 to provide access to Old Jefferson Town artifacts. Please check in with us frequently as we add more to our public access catalog. Public site link: <https://oldjeffersontown.publicaccess.com/>.

Old Jefferson Town Opening Weekend, May 7 and 8, 2022

Join us May 7-8 for opening weekend at Old Jefferson Town, when we kick-off our summer hours and events.

Stop by Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. or Sundays between 1 and 4 p.m. to tour the historic buildings and grounds, explore the genealogy library, or just to say hi. Like and follow our page, <https://www.facebook.com/OldJeffersonTownKS>, for more events this summer!

Farmers Market at Old Jefferson Town

The Farmers Market at Old Jefferson Town offers produce and goods from local farms on the grounds of the museum and library in Oskaloosa. Vendors bring vegetables, fruit, local honey, craft items, and homemade baked goods each Saturday morning.

In 2022 the Old Jefferson Town Farmers Market will be open every Saturday from June 4 through September 3, from 9 a.m. to noon. Space for vendors is first-come, first-served. There is no fee for vendors. A donation to the Old Jefferson Town building repair fund would be appreciated but is not mandatory. Check the Old Jefferson Town website, <https://www.oldjeffersontown.com/>, or the JCHS Facebook group page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jchsk>, for more information.



Nortonville Clippings

The genealogy library at Old Jefferson Town recently received 37 years of clippings that **Reba Wheeler** compiled about Nortonville, Kansas. The clippings were being stored at the Nortonville library. We are thrilled to bring the history here to the library for access to anyone who needs to look back into Nortonville and what the people of Nortonville were up to from 1893-2007.

Reba Wheeler was born in Nortonville to **Orla** and **Essie Vanhorn Kenyon**. She and her husband, **Charles**, were married 71 years. Reba passed away in 2013 at the Village Villa in Nortonville.

New (to us) Books on the Shelf in the Genealogy Library

Items of Interest: Valuable Items of Information Classified for Instant Use. (Contains advertisements for Jefferson County Bank on covers.)

1966 The Eagle, Winchester High School Yearbook

1967 The Eagle, Winchester High School Yearbook

1968 The Eagle, Winchester High School Yearbook

1953 The Eagle, Winchester High School Yearbook

Portrait and Biographical Album of Jackson, Jefferson and Pottawatomie Counties, Kansas

Family History of John A. and Elizabeth Welch Coffey of Rock Creek, Jefferson County, Kansas

1946 Oskaloosa High School yearbook

Research and speech prepared by Donna Mae Ward for the 15 Mar 2015 Homecoming and Anniversary of Oskaloosa Presbyterian Church

Half Reminiscence 'n Half Grumpy Old Man by Norman Zinn

Historic Preservation in Kansas, Vol. 1, 1973: The Historical Background

Gramse Family Documentation

The Broadcaster, 1925, Oskaloosa High School Yearbook

1969 Lancer, Jefferson County North High School Yearbook

1971 Lancer, Jefferson County North High School Yearbook

Gospel Hymns Combined, Embracing Volumes No. 1, 2 and 3.

The Christian Psalmist; A collection of tunes and hymns

Several more hymnals

Several Bibles and New Testaments

A History of Kansas (school text)

Genealogical information on the family of Adam and Catherine Ash, their descendants and related families

Kansas Miscellanies

Kaw Valley Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide to Northeastern Kansas

The Horse and Buggy Doctor
Major Francis Wright and Ann Washington, with Allied Families (3 vols.)
Those Wonderful Old Automobiles
Seedtime on the Cumberland by Harriette Arnow
Flowering of the Cumberland by Harriette Arnow
2017 Jefferson County Farm & Home Plat Directory
Mariners of the American Revolution by Marion and Jack Kaminkow
Kansas Imprints, 1854 – 1876: A Supplement by Louise Hawley
Records of Plymouth Colony, ed. by Nathan Shurtleff
Burke's American Families with British Ancestry
Unofficial Guide to FamilySearch.org
Kansas Central Narrow Gauge: Slim Rails Across the Midlands
The Official State Atlas of Kansas
The Census Book: A Genealogist's Guide to Federal Census Facts, Schedules and Indexes, by William Dollarhide
The Genealogist's Google Toolbox by Lisa Louise Cook
Year of the Storms: The Destructive Kansas weather of 1990
Leavenworth Centennial, 1954
Images of Strawberry Hill, by Marijana
1970 Oskaloosa United Methodist Pictorial Directory
Research Repositories in the Kansas City Area, JCGS Workshop, July 25, 1992
The Road is All! by Allen Gardiner
Public Informational Meeting: Highway K-92
Handy Index of American Types (Oskaloosa Independent)
1870 Mortality Schedule, Jefferson County, Kansas
Correspondence from Warren Street and excerpt from book
Lancaster United Methodist Church, Atchison County, Kansas
Nancy Ward: Cherokee Chieftainess; Dragging Canoe, Cherokee-Chickamauga War Chief
Our Kansas Stories: The Radicalization of John Brown in Kansas Territory
Seven Years of Prairie Life by James P. Price (Allen County, KS)
Half Reminiscence 'n Half Grumpy Old Man (Grantville) by Zinn
Schroeder's Antiques Price Guide
Index to St. Louis Missouri, Marriages, Volume I, 1804 – 1859, Book 1 & 2

Be a Volunteer

Old Jefferson Town would not be here if it weren't for its volunteers. For over 50 years, history keepers have helped to preserve Jefferson County history. Come and be a part!

Contact

Jefferson County Historical Society
P.O. Box 146
Oskaloosa, KS 66066
Email: oldjefftown@gmail.com