

YESTERYEARS

A publication of

**The Jefferson County
Historical Society**

October 2022

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Yesteryears is published online as a PDF document and made available on the Jefferson County Historical Society website, Newsletters & Yesteryears: <https://www.jchsk.com/newsletters>

For more information, or to volunteer, contact the Jefferson County Historical Society, P.O. Box 146, Oskaloosa, KS 66066, email, oldjefftown@gmail.com

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

Explore the new resources of the Jefferson County Historical Society website: <https://www.jchsk.com/>

We are a work in progress! This is just a beginning!

Here at Old Jefferson Town, volunteers are continuing to find ways to share the rich history of Jefferson County with the community of today and of the past. Social media provides museum volunteers with the tools to do that a little easier and more cost effectively. Please be patient with us as we learn and grow.

As you browse, if you see something that you can give us more information about, please email us at oldjefftown@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you. If you see typing errors, please help us by letting us know. You won't hurt our feelings!

Photos and primary source materials also are available on the JCHS website. Visit the Research section at <https://www.jchsk.com/research> or use the following link to see what we've been up to. Public Site link: <https://oldjeffersontown.catalogaccess.com/>



In Memoriam: Frank E. Shrimplin

October 30, 1927 – May 3, 2022

Frank Eugene Shrimplin, 94, of Valley Falls, KS, passed away Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at the University of Kansas Medical Center Campus, St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, KS. He was born in Tonganoxie, KS, the son of **George Marian** and **Goldie Zuella (Gano)**

Shrimplin. He attended Mound School as a child and spent his freshman year of high school at McLouth. His family moved from their farm outside Tonganoxie to Lawrence in 1943, and he graduated from Liberty Memorial High School in 1945. He then enlisted in the Navy in July 1945 and proudly served until August 1946 in the Pacific Theatre.

After his service Frank entered the University of Kansas and graduated in 1950 with a degree in Pharmacy. After his graduation he married **Edith Berniece Ice** on August 8, 1950, in Lawrence, KS. They moved to Junction City where he worked at Craft's Prescription Shop.

In 1954 they moved to Topeka where he worked as the Pharmacist-in-Charge at Stormont Vail Hospital.

Starting in April 1963 he began his life-long dream of owning and operating his own community pharmacy. He owned and operated Frank's Pharmacy in Valley Falls for 34 years. Frank's Pharmacy was a Rexall drug store with an old-fashioned ice cream fountain and also a pharmacy museum. After retiring as a pharmacist, he renamed the store Frank's Antiques and Fountain before completely retiring and closing his store in 2000. He had also owned and operated the Onaga Pharmacy in Onaga, KS, for about 6 years from 1971 to 1977.

Frank was a member of the Valley Falls United Methodist Church, Valley Falls Rotary Club, Valley Falls United Methodist Men, American Philatelic Society, Valley Falls Historical Society, Jefferson County Historical Society, and Jefferson County Genealogical Society. He was a charter member and past president of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society. He generously contributed his time and expertise to the Genealogy Library at Old Jefferson Town.

Frank was preceded in death by his wife, Edith, who died on January 16, 2015, after 64 years of marriage. He was also preceded in death by a sister, **Lillian L. O'Keefe**, and three brothers, **Howard**, **Willard**, and **Lloyd Donald Shrimplin**. Survivors include his children, **Thomas G. Shrimplin (Becky)** of Ottawa, KS; **Tina M. Brubaker (Corey)** of Lincoln, NE; and **Tamara A. Ferrell (Rick)** of Valley Falls, KS.; a brother **Leo A. Shrimplin** of Ottumwa, IA; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be given to the Valley Falls United Methodist Church, Valley Falls Historical Society, or the Jefferson County Historical and Genealogical Society c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

New on the Shelves at the Old Jefferson Town Genealogy Library

Volumes 3-6 of *Carolyn's String Book*. Over a period of at least eight years, **Carolyn Kaberline** (1948-2020), a longtime teacher at Perry-Leocompton High School, was a freelance reporter, or stringer, for various publications, including *The Valley Falls Vindicator*, *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, *The Leaven* (a Catholic Church publication), and *Better Horses* (Carolyn was a horsewoman among other things). Volume 3 (March 18, 2010-July 12, 2012), Volume 4 (July 15, 2012-March 16, 2014), Volume 5 (March 20, 2014-April 25, 2016) and Volume 6 (May 1, 2016-Sept. 4, 2018) are filled with well-written human interest stories, some with photographs, covering a wide array of subjects.

Thomas Lee, 1852-1937 by Tom Hotchkiss

Nortonville High School Alumni Records

Myers, Kemper, Roberts and Glidden Families by Lois

Roberts Atwood Rohan

Jefferson County Military Service: Honor Roll Memorial

Listing by Mary Luse

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall

Prairie Schooners West by Mildred Houghton Comfort

1957, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1971,

1972 Oskaloosa High School Yearbook

Oskaloosa Rural High School, Class of 1928 50th Reunion
booklet

Cowboys by Elaine Landau

A Pioneer Farm Girl: The Diary of Sarah Gillispie

Oskaloosa High School: The School Bulletin, 1968-1971

Granny and the Indians by Peggy Parish

Bess's Log Cabin Quilt by D. Anne Love

Caleb's Story by Patricia MacLachlan

Happy Birthday, Samantha by Valerie Tripp

Happy Birthday, Josephina by Valerie Tripp

Felicity Learns a Lesson by Valerie Tripp

The Land and People of Kansas by Edwin C. Moreland

John Steuart Curry: The Road Home by Alice Bertels

A Brief History of Fort Leavenworth, 1827-1983

High Wind for Kansas by Mary Calhoun

One-Way Ticket to Kansas: The Autobiography of Frank

M. Stahl by Margaret Whittemore

In Memory of Doc Henry

On Saturday, Oct. 25, 1919, 20-year-old **Robert Glenn Henry** stepped off the Kansas City and Northwestern train in Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas. The son of a dentist from Deepwater, Missouri, Glenn Henry had just graduated from Western Dental College in Kansas City. He had learned that Oskaloosa doctor **Marlin S. McCreight** was searching for a dentist for the town. The *Oskaloosa Independent* reported on Oct. 31, "Dr. Henry, dentist, from Missouri, came last Saturday and is getting his house in order in the office formerly occupied by **Dr. Henderson**. His engine and other apparatus, ordered six weeks ago in New York, has not yet arrived, which fact has delayed his opening for business."

The Northwestern Railroad ceased service to Oskaloosa four days after Dr. Henry's arrival. Dr. Henry had to have his equipment transferred to the Leavenworth & Topeka Railroad, and it was a considerable time arriving. To help Dr. Henry fill that gap, Perry newspaper editor **W.E. Cain**, a friend of the Henry family from Deepwater, helped him find a job performing the first school dental inspections in Jefferson County. Once his equipment arrived, Dr. Henry opened his practice near the Oskaloosa town square in a small frame building owned by Dr. McCreight.

While he was in dental school, Glenn Henry was a member of the Student Army Training Corps, a forerunner of R.O.T.C. As a civilian dentist, he continued to serve, offering free dental treatment to veterans. On March 11, 1921, the *Oskaloosa Independent* carried this story:

"Free Dental Service for Soldier Boys

Dr. R.G. Henry has received appointment from the government to render dental service to all ex-soldiers of Jefferson county who suffered any loss or decay of teeth while in the army service. This service is entirely free to the ex-service man, the government footing the bill, and doubtless many of the boys in this county will be glad to take advantage of the opportunity. Dr. Henry expects to put in an X-ray machine as soon as he can secure one adapted to his needs, as his appointment calls for that class of work."

The X-ray machine posed its own set of problems in a town only recently equipped with electric power. **Walter Moxley's** power and light and ice factory, managed by **William A. Payne**, was only a few blocks away from Dr. Henry's dental office, but the power was not entirely reliable. Dr. Henry had to use a foot-peddled engine for preparing fillings. He was the first dentist in Jefferson County to provide X-ray services.

Lack of city water also caused issues in the early days. Water had to be carried from Dr. McCreight's home, just south of the dental office. The water in the cuspidor had to be changed after each patient.

In the 1920s, it cost 50 cents for a tooth extraction. A cleaning cost one dollar. Fillings were one dollar and up. A gold crown cost \$7.50. Full dentures, Dr. Henry's specialty, cost \$30.

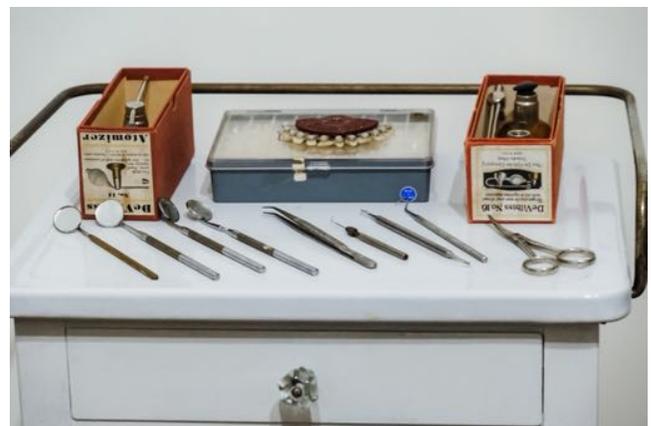


From the Oskaloosa Independent, Feb. 3, 1922

Evidence of dental work has been found in Neanderthal gravesites. As a profession, dentistry is one of the oldest known to humanity, dating back at least to 7000 B.C.E. in the Indus Valley. It took a few thousand years for scientists and physicians to disprove the early theory that "tooth worms" caused decay. Modern dentistry dates from the 1700s. Professional dental education is even more recent. Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, the first U.S. dental college, opened in 1840. Colgate began mass producing toothpaste in 1873. The first dental X-ray was used in 1896. Well into the 1900s, dentistry was practiced by barbers, whose work mostly involved pulling painful teeth.

When **Glenn Henry** graduated from Western Dental College in 1919, professional dental education in the United States was less than 80 years old. The American Dental Association had been around for almost 60 years. Western Dental College itself was just under 30 years old. Its first graduating class had produced nine new dentists. Dental students had to be high school graduates with at least 15 credits. Graduation required three terms of course work. Western Dental College merged with Kansas City Dental College in 1919.

A composite photo of Dr. Henry's graduating class hangs in the Tibbott Building in Old Jefferson Town. One instructor and two of the 74 graduates were women. The Tibbott also houses early dental chairs and equipment, as well as dental instruments and denture-making equipment that belonged to Dr. Henry.



Dr. Henry's family donated his denture-making supplies to Old Jefferson Town. Photo by Julie Blichmann.



A display of early dentistry equipment is on exhibit in the Tibbott Building at Old Jefferson Town. Photo by Julie Blichmann.

Dr. Henry was part of an informal “commercial club” of Oskaloosa business owners and professionals who gathered at McCreight’s drug store on the southwest corner of the Oskaloosa square about the time the evening papers arrived. They discussed current topics and ways to improve the town. Many of their ideas were put into action. Interviewed for the *Oskaloosa Independent* in 1955, Dr. Henry listed some of the members of the “forum:” **Amos Leech, Dr. McCreight**, lawyer **Horace Phinney, Dr. Smith**, *Independent* editor **F.H. Roberts**, power company manager **Bill Payne**, bankers **Bill and Alpha Huddleston**, and telephone exchange owner **Curt Patrick**. The “club” became an established feature on the square, locally known as the “Corner of Knowledge.”

In 1926, **Glenn Henry** married **Ailee May Decker**, granddaughter of Oskaloosa mayor **Mary Lowman**, who served with an all-woman city council in 1888-89. Ailee Henry assisted her husband in the dental office. She also had a distinguished career in Republican politics at the local and national levels. She was vice chair of the Jefferson County Republican Central Committee from 1945 to 1966 and later chair of the Jefferson County Central Committee. She was district director of the Women’s Republican Clubs from 1960 to 1962. She was vice chair of the Kansas Republican State Executive Committee from 1955 to 1965. She was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1960 and an alternate delegate in 1964. In 1970, she was appointed to the national advisory committee of the White House Conference on Aging. Glenn and Ailee Henry had one daughter, **Jane Ailee Henry Michener**.

During the 1940s, **Dr. Henry** was the only dentist in Jefferson County. In 1951, he bought the dental office from **Dr. McCreight** and remodeled the premises. He later acquired the McCreight house, which he rented out for many years before moving there in 1976.

Dr. Henry was an avid fisherman. In 1937, he and pharmacist **Walter Ratliff** founded the Oskaloosa Lake Club, an enterprise that first required creating a lake. A W.P.A. project, the dam took 15 months to build using horse-drawn earth movers. The lake was on the south side of Oskaloosa, visible from the intersection of Hwy 59 and K-16. It provided drinking water for Oskaloosa for many years. **Jane Henry** recalled spending afternoons, weekends and summers at her family's lot on the lake, fishing and frog hunting with her father. In 1998, the lake was filled in.

Another of Dr. Henry's hobbies was photography, especially filming birds. He often showed his film of wild birds at meetings of local organizations. He found time to participate in Rotary, Masons, Eastern Star, American Legion, and Kansas Farm Bureau, as well as teaching Sunday School at the Presbyterian church. His granddaughter, **Monica Michener Mueller**, donated a film he shot of the 1959 Old Settlers Reunion to Old Jefferson Town. It is online at this link: <https://www.jchsk.com/1959-old-settlers-day>



The Henrys bought a farm four miles west of Oskaloosa as a weekend and summer home. They loved it so much that they gave up their house in town and moved to the country. The couple collected antiques and souvenirs of Kansas frontier days. **Ailee Henry** made a point of purchasing at least one dish from local estate sales. After using their treasures to decorate their barn for a party, they decided to create a museum. In October 1963, the Old Frontier Museum opened with an invited list of 400 guests. Displays included hunting and farming tools, with a collection of barbed wire and bridle bits; household articles, including a wood-burning cook stove, a butter churn and a clothes wringer; as well as a notable collection of early medical and dentistry equipment. A school room with desks from the old Hickory Point School, a buffalo robe, an old walking plow, an organ and a player piano were also on exhibit. Nearly all the items came from Jefferson County. The Henrys said that they wanted their collection to demonstrate how hard early residents worked.

From the Topeka Daily Capital, Oct. 25, 1963

Dr. Henry semi-retired in 1972, limiting his work to making and fitting dentures. Ailee Henry died April 12, 1974. Dr. Henry sold the farm in 1976 and moved to the McCreight house south of the dental office. He donated many of the artifacts from the Old Frontier Museum to Old Jefferson Town. He fully retired in 1978, after 59 years of service to the county. Dr. Henry passed away Dec. 26, 1989, two days before his 91st birthday. **Jane Henry Michener** donated \$500 to the Oskaloosa Lake Club in his name. Her gift was used to purchase a new metal gate with a memorial plaque: "In Memory of Doc Henry." — Jane Hoskinson

Thanks to journalists Kathy Dickinson, Charles Spencer, Charla Jenkins, and Judith Taggart for their articles on Glenn and Ailee Henry. Thanks to Jane Henry Michener for her booklet, "Reflections of Oskaloosa Lake 1937-1996," donated to the JCHS Genealogy Library.



Dr. Robert Glenn Henry. Photo courtesy of Jefferson County Historical Society.

Dentistry on the Old Frontier

On August 1, 1860, the *Oskaloosa Independent* published an article recommending that dental patients clean their teeth with soap. The writer warned against using charcoal as a dentifrice and said, "I would have my patients use no kind of powder upon the teeth oftener than two or three times a month; then I would not have them use the brush, but take some finely-prepared chalk, and a stick of red cedar, orange or hickory — we should say soft white pine — and about three inches long, wedge-shaped, and from one-eighth to one-quarter inch wide; with this polish the enamel, being careful not to irritate the gums."

In the 1860s and '70s, dentists visited Jefferson County towns periodically, seeing local patients for a week or two, two or three times a year. **S.A. Marshall** of Leavenworth advertised in the *Grasshopper Falls Kansas Jeffersonian* in 1863-64. In 1871, **John M. Titcomb** visited Oskaloosa on the last Friday and Saturday of each month. In 1872, **G.L. Hare** of Leavenworth visited Oskaloosa one week each month. By 1873, Grasshopper Falls had its own dentist, **Thomas K. Aitken**, followed by **C.H. Gillman** in 1878, both of whom practiced in the area for many years. Dentist **W.H. Ridgway** of Lawrence visited Winchester regularly in 1877.

DR. ROBINSON, Dentist, of Leavenworth is now in town and has his office over Mr. Dick's Harness shop. As he will only remain a short time those requiring his services should call soon. Dr. R. intends giving us a public lecture on the care of the teeth, in the Methodist Church, on Saturday evening, at 7½ o'clock. All are invited.— Admittance free.

From the Oskaloosa Independent, Sept. 2, 1865



This traveling dentist's chair is on display in the Tibbott Building at Old Jefferson Town. Photo by Julie Blichmann.

It being an unusual occurrence, Dr. Gillman is enthusiastic over the arrival of a fine boy at his house. The young dentist called on his "Pa" about 2 o'clock Wednesday morning and was kindly received. The mother and boy are doing well but the father is "too utterly utter," to ever recover.

From the Valley Falls Register, Jan. 13, 1882

In 1873, the *Valley Falls New Era* relayed the surprising fact that Fort Scott had a lady dentist. In 1879, the *Oskaloosa Sickle* reported, "There are 450 women dentists in the United States, and 1,350 are studying dentistry." In 1880, the *Oskaloosa Independent* reported, "**Mrs. Lucy Taylor** of Lawrence, dentist, is said to be the first lady graduate in her profession in the country."

The Congress of German dentists have decided that sugar and tobacco are not injurious to the teeth.

From the Kansas Jeffersonian, Nov. 11, 1863

In 1881-82, **Frank Forman** of Leavenworth regularly practiced dentistry in the Winchester Hotel. Winchester also

boasted a veterinary dentist and horse tamer, **Lon Foote**, who specialized in extracting wolf teeth and molars and breaking and training horses. Dr. Gillman and his partner **A.W. Davis** visited Winchester regularly and opened a branch office in Oskaloosa. **James M. Coulter** opened an office in Valley Falls, and **C.K. Wenrich** practiced in Oskaloosa. In June 1883, the *Oskaloosa Independent* reported, "Dr. Wenrich has just put into his office an improved dentist's chair of most comfortable make with plated cuspadore attached. It will now be a positive pleasure to have teeth extracted. The Doctor tells us that hereafter he will be at McLouth on Monday of each week."

In February 1885, a new law required all practicing dentists in Kansas to be graduates of reputable dental colleges. In November 1885, the *Oskaloosa Independent* reported the arrival of a new dentist, **W.C. Howe**, who also visited Winchester and Perry. **W.E. Jacques** went into practice in Oskaloosa in 1887.

In August 1885, the *Nortonville News* reported: “**G.L. Stone**, a dentist, of St. Joe, Missouri, is here for the purpose of permanently locating. He is using the Muriate of Cocain for the relief of pain.” “Stone, the dentist, uses the continuous current of electricity to prevent pain in extracting teeth.” Dr. Stone also visited Winchester six days a month. In 1891, Nortonville enticed **C.B. Crandall** of Brookfield, New York, to relocate there. In 1898, Crandall was elected to the Nortonville city council.



From the *Valley Falls New Era*, Mar. 15, 1890

In September 1889, the *Valley Falls Register* reported that **Will Aitken**, son of dentist **Thomas Aitken**, had gone to Kansas City to enter dental school. His grandfather, **William Knox Aitken**, a dentist from Haddington, Scotland, came to America in 1856. The elder Aitken returned to Scotland, but his son and grandson continued the family profession in Jefferson County.

Abram Thomson of Oskaloosa advertised in the *McLouth Times* in 1893, “I wish to call the attention of the people of McLouth and neighborhood to my standing card of appointments here. I will be here three days of each month as sure as I am well, even though I should have to walk. At the McLouth House I have a good chair, a pleasant parlor and one in which no one need have any timidity about their entrance. My prices are not those of a ‘bum’ dentist, but those of any reputable dentist that expects to do work for you again, so do not come to me expecting to get teeth extracted for ten cents each or three for a quarter. I am yours to please. Abram Thomson, Dentist.” Thomson married **Vertie Martin** of Perry in May 1894. She died a year later, ten days after giving birth. Dr. Thomson moved to Kansas City to attend medical

school in September 1895. His replacement, **D.H. Hornor** of Lawrence, began his practice in Oskaloosa in September 1895. In December, the *Oskaloosa Independent* reported, “Dentist Hornor’s vulcanizer blew off and the gasoline was set on fire, in his room in Union block, Monday, causing an alarm of fire to be made. A bucket or two of water, however, put out the flames before the fire engine got fairly started, and no material damage was done, tho’ the walls were somewhat blackened with smoke. The explosion startled the occupants of the entire floor, who thought the walls were going to tumble in on them.” In 1899, Dr. Hornor took up medical practice and sold his dental office to **Dr. Marlin McCreight**, who rented it to dentist **F.B. Henderson**. Dr. Hornor’s wife, **Dolly**, also a dentist, had a practice in McLouth.

A PROMINENT Kansas dentist is of the opinion that hypnotism will ere long take an important place in dental practice. Claims made by professors of the art would certainly seem to justify the Kansas gentleman’s belief.

From the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Sept. 15, 1894

In January 1895, **Emma Schroeder** of Chicago, advertised as a “noted painless dentist,” visited Meriden and Oskaloosa. She was known for extracting teeth without pain and without cocaine, but the *Oskaloosa Independent* said that she “didn’t do much business (altho’ a very nice appearing lady) because we have a painless dentist resident with us.” Another painless lady dentist, “**Mrs. Dr. Albert Oberlin**,” visited Meriden and Winchester in January 1895. She was later arrested in southern Kansas for “poisoning people with ‘Oberlene,’ her preparation for deadening pain,” according to the *Meriden Tribune*. She made a “compromise” plea and was released.

Osawatomie John Brown’s grandson has gone to Klondyke in search of gold. He is a dentist and knows a great deal more about gold filling than gold digging.

From the *Meriden Ledger*, Aug. 7, 1897

Winchester acquired its own resident dentist, **H.C. Heady** of Kansas City in 1895. McLouth attracted **M. Chamberlain** and **L.M. Breck** to practice dentistry in the McLouth House. **S.W. Lyman** joined **C.H. Gillman**’s practice in Valley Falls in 1895.

In April 1898, the *Oskaloosa Independent* announced, “Perry people are to have their teeth investigated, excavated and extirpated by a young lady dentist.” The *Perry Mirror* carried her ad: “**Dr. Madge L. Schaum**,

Dentist, graduate of the Northwestern Dental College, of Chicago. Office at the residence of **A.S. Diggs**.” **Dr. A. Frank Kerns**, dentist, also advertised in the *Mirror*.

In 1899, **Dr. Watkins** of Tonganoxie, dentist and optician, made regular visits to McLouth to practice both professions. In 1900, **Abram Thomson**, now a medical doctor as well as a dentist, opened an office in Winchester. **Frank B. Henderson** continued his practice in Oskaloosa until 1919, when his replacement, **Dr. R.G. Henry** arrived.

— Jane Hoskinson



1973: Fifty years later, sages still gathered on the “Corner of Knowledge” in Oskaloosa. Dr. R.G. Henry is on the far right. Photo donated to JCHS by Monica Mueller.

Sources for “In Memory of Doc Henry” and “Dentistry on the Old Frontier”

https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Health_Professions_Advisors/History_of_Dentistry.aspx

<https://www.lostcolleges.com/355-western-dental-college>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dentistry>

Jefferson County Tribune, Oskaloosa, Kansas, Oct. 31, 1919; Dec. 26, 1919

Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Missouri, Nov. 3, 1963

Kansas Jeffersonian, Grasshopper Falls, Kansas, Oct. 21, 1863; Nov. 11, 1863

Kaw Valley Chief, Perry, Kansas, Mar. 11, 1881; Sept. 30, 1881

McLouth Times, McLouth, Kansas, Oct. 16, 1891; Apr. 7, 1893; Sept. 22, 1899; Dec. 22, 1899

Meriden Ledger, Meriden, Kansas, Oct. 20, 1899

Meriden Tribune, Meriden, Kansas, Jan. 18, 1895; May 10, 1895

Michener, Jane Ailee Henry, “Reflections of Oskaloosa Lake 1937-1996”

Nortonville News, Nortonville, Kansas, Jul. 31, 1885; Aug. 7, 1885; Aug. 28, 1885; Apr. 3, 1891; Apr. 8, 1898

Oskaloosa Independent, Oskaloosa, Kansas, Aug. 1, 1860; Aug. 26, 1865; Sept. 2, 1865; Jan. 4, 1868; Jul. 25, 1868; Dec. 18, 1869; May 4, 1872; Oct. 16, 1880; Jun. 16, 1883; Sept. 6, 1884; Nov. 21, 1885; Dec. 3, 1887; Mar. 31, 1888; Sept. 15, 1894; Feb. 2, 1895; May 25, 1895; Aug. 10, 1895; Sept. 7, 1895; Dec. 14, 1895; Jul. 30, 1897; Apr. 22, 1898; Oct. 13, 1899; Dec. 8, 1899; Jul. 11, 1919; Oct. 31, 1919; Mar. 11, 1921; Nov. 10, 1955; Oct. 5, 1978

Oskaloosa Sickle, Oskaloosa, Kansas, Sept. 6, 1879; Jan. 21, 1882; May 6, 1882; Aug. 5, 1882; Mar. 8, 1884; Jun. 27, 1884; Jan. 29, 1886; Jul. 30, 1886

Oskaloosa Times, Oskaloosa, Kansas, May 18, 1894; Jan. 18, 1895

Perry Mirror, Perry, Kansas, Apr. 22, 1898; Jun. 30, 1898; Nov. 2, 1899

Topeka Capital Journal, Topeka, Kansas, Apr. 12, 1974; Dec. 27, 1989

Topeka Daily Capital, Topeka, Kansas, Oct. 25, 1963

Valley Falls New Era, Valley Falls, Kansas, Nov. 8, 1879; Apr. 10, 1880; Jan. 17, 1884

Valley Falls Register, Valley Falls, Kansas, Sept. 27, 1889

Winchester Argus, Winchester, Kansas, Oct. 18, 1877; Dec. 6, 1877; Mar. 28, 1878; Jan. 22, 1881; Jun. 25, 1881; Nov. 19, 1881; Jul. 8, 1882; Dec. 29, 1883; Feb. 2, 1884

Winchester Star, Winchester, Kansas, Mar. 15, 1895; Apr. 20, 1900

Ruth Payne Becomes An Air Pilot

From the Oskaloosa Independent, June 14, 1945

Miss **Ruth Payne**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Payne**, Oskaloosa, was a few days ago granted a civilian air pilot's license, after completing a 35-hour course at the flying school in Lawrence and successfully passing the required examination. She thus became Oskaloosa's first licensed girl flyer.

Miss Payne had several hours of flying beyond the minimum requirement of her 35; her thirteen hours of solo flying included a trip over Oskaloosa; also flights to Topeka and to Kansas City with a landing at each city. Her final examination included C A requirements, navigation, meteorology, general service of aircraft. In each of these subjects she made good scores with an enviable average of 92%.

Miss Payne is completing her sophomore year in college of liberal arts at University of Kansas. She is a member of Delta Gamma.

Editor's Note: **Ruth Ellen Payne** married **Donald Frank Butler** in 1953. They lived in Kansas City, Missouri. **William A. "Bill" Payne**, long-time Kansas Power and Light employee and manager of **Walter Moxley's** power and light and ice company, is mentioned above, in the article "In Memory of Doc Henry."



Oops, They Got the Cart Before the Horse

An item from the May 9, 1947, issue of the *Meriden Advocate*. (Contributed by Rick Nichols)

Jefferson County Cart And Saddle Club Is Launched

On suggestion of **Russell Klotz**, county farm agent, and some of the horse enthusiasts of the county, of whom Russell admits being one, got together and formed the "Jefferson County Cart and Saddle Club."

Homer Trapp was elected president, **Don Parker**, vice-president, **Joel Dobbs**, secretary-treasurer and reporter.

Purpose of the club is to promote good horsemanship, and the aim is to be furthered by means of fairs, shows, parades and social activities. The first horse show will be in June, in which there will be sufficient classes to permit entries of most any sort — such as pulling contests, etc. Boys and girls under 16 may enter.

The second meeting will be May 14, 8 o'clock at the farm bureau office, Oskaloosa. Everybody, including women, girls and boys are invited to join the club.

The Hair of Virgie Davis



“Virgie Davis, sister of B.P. Davis.” Courtesy of Jefferson County Historical Society.

From the Oskaloosa Independent, Dec. 23, 1898 (Contributed by Leanne Chapman)

The noted Sunderland sisters with their wonderful heads of hair have a rival at Oskaloosa in the person of Miss **Virgie Davis**. This young lady is about 5 feet, 3 inches in height, we judge, and when standing erect her luxuriant brown hair reaches to the floor and trails about two feet behind her. Miss Davis thinks her hair more of a burden than a matter of pride, but cutting it back only causes it to grow longer than ever. Mr. Foster took several views of this remarkable hair a few days ago from which large photographs were to be made.

Editor's Note:

Virginia Jacquemin Davis married **William A. Pennington**. They had two daughters, **Elizabeth** (1908-1916) and **Ada** (1906-2003). They lived in Roundup, Montana. Virgie and William died in a house fire in 1925.

Officious Street

From the Jefferson County Tribune, June 4, 1915 (Contributed by Leanne Chapman)

Chas. Buck says he lives on the most “influential” street in town. Two preachers, the postmaster, the county superintendent and the District Judge all reside on this thoroughfare. He is thinking of petitioning the city council to have the name changed from “Cherokee” to “Officious” street.

United States Census of Agricultural Products, Crops of 1899

Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Information about the Twelfth Census.

Furnished from the Director's Office.

The twelfth United States census of agricultural products will be taken on June 1, 1900, but it will be of the crops of the calendar year 1899 only, and of the animals, fowls and bees on hand June 1, 1900. The law requires the census enumerators to take the (1) acreage, (2) tenure and (3) value of every farm; (4) color of the farmer; (5) value of the buildings and permanent improvements; (6) value of implements, machinery, vehicles, sleighs, and harness; (7) acreage of irrigated, (8) tile-drained, (9) improved, (10) unimproved and abandoned, (11) owned and (12) leased lands; (13) cost of hired farm labor (exclusive of household service) and of (14) fertilizers; acreage, quantity and value of all (15) grain, (16) hay, (17) forage, (18) vegetables, (19) small, (20) tropic and (21) orchard fruit; (22) seed, (23) cotton, (24) rice, (25) hops, (26) hemp, (27) sugar-cane, (28) sugar-beets, (29) sorghum, (30) broom-corn, (31) flax and (32) nut-crops; (33) nursery and (34) greenhouse stock and (35) area of crops under glass; (36) flowers and flowering and foliage plants, and (37) medicinal and (38) aromatic herbs and plants. Also the quantity and value of (39) milk, (40) cream, (41) butter, (42) cheese, (43) honey, (44) wax, (45) eggs, (46) wool, (47) mohair, (48) cider, (49) vinegar, (50) wine, (51) raisins, (52) prunes, (53) dried or evaporated fruits; (54) dried or evaporated vegetables: (55) maple, (56) cane and (57) beet sugar: (58) molasses and (59) sorghum; (60) poultry, (61) forest, (62) meat and (63) miscellaneous products; besides the numbers and values of all (71) swine, (72) swarms of bees and (73) fowls on hand June 1, 1900, and the (74) total income from the farm during 1899. A "farm," for census purposes, is all the land cultivated under one ownership or management, whether in a single body or separate parcels. The farm schedule will provide for taking (75) the number of pure-blooded animals by breed, and (76) "cows kept for milk" and (77) "cows not kept for milk," separately. It will also gather statistics of (78) home-made, while the manufactures schedule will gather statistics of (79) factory-made cheese and butter, thus separating the two. All crops, animals and products raised, no matter how disposed of, and, generally speaking, all farm, crop and live-stock values, will be taken and classified in such a way as to give, North and South, East and West, regardless of conditions, seasons, or customs, a reasonably full and fair exhibit of the productive strength of the nation, if the farmers shall furnish to the enumerators the information necessary to do so. Of course, statistics relating to age, nationality, sex, conjugal relation, education, school attendance, citizenship, profession or trade, birthplace, birth and death ratios, etc., etc., of all classes, will be taken by the divisions of population and vital statistics on separate schedules.

Jefferson County Crop and Livestock Statistics, 1899

Winter Wheat	13,850 acres		180,050 bushels	\$104,429 value		
Corn	134,093 acres	119,840 est. acres	3,235,680 bushels	\$873,633.60 value		
Oats	13,952 acres		306,944 bushels	\$61,388.80 value		
Rye	389 acres		4,668 bushels	\$1,867.20 value		
Barley	18 acres		360 bushels	\$144 value		
Buckwheat	44 acres		440 bushels	\$286 value		
Irish Potatoes	2,941 acres		235,280 bushels	\$63,525.60 value		
Sweet Potatoes	13 acres		1,222 bushels	\$611 value		
Flax	4,163 acres		29,141 bushels	\$26,226.90 value		
Tobacco	1 acre		250 bushels	\$25 value		
Broom Corn	109 acres		54,500 bushels	\$1,771.25 value		
Millet and Hungarian	4,597 acres		9,194 bushels	\$32,179 value		
Sorghum	441 acres for sugar or syrup		50,715 gallons	\$16,228.80 value		
Sorghum	1,765 acres for forage			\$10,590 value		
Kafir-Corn	1,558 acres		6,232 tons	\$15,580 value		
Tame Grasses — Acres:						
22,363 Timothy	14,064 Clover	13,223 Bluegrass	397 Alfalfa	42 Orchard Grass	277 Other	
Tame Hay	17,389 acres			\$73,903.25 value		
Prairie Grass	27,215 acres under fence		14,244 tons cut	\$42,732 value		
Corn on Hand	653,169 bushels					
Wheat on Hand	14,598 bushels					

Livestock Statistics

Horses	9,795	\$372,210 value
Mules and Asses	1,259	\$61,691 value
Milch Cows	10,505	\$325,655 value
Other Cattle	21,803	\$632,287 value
Sheep	611	\$1,986 value
Swine	38,548	\$221,651 value

Livestock died of disease:

Horses	Mules and Asses	Milch Cows	Other Cattle	Sheep	Swine
117	20	140	387	5	4,576

Sheep killed by Wolves 2

Number of Dogs 2,535

Products of Livestock

Animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter	867,448
Poultry and eggs	64,461
Wool Clip	3,337 pounds \$500.55 value

Dairy Products

Cheese	106,409 pounds	\$9,576.81 value
Butter	649,733 pounds	\$94,439.05 value
Milk sold other than for butter or cheese		\$19,668 value

Garden, Horticultural Products and Wood Marketed

Garden Products	\$3,241 value
Horticultural Products	\$9,867 value
Wood Marketed	\$5,676 value

Orchards

Trees in Bearing

146,322 Apple 4,333 Pear 49,440 Peach 5,762 Plum 14,855 Cherry

Trees not Bearing

103,152 Apple 8,976 Pear 32,102 Peach 3,899 Plum 5,321 Cherry

Nurseries and Small Fruits

Nurseries 81 acres Blackberries 28 acres Raspberries 35 acres Strawberries 36 acres

Vineyards 87 acres 469 gallons of wine \$351.75 value**Apiculture**

Stands of Bees	1,069
Honey	9,640 pounds \$1,466 value
Wax	24 pounds \$480 value

Artificial Forest – trees one year and older

Walnut	Maple	Honey Locust	Cottonwood	Other Varieties
60 acres	100 acres	0 acres	5 acres	1,543 acres

Population Statistics, March 1, 1899

Kansas Total Population 1,425,119

Jefferson County Population 17,365

Population of Cities of Kansas Having 1,000 Inhabitants and Upwards

Valley Falls: 1,125 Oskaloosa: 1,034

Remembering the “little brown stucco country church”

By Rick Nichols

The Stairway to Heaven, as it were, is all that remains of the second and final Thompsonville Methodist Episcopal Church, which was dedicated 100 years ago.

The following one-paragraph item appeared in the Sept. 3, 1992, issue of the *Oskaloosa Independent* under the heading “From the past ... 70 years ago”:

Thompsonville has the new Methodist church under way. It will be 26 x 30 with side room 16 x 20 and tower entrance in the corner and full basement. Building will be of hollow tile stuccoed. Windows Florentine glass, Delco lighting system. Estimated cost \$4,000 beside free labor. Plans and specifications were furnished free by the Rural Agricultural Department of Agriculture College, Manhattan. This is to be a model Rural Church building. The old building was destroyed by fire Dec. 8, caused by the explosion of the gasoline plant at the time of the revival meetings. The meetings were continued in the school building across the street and resulted in 21 accessions to the church.

Additional details, including a higher estimated cost, were supplied in the following story from the Aug. 22, 1922, issue of the *McLouth Times*:

The new Thompsonville Methodist Episcopal Church, this county, is nearing completion and will be dedicated Sunday, September 3. The church takes the place of the one burned down last December.

The dedication services will last all day, with a basket dinner at midday. The speakers are **Rev. C.B. Zook, Rev. Edmund J. Kulp, and Rev. Lyman D. Pruitt**. In the afternoon, the visiting ministers will be introduced, as well as former pastors. Special music will be furnished by the Thompsonville choir. The committee on dedication consists of **Elmer L. Brown, J. Fred True, and the pastor, the Rev. Milton M. Thorne**.

The Thompsonville church is one of the best in the county, if not the state. It is built of hollow tile and stucco. In addition to the auditorium, it has a Sunday school room to the west, which can be thrown open and made a part of the auditorium, giving an ample meeting capacity. On the lower floor, there is a community room, with kitchen annex. The church is heated by furnace and illuminated by electricity. The interior woodwork is fumed oak. The total cost of the building and improvements of grounds will be in the neighborhood of \$10,000. About \$2,500 worth of labor of all kinds has been donated to date.

The board of trustees, which has done a monumental work in erecting this fine structure consists of **A.F. Myers, chairman, Elmer L. Brown, Nelson Brown, Gaylord Kunkel, Charles Hoffman, Harry A. Plough, Clarence H. Thompson, J. Fred True, and John Yost**.

The *Independent* takes this occasion to congratulate the good people of Thompsonville on their fine achievement. We know something of their work in years past, and are pleased to note that the disastrous fire last winter, which for a few hours stunned them, was but the means of stirring them to greater and more glorious activity. The church ministers to a large rural section, and not to have rebuilt would have been a distinct loss to one of the finest sections of the county. We hope to be at the dedication. *From the Independent*.

A report covering the dedication, approximately half of which follows, was published in the Sept. 7, 1922, issue of the *Perry Mirror*. Here is the first part of that report:

The Thompsonville Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated last Sunday. A fine rain early Sunday morning ended the six-weeks drouth settling the dust and making the day an ideal one.

From the piano prelude, played by **Miss Sarah Shower**, opening the first service at 10:30 o'clock, until 10:30 at night, there was something doing every minute of the time. The dedicatory service was held in the afternoon, with **Dr. E.J. Kulp** delivering the sermon. Following the discourse it was announced that there yet remained about \$2,500 to be raised to free the building of debt. The amount was raised in about 30 minutes. The *Mirror* published the program in full last week, and it was carried out as announced. In this issue, therefore, we will content ourselves with giving comments on the various features of the day.

The music was the best that has been heard in this end of the county for a long time. A double quartet, consisting of **Miss Georgia Hoffman and Miss Mildred Dillon**, sopranos; **Miss Genevieve Hurley and Mrs. Gaylord Kunkel**, altos; **W.E. Cain and C.H. Thompson**, tenors; **E.L. Brown and W.C. Hoffman**, bass, rendered several beautiful anthems. The soloists were Miss Dillon, Miss Hoffman, **Mrs. E.G. Brown** and **Therem French** of Topeka. Miss Sarah Shower presided at the piano in her usual proficient manner.

The former pastors present were the **Revs. John R. Madison** and **L.B. Pruitt**. Dr. Madison began and finished his ministry on the Thompsonville charge. When he took up the work, in 1869, his parish was practically all of Jefferson county. His speech Sunday afternoon was full of reminiscences showing the hardships that the preachers of saddlebag days had to endure. Although past 80, Dr. Madison's step is light and he looks considerably younger. He was accompanied by **Mrs. Madison**. Rev. Mr. Pruitt, who served the church almost five years, preached at night, to the delight of all. Letters of greetings were received from the **Revs. Frank S. Ditto** of Arcadia, Kansas, and **M.W. Whitlow** of Salem, Wis., former pastor.

The ushers were young women of whom **Miss Florence True** was in charge. They acquitted themselves well. The corps of ushers consisted of the following: **Minnie Hemme, Belle Frandle, Ruby Skidmore, Elsie Myers** and **Eula Yost**.

Mrs. D.A. Shutt, widow of a former pastor, was present. When pledges were taken, she gave \$57.00, \$1.00 for every year her husband had served in the ministry of the church. Many comments were heard on the graciousness of this kindly act.

The **Rev. C.B. Zook**, district superintendent, was present, preaching in the morning. The cooperation which Dr. Zook has so kindly rendered ever since the old church burned was always encouraging to the board of trustees and enabled them to surmount many obstacles. He gave expression many times Sunday of the fine way in which the Thompsonville folk acquitted themselves.

While the bulk of the money for the building of the church was subscribed by the Thompsonville community and people who own property there, many fine subscriptions were received from Perry and Oak Grove folk, showing the spirit of harmony and good will that prevails among the three churches on the charge. This spirit was further demonstrated when greetings were brought by **Arthur Hamm** and **M.L. Taylor** from Oak Grove and Perry respectively, during the evening service.

Aside from the preachers already named, the following were present and participated in the program: The **Rev. H.F. Clark**, pastor of the Williamstown Baptist Church; **Rev. C.W. Marlin**, pastor of the Oakland Methodist Church, and the **Rev. W.T. Pyles**, pastor of the Grantville Methodist Church.

The closing of the church just 38 years later was mentioned in a July 28, 1960, column in the Topeka paper by **Zula Bennington Greene**, who wrote under the name "Peggy of the Flint Hills." She said, "the coming Delaware Dam" was responsible for the shuttering of the building, but someone with a pen once scribbled on the clipping of her column that can be found in the files at Old Jefferson Town that the church closed because some members wanted to go to the Methodist church in Perry instead. In any event, Greene's column ended with a note she had received from a 45-year member of the church, **Lucile Brittain Frandle**. Frandle shared these words with the popular columnist: "This little brown stucco country church, reclining against a hill of hawthorne and banked with madonna lilies, wore her patient heart out and passed into the paths of memories."

Cook — Butler Wedding

From the Oskaloosa Independent, June 21, 1907

A quiet but most beautiful wedding occurred at the home of T.V. Wilson of Oskaloosa June 16 at 8 o'clock a.m., when **Mr. Miles Cook** of Kansas City, Mo., and **Miss Jessie Butler** of Lawrence, Kas., were united in marriage by **Rev. J.P. Landon** of Dunavant.

The room was decorated with evergreens and white and pink roses and the couple stood beneath an arch made of the evergreen and roses.

After the ceremony a very nice two-course breakfast was served.

The bride looked very beautiful, dressed in pure white and carried a bouquet of carnations and white roses tied with a bow of white ribbon. She is a refined young lady and owing to her unselfish disposition she makes friends wherever she goes. She spent several years of her youth near Oskaloosa, where she has many friends also. The groom is an honorable young man employed by the Smith-McCord-Townsend Dry Goods Co. of Kansas City, Mo. He was formerly of Ottawa.

One noticeable feature of the occasion was that the ceremony was performed in the same room where the bride was born. Their many friends wish them success and happiness through many years of married life.

The Absent-Minded Mind Reader: Max Carnaveaux on Tour, 1902

*From the Jefferson County Tribune,
Nov. 21, 1902*

MIND-READING WONDER

Prof. Carnaveaux Exhibits in Various Kansas Towns.

Prof. Max Carnaveaux the French mind-reader is giving his wonderful and amusing exhibitions of mind-reading and hypnotism in various Kansas towns.

Last Friday and Saturday nights he was at Oskaloosa.

Following are some of the feats performed by Carnaveaux:

A post-office key is hidden

somewhere in a town and he drives blindfolded to the place and finds the key, unlocks the post-office lock and delivers the mail to the proper person. The horses are driven on a fast run and objects in the way are avoided just as though the driver could see. A committee of citizens ride with him and at the beginning of the drive a wire connects his temple with the wrists of members of the party but later these are removed.

At the entertainments in the opera house he readily finds small articles hidden anywhere in the building.

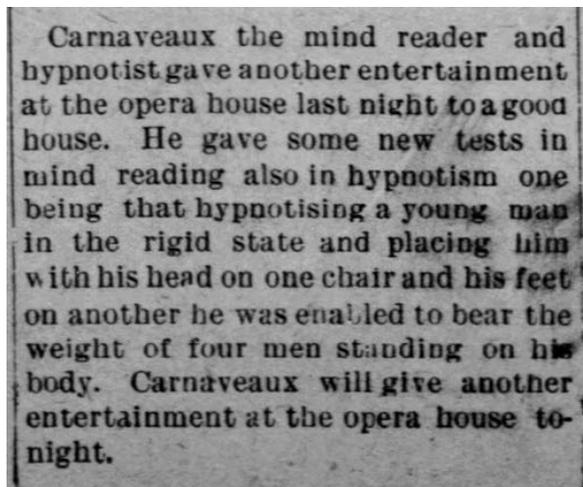
A pin may be borrowed, stuck into the wall and given to another person. The professor takes his subject by the hand, finds the pin, reinserts it in the hole in the wall and returns it to its owner. A book may be opened and a page and word thought of. He finds the page and word blindfolded. Four rings are borrowed from four different persons. He returns the rings without personal contact with his subject. This is the best and most wonderful test given.

In his hypnotic exhibitions Prof. Carnaveaux is a whole carnival.

His subjects are made to believe they are performing all sorts of feats, catching dollars from the skies, fighting bees, shoeing mules, fighting like cats, swimming, riding in a balloon and in fact anything their master wishes. He can convince his subjects that they are freezing cold, burning up with heat, stricken with grief or singing with delight, all within five minutes by simply telling them so.

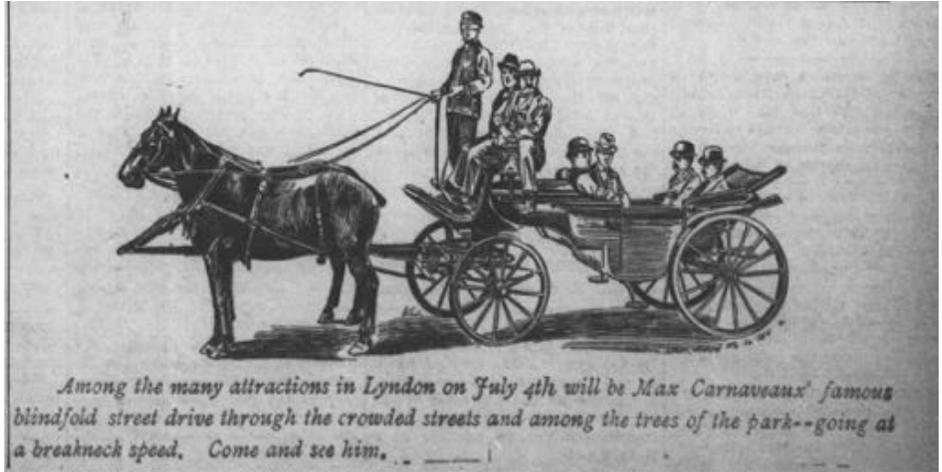
THEORY OF MIND READING.

It is claimed that one mind may be caused to act in unison with another much the same as notes on a piano vibrate in accord with the same notes as they are sounded on another instrument. If the mind-reader is involuntarily led to the hidden object by his subject how could he read a word from a book, unlock a vault or restore articles to their owners without personal contact with anyone?



Carnaveaux the mind reader and hypnotist gave another entertainment at the opera house last night to a good house. He gave some new tests in mind reading also in hypnotism one being that hypnotising a young man in the rigid state and placing him with his head on one chair and his feet on another he was enabled to bear the weight of four men standing on his body. Carnaveaux will give another entertainment at the opera house tonight.

From the Jefferson County Tribune, Nov. 28, 1902



From the People's Herald, Quenemo, Kansas, June 26, 1902

THEORY OF HYPNOTISM.

Mind has positive and negative attributes as electricity has — in fact it is thought that mind is, or is based on, one form of electricity, animal magnetism. If this is the case it is as easy to place the minds of individuals in correlation as it is to connect two bodies of water which appear to be separate.

By the co-operation of the hypnotist and his subject the one mind becomes as positive and aggressive as possible while the other lapses into a negative, passive condition. Then the one can command and the other must obey. Hypnotism is not only real but very common and is used in every sermon, lecture, business transaction, conversation, quarrel, love-making — in fact is manifest with every activity of the mind.

Max Carnaveaux Visits Winchester . . .

From the Winchester Star, Nov. 6, 1902

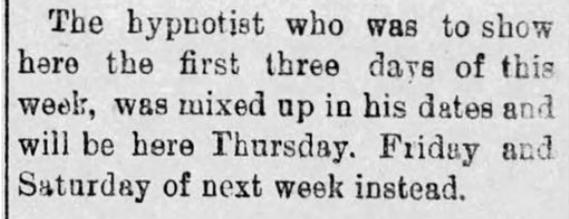
M. Carnaveaux the celebrated Hypnotist and Mind-reader will be at the Opera House three nights, 10-11-12. On Monday night he will drive blindfolded through the streets and recover a key which has been secretly hidden by a committee of our business men. This is a wonderful feat. Don't miss seeing it.

Winchester does not often have the opportunity of seeing such a wonderful performer as Carnaveaux. He will be at the Opera House next week. November 10-11-12.

We beg to state to the people that M. Carnaveaux the hypnotist and mind-reader is not a "fake," but a wonderful performer. He has the highest of recommendations. Do not fail to see him. November 10-11-12.

From the Winchester Star, Nov. 27, 1902

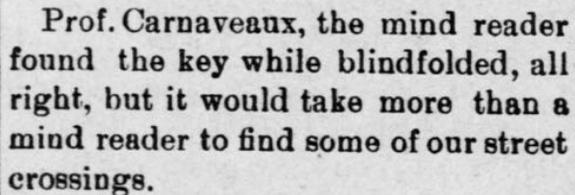
The entertainments given here last Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights by M. Carnaveaux, the hypnotist and mind-reader, pleased the people and the last night the house was packed. He proved to those who were skeptical on these subjects that he knew his business. The first feature advertised to take place was the blind fold street drive. In company with **Drs. C.F. Martin and French** and **Messrs. Cole and Colman** he drove through the streets in a dead run, blind fold, cutting between teams and wagons as well as anyone could with their eyes open, found the key to a lock box in the postoffice, went to the office and unlocked the box, took therefrom a letter with no address on the outside and delivered it to the person to whom it was written. His entertainments get better night after night and he does just as he advertises.



The hypnotist who was to show here the first three days of this week, was mixed up in his dates and will be here Thursday, Friday and Saturday of next week instead.

From the Winchester Star, Nov. 13, 1902

. . . And Valley Falls



Prof. Carnaveaux, the mind reader found the key while blindfolded, all right, but it would take more than a mind reader to find some of our street crossings.

From the Valley Falls New Era, Nov. 22, 1902

Editor's Note: Max Carnaveaux (George E. Suter) was born in Fairmont, Minnesota, on Jan. 25, 1873. He settled in Burlingame, Kansas, in 1900. He married Lula Leonard in 1901. In Burlingame, he operated a dry goods store and later became an undertaker. He served as captain of the local militia company. The Osage County Chronicle called him "an entertainer in the hypnotic art . . . known all over this part of the country." He died on Aug. 4, 1918, in Topeka, Kansas, and is buried in Burlingame.

Rock Creek High School Recalled

By Rick Nichols

The last diploma awarded to a Rock Creek High School student was handed out 75 years ago in the Spring of 1947. It went to **Lorena Bell Clark**, the future **Mrs. Norman Harrison**.

According to information on file at Old Jefferson Town, Lorena, who died in Arkansas in 2017 at the age of 87, was one of only five students who were enrolled at RCHS, a Class C high school, for the 1946-1947 school year. Her class joined the Class of 1945 in being a one-graduate class, and that class, which consisted solely of **Erma (Pence) Nyberg**, came along just two years after RCHS's biggest class ever, the 10-member Class of 1943.

The second-largest class at RCHS was the Class of 1933, which was made up of nine boys and girls.

There were seven graduates on two occasions, 1924 and 1925, and four different years, 1931, 1935, 1941 and 1946, each saw six students leave with a diploma in hand.

But there were no graduates in 1926, and perhaps that was the case in 1921 as well. A listing of graduates compiled for the RCHS reunion of 2012 put **William Hulbert Allen** with the Class of 1920, but it was suggested then that William may have actually graduated in 1921, another year for which no graduates were listed. This listing indicated that RCHS had 123 graduates overall from 1916 to 1947, but **Elizabeth Trimble's** listing for District 19, which was combined with District 94 in 1912, gives the total as being 130.

RCHS produced its first graduates four years after the Rock Creek School, a two-story structure the result of masonry construction, was built. That first class comprised five students, including **Helen Cook**, the future **Mrs. Ernest Hurley**.

The 1933 Oskaloosa High School Basketball Banquet



PROGRAM

Mr. S. U. Case, Presiding

Mr. J. W. Roberts

Bill Leech

Music----Instrumental Quartette

Nellie Mae Smurr

Mr. Arlan Wilkinson

Miss Gladys Campbell

Music----Boys' Quartette

Mr. Don Allen

High School Songs

PLAYERS

BOYS

Norman Finley

Archie Hannah Leslie Lyons Bill Leech

Max Mountain Willard Rogers Dick Sharon

Frank Ehlers

GIRLS

Nellie Mae Smurr

Marie Stevens Imogene Lobb

Violet Thompson Martha Brown Ellen Allen

Arlone Allen Anna Phillips

Olinde Ahrens

Jeannette Leech

MENU

Spanish Chicken

Candied Sweet Potatoes Creamed Peas

Rolls Butter Preserves

Jelly Salad

Cake Whipped Cream Sauce

Coffee

Mints

1933 Oskaloosa High School Basketball Banquet program.
(Contributed by Liz Leech.)

Jerry Robertson, Major League Pitcher from Winchester

If you've ever wondered how Jerry Robertson Field at the Lake Shawnee Sports Complex in Topeka got its name, look no farther than rural Jefferson County.

Gerald Lee "Jerry" Robertson was born Oct. 13, 1943, on the family farm near Winchester. The only child of **Mildred Hiebsch Robertson** and **Hullet Woodrow "Bus" Robertson**, Jerry grew up playing sports. He lettered in football, basketball and track at Winchester High School. Baseball was not offered as a varsity sport at Winchester, so Robertson spent his summers pitching for an American Legion team in Leavenworth.

After high school, Robertson was recruited to play baseball for Washburn University. Instead of a scholarship, the coach got him a job at the Topeka YMCA. He played for Washburn for four years, earning Honorable Mention NAIA All-Star team honors. After graduating in 1965, Robertson was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals as a Class A relief pitcher.

In 1968, Robertson was drafted by the Montreal Expos. In 1969, he was a starting pitcher for the Expos, winning five major league games, including one against the St. Louis Cardinals. He was traded to the Detroit Tigers in 1970. His last year of professional baseball was 1971. During the off seasons, Robertson had continued to work for the Topeka YMCA. In 1972, he was named assistant executive director, and later executive director, of the YMCA. In 1982, he was inducted into the Washburn Athletic Hall of Fame. He served as Washburn's athletic director from 1982 to 1989. He also served as president of Downtown Topeka, Inc., assisting in fund-raising efforts for athletic facilities.

Jerry Robertson married **Carol Cook** in 1965. They had two sons, **Jeff** and **Jason Robertson**. In March 1996, Jerry and Carol were involved in a serious automobile accident near Burlington, Kansas. Jerry was killed, but Carol survived. In 2010, the main baseball stadium at the Lake Shawnee Sports Complex in Topeka was named in honor Jerry Robertson. In 2016, he was inducted into the Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame.

For more details of Jerry Robertson's career, see Doug Wright's excellent article for the Society for American Baseball Research,

<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/jerry-robertson/>.

Fourth of July Celebration, 1887

From the Winchester Argus, July 7, 1887

The Celebration at Winchester was a magnificent success. The bird of freedom screamed to his heart's content. The fire cracker was here in all its glory. The ringing of bells and firing of anvils and popping of fire crackers, and shooting of guns ushered in the day, and by 9 o'clock the streets were crowded with patriotic people. The procession was formed, as advertised, and marched to the grove, the Callithumpians attracting much attention all along the line of march; their band was immense. The business houses were handsomely and generously decorated with the National Colors. At the park, the program was a very entertaining one. The young ladies representing the thirteen original colonies, looked very attractive and rendered some excellent music, as did also the glee club. The President of the Day, **Dr. W.B. Lawrence**, delivered an excellent 4th of July oration; we should like to produce it here but space forbids, suffice it to say, that it was a scholarly production and places Dr. Lawrence at the front of Jefferson County orators. The oration by **Rev. Coulter** was, as all knew it would be, a splendid speech. Rev. Coulter is recognized over the state as being one of the ablest speakers in the state, and Winchester is proud that she is the home of this gifted orator. We do not suppose a more able 4th of July oration was delivered in Kansas that day than the Rev. Mr. Coulter gave the Winchester celebrationists. The responses to toasts were all well made, but we have not the space to speak of them further. At 12 o'clock two large balloons were sent up and they rode majestically toward McLouth (no one ascended in the car). At this time a shower came up, but it was of brief duration and the atmosphere was made more bearable. The amusements under the management of **Bob Barns** were very interesting and satisfactory. The base ball games were well played and the Hickory Point club carried away the prizes. The crowd present was variously estimated at 1200 and 2000. In the evening the "grand display of fireworks" started off all right, but, unfortunately, when only about a dozen pieces had been shot off, sparks of fire some way got into the box where the goods were stored, and the whole lot exploded, causing a general stampede, but miraculously, no one was hurt, notwithstanding on the streets a perfect jam of people were congregated. The excitement was great. A platform dance at night did a lively business. The entire celebration, day and night, passed without serious accident. One or two small runaways. The stands did a good business. Everyone voted the celebration a success and the best one they ever attended in the county.

Sylvester Archer of Meriden, Civil War Veteran and Buffalo Soldier



Recruiting poster for the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, first published 1863, J.E. Farwell & Co. (Wikimedia Commons)

In 1863, President **Abraham Lincoln** called for Black men to volunteer to defend the Union. In Binghamton, New York, a young farmer named **Sylvester Archer** answered that call, joining the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry in April. The 54th Massachusetts (the regiment featured in the film “Glory”) was the second Black unit formed during the Civil War. (The first was the First Kansas Colored Infantry, recruited by **James Lane** and **William Matthews** in August 1862 without government sanction, before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.) The 54th Massachusetts drew recruits from fifteen northern states, four border states, five Confederate states, Canada, and the West Indies. Exhorted by the recruiting efforts of **Frederick Douglass** and **George L. Stearns**, New York sent more than 100 men to join the regiment at Camp Meigs in Readville, Massachusetts.

Sylvester Archer volunteered in April 1863, joining the 54th’s Company F. He was about 20 years old, married, and a farmer. He gave his birthplace as Broome County, New York, Binghamton’s county. In May, he was assigned to detached duty in the General Hospital in Hilton Head, South Carolina. He spent most of the war working as a nurse in U.S. General Hospital No. 6 in Beaufort, South Carolina. Archer’s service record designates the hospital as “Old” and “Colored.” It primarily served “Contraband” escapees from slavery. From March through July 1865, Archer was listed as a patient in the hospital where he worked. In a disability claim, he later stated that he had contracted scurvy and rheumatism during his hospital service.

Archer was mustered out of the 54th Massachusetts in October 1865 in Boston. Marital problems with his wife, **Sarah**, eventually caused the young veteran to consider joining the military once again.

In August 1867, Sylvester Archer of Binghamton (*sic*), New York, enlisted for five years in Company C of the 10th U.S. Cavalry. Archer was 25 years old. The 10th was one of the original units of Buffalo Soldiers, formed in 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as an all-Black cavalry regiment. By 1867, when Archer joined the 10th, they were headquartered at Fort Riley, Kansas. Stationed throughout Kansas and Indian Territory (Oklahoma), the 10th provided guards for workers on the Kansas and Pacific Railroad, strung telegraph wires, patrolled reservations, and helped to build Camp Supply and Fort Sill.

Archer’s first assignment was in Hays, Kansas. Later he was treated for the effects of scurvy and rheumatism at Fort Arbuckle, Indian Territory, for several months. He was discharged from the 10th at the end of his enlistment term in 1872 at Camp Supply, Indian Territory. He lived in Hays from 1872 to 1876, then moved to Salina. In 1877, Sylvester Archer served as the first juror of color in Saline County, Kansas, in a case tried before **Justice Bishop**. Archer is listed in the 1880 U.S. census for Salina, Kansas. He was a 38-year-old store porter, living with his wife, **Liza**. He left Salina in 1880 to venture to Las Vegas, New Mexico, where he lived for two years, trying to improve his health. He moved to back to Kansas in 1882.

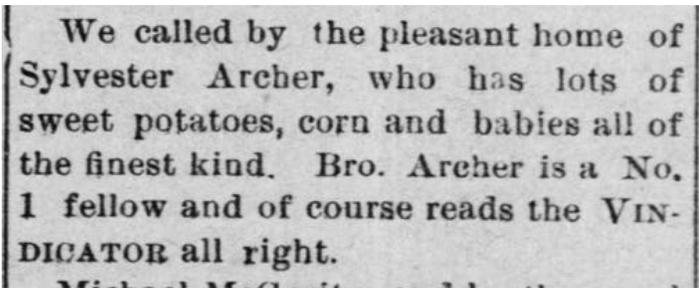


10th Regiment United States Cavalry insienia (Wikimedia Commons)

Archer met **Ida “Abbie” Jackson** in Strong City, Kansas, where she was “out-to-work.” Abbie was born free in Charlotte County, Virginia, about 1851. She had been married to **Jefferson Green** in 1870 in Gallia County, Ohio. She had five children with him. The oldest was **John Henry Green**, but Abbie had lost touch with all of them. Jefferson Green, a Civil War veteran, had taken up a soldier’s claim between Strong City and Council Grove, Kansas. Abbie left him because of abuse. She tried to divorce Green but could not afford the lawyer’s fee.

Sylvester and Abbie were married in 1883 or 1885 in Topeka. The Kansas state census for 1885 lists Sylvester and Abbie Archer, farmers, living near Grantville in Kaw Township, Jefferson County, Kansas. The couple soon moved to a farm near Meriden.

In August 1894, the *Valley Falls Vindicator* reported about a visit to farmer **Michael McGarity**, “Here we are introduced to **Sylvester Archer** who becomes a subscriber to the *Vindicator*. A colored gentleman who knows where he is at.” The following year, the *Vindicator* reported, “We called by the pleasant home of Sylvester Archer, who has lots of sweet potatoes, corn and babies all of the finest kind. Bro. Archer is a No. 1 fellow and of course reads the *Vindicator* all right.” In November 1896, the *Vindicator* said, “Sylvester Archer is farming a part of the **Limeburner** place. Bro. A. wishes to purchase a small farm. He has good crops.”



From the *Valley Falls Vindicator*, Aug. 6, 1895

The *Meriden Ledger* reported in November 1896, “Sylvester Archer, living on the Limeburner farm, who has been trying to secure his pension since 1890, this week received \$601 back pay and hereafter will get \$8 per month. He put his claim in the hands of **Capt. P.H. Coney**, of Topeka, less than 60 days ago.” The *Ledger* later reported that Archer planned to move into his property in Meriden Park addition as soon as his tenant moved out.

Archer had previously engaged the Washington, D.C., firm of **A.M. Legg & Co.** to handle his pension claim. Feeling

that Legg had neglected his case, Archer employed **Patrick H. Coney** in 1895. Coney had the advantage of being in Kansas. He asked several Meriden residents to write statements acknowledging Archer’s disabilities and swearing that they were not due to “vicious, bad or immoral habits.” He located **Dr. C.M. England**, who had previously treated Archer in Meriden, and filed an affidavit stating that Archer’s disabilities began during his service in the 54th Massachusetts. Dr. England listed Archer’s medical issues as scurvy, eye disease, rheumatism, and heart disease. Archer’s pension claim was granted, and Coney received a fee of \$10 from the Bureau of Pensions. A.M. Legg & Co. disputed the fee, and the Bureau ordered Coney to pay it back. Coney appealed and won. Legg appealed again and lost. The legal squabble over \$10 lasted almost four years.

Another dispute over Archer’s pension occurred when his first wife, **Sarah J. Patra Archer**, of Binghamton, New York, petitioned for a widow’s pension. Sarah had seen a death notice for someone of the same name as her husband. The Bureau of Pensions denied this application, on the grounds that Sylvester Archer was still alive. A few years later, Sarah applied for half of Sylvester’s pension as a deserted wife. She was required to present proof of their marriage, his desertion, and her good moral character. This claim stalled because the family bible was Sarah’s only proof of the marriage.

The 1900 U.S. census listed **Sylvester and Abbie Archer** living in Meriden, Rock Creek Township. Their children were **Bartemus** (13), **Gertrude** (11), **Zephyr** (10), **Martha** (6) and **Henrietta** (4). Sylvester was occupied as a day laborer. Abbie was a washerwoman.



Military headstone. Photo by Steve McCray.

Sylvester Archer died in 1902. The *Meriden Ledger* said, “Sylvester Archer was born in Binghamton (*sic*), New York, Jan. 17, 1831.* He died at his home in Meriden, Feb. 10, 1902, in his 72nd year. Mr. Archer was a soldier in the Union army from 1863 to ’65. He came to Kansas in 1872 and has spent most of the time since in and around Meriden.”

Sylvester Archer is buried in Meriden Cemetery.

Rev. John F. Lyons, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, who was in the 54th Massachusetts with Archer, had visited Archer in Meriden two or three years before Archer’s death. Lyons wrote to Sarah Archer to inform her of Archer’s death in 1902. Sarah applied once more for a widow’s pension. **R.F. Elliott**, special examiner for the Bureau of Pensions, took Sarah’s

deposition in Binghamton on Dec. 8, 1902. Sarah and Sylvester Archer were married Apr. 1, 1862, in Binghamton, New York, by Rev. George Bosley. The couple lived with Sarah’s mother, **Hannah Beebe**. They had no children. Sarah never saw Sylvester after he joined the 10th Cavalry. She never remarried. Sarah’s application for a pension was eventually approved. She died in 1911.

*Sylvester Archer’s headstone gives 1831 as his birth year. However, his military records and the 1880 U.S. census indicate a birth year of about 1842.

Abbie Archer also applied for a widow's pension. She said that she and Sylvester had been married Apr. 20, 1885, in Topeka, but she had lost her record of the marriage. She acknowledged that she had never acquired a divorce from **Jefferson Green**, her first husband. Her application was denied.

Sylvester and Abbie Archer had five children. **Bartem "Bart" Archer** was born Sept. 19, 1885, in Meriden. His World War I draft card lists his occupation as tailor. He lived in Meriden all his life, working as a cleaner and presser and as a hardware store clerk. Bart died Nov. 28, 1972. He is buried in Meriden Cemetery.

Gertrude Archer English was born Dec. 7, 1888, in Meriden. She married **Roy English**. They had five children. Gertrude died Nov. 15, 1962. She is buried in Pleasant View Cemetery, Oskaloosa.

Martha Delilah Archer Stice was born June 30, 1890 (or 1893), in Meriden. She married **Elmer Stice**. They had six children. Martha died Apr. 24, 1988. She is buried in Pleasant View Cemetery, Oskaloosa.

Zephyr Archer Hysten was born March 26, 1891, in Meriden. She married **Fred Clifford Hysten**. They had 14 children. Zephyr died June 6, 1964. She is buried in Ozawkie Cemetery.

Henrietta Archer Clark Bryant was born May 20, 1894, in Meriden. She married **George Clark**, with whom she had two sons. After George's death, she married **Curtis Bryant**. Henrietta died Jan. 19, 1985. She is buried in Meriden Cemetery.

— Jane Hoskinson



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A Tall Tale and a Baseball Team

(Contributed by Leanne Chapman)

Geo. Lowman who is always good for a story was telling of a Perry man just after the war who was boastfully narrating his experiences during Sherman's march to the sea. After some one questioned his being with Sherman on that historic exploit he admitted that he was not with Sherman but was a little ahead of him.

From the Oskaloosa Times, Dec. 14, 1905

Dr. Smith reports the birth of a 10½ pound boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Sheldon of north and east of town last Thursday night. This makes nine boys—a full ball team—for the Sheldon boys.

From the Jefferson County Tribune, Oct. 15, 1915

Early Recollections of Kansas: To the Leavenworth Times

J.H. Bennet

[From the Leavenworth Weekly Times, Leavenworth, Kansas, Thu, March 14, 1878, p.1]

OSKALOOSA

A Few Words from the County Seat of Jefferson.

OSKALOOSA, KAS., March 8, 1878.

Editor Times:—Although Oskaloosa is a little off the track – I mean of the railroads – yet The Times is sufficiently popular here to warrant the request that you give us a “send-off” once in a while.

Jefferson County is your next neighbor. We have escaped your bond questions, or nearly so; but we have had as many defalcations, investigations and steals, in proportion to our size, as you have. Our court house is built and paid for. We owe a little on our bridges. We have 91 school houses in 89 school districts. We raised last year, that we know of, 14,841 acres of wheat; 66021 acres of corn; 2,253 acres of rye; 8,487 acres of oats; and 992 acres of potatoes. We have in the county 5,861 horses and 800 mules. We have six sawmills, eight grist-mills, three cheese factories, and one woolen factory; we have sixteen houses of public worship and four newspapers. Considering the number of mortgages given to the “grasshoppers,” our farmers have come out remarkably well.

Our cattle men are well known in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and Leavenworth. Your readers must be well acquainted with **Dave Smith**, of Winchester. He is in town with two car-loads of cattle.

Oskaloosa is our county seat, and a very neat thriving little hub it is. The mercantile business is not overdone, but there is enough of competition to make it lively, and bring prices to the lowest living figures.

Deibert [Richard H. Deibert] carries groceries and queensware and buys butter, eggs and chickens and is a very big little man. **Cooper & McClellan** [Stephen S. Cooper and Clark B. McClellan] are the “Old Reliable” in dry goods. **Critchfield** [Terry Critchfield] has dry goods, groceries, and boots and shoes, and in another room a full line of hardware, stoves and tinware. **Bert Buck** and **W.A. Coy** are rival druggists, and two neater stores cannot be found in any country village. **David Kline** has charge of a joint-stock granter’s store, and is a favorite among the farmers. **Hamilton** runs a nice general country store. **Busenbark** has hardware only; **Tom Noble** family groceries and boots and shoes. **Fuller** [Henry Nash Fuller] and **Macomber** are rival saddlers. **D.J. Smith** is the only book and news man; **George Davis** the only furniture man; “Tonsorial” **Stevens** [Victor Mortimer Stevens] the only handsome man.

We do not lack for shoemakers, doctors, lawyers, “Murphys,” saloons, bankers, lumber-yards, carpenters, policemen, or darkies. All are reasonably prosperous. J.H.B.

[From the Winchester Argus, Winchester, Kansas, Thu, Mar 21, 1878, p.2]

IT WOULD PAY.

From the Leavenworth Times.

Oskaloosa, the county seat of Jefferson county, and one of the most prosperous towns in Kansas, is not connected with any other part of the world by rail, and is naturally anxious to secure a road. From Oskaloosa to Winchester is a distance of only about 8 miles, across as handsome a prairie as is to be found in the west. It is estimated that a narrow gauge road, to connect there two towns, could be built – graded, tied and ironed ready for the locomotive – for a sum not exceeding forty thousand dollars. Oskaloosa township is ready to vote bonds to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, and it is thought that additional aid to the amount of ten thousand, at least, can be secured, thus leaving the company to invest not more than ten thousand dollars to secure a road worth forty thousand.

Such a road would connect with the Kansas Central at Winchester, and would thus put Oskaloosa in direct communication with Leavenworth – opening up to our merchants one of the best and richest sections of Kansas, and bringing the Oskaloosa people direct to the best market in the West. The road, as soon as completed, could be leased to the Kansas Central Company, on terms that would pay a fair rate of interest on the whole sum invested, and would thereafter be operated as a part of the Kansas Central line. This is a project that is of as much interest to Leavenworth as to Oskaloosa – we want to secure their trade as much as they want to secure our market – and since they stand ready to advance, as a bonus, one half the entire cost of the road, we ought to be able to devise some way to raise the other half. We refer that matter to the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, and trust that body will take some action, at its next meeting, which will lead to the organization of a Company for the purpose of setting the enterprise on foot at once.

[From the Leavenworth Weekly Times, Leavenworth, Kansas, Thu, Mar 28, 1878, p.2. By J. H. Bennet]

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Winchester—One of the Thriving Towns on the Narrow Gauge

WINCHESTER, Kan., March 21 '78

EDITOR TIMES.—This is [a] little town on the narrow gauge railroad, in Jefferson county, about 10 miles north of Oskaloosa, and is the centre of the richest farming community in the county, if not in the state. It is a very conspicuous object on a handsome rolling prairie, gridironed by farms, fences, and highways, and dotted and spotted and lined with buildings, orchards, groves and streams. The township is ten miles by nine, making 57,600 acres, less than three percent of which is of no value. The average of this region centers at Winchester, and the numbers, value and bulk of agricultural and farm products shipped from here is simply enormous. These consist mainly of wheat, rye, oats, corn, hay, buckwheat, potatoes, sorghum, flax seed, broom-corn, millet seed and Hungarian seed; neat cattle and hogs, many thousand; cheese, thousands of pounds; butter, at the rate of a thousand pounds to a family, and aggregating in a single year 65,000 pounds, in 284 families reported. I have no reliable data on which to estimate the production of fruit, but believe it to be above the average of other farm products.

As a matter of course, the other side of the commercial question is of nearly the same importance. The train of cars that carries away cattle, hogs, grain, hay, cheese, butter and seeds, comes back loaded down to the guards with lumber, groceries, wagons, plows, cultivators and all the thousand and one small conveniences which cannot be manufactured in the rural districts. The sale of agricultural implements at Winchester, with its two hundred inhabitants, will doubtless exceed that of any two towns in the county, except probably Valley Falls.

The competitions for this trade is spirited and amusing. The Winchester *Argus*, a natty little weekly newspaper, is literally crammed with advertisements, of which six specially mention plows. The wagon men are nearly as hot, although they all sell our "Kansas Wagon." Three of your prominent Leavenworth merchants are patrons of this paper. One little growl before I reach the end of my sheet. The railroad ought to give free passage to an express messenger from here to Leavenworth, every day. It is bad policy to refuse it; bad for Leavenworth, bad for Oskaloosa, bad for Winchester, and I believe, bad for the road.

The leading men at Oskaloosa appreciate fully your leading article of the 16th inst., in reference to a narrow gauge to Winchester, and I believe they will do all you suggested.

More anon.

J.H.B.

Weaving Connections: Check out the New Loom at OJT

Last fall, **Shelley Schupp** of Oskaloosa contacted Old Jefferson Town volunteer **Deb Case** about a loom she wanted to donate. The loom lived in the basement of the Genealogy Library for several months until Deb finally tackled assembling it. She worked on the puzzle for a while, searching online and calling the Kansas Weavers' Guild for advice. By June, the project was on hold, and the loom stood in the corner with a few unattached parts, unusable. Then **Paul Matzek** of Meriden walked in. Paul had a loom just like this one and knew how to put it together correctly. With Paul's help, and after a few false starts, Deb was ready to take some weaving lessons. Former Jefferson County resident **Carol Leffler** stopped by to lend her expertise and a couple of weaving books. By September, the loom was up and running, with **Tonya Rainbolt Ketchum** of McLouth fine tuning the rag rug weaving process and leading demonstrations.

Deb found inspiration in the procedure, frustrations and all. She said, "God gifts us with beautiful threads (people and moments) to weave into our lives. Know and recognize the gifts and never force our own will upon changing or forcing the gifts. God does help us repair or fix our mistakes, but it's up to us to know better next time."



In place but not quite ready to weave.



Some of the results.

Volunteers have been making rag rugs and placemats to sell as a fund-raiser for Old Jefferson Town building maintenance and repairs. If you have old T-shirts that you would like to contribute, we are accepting donations to be turned into "T-shirt yarn." Donations can be brought to the Genealogy Library on Saturdays between 1 pm and 4 pm. Check the OJT Facebook page for demonstrations next summer.

If you are interested in purchasing a rag rug for yourself or as a Christmas gift, please email oldjefftown@gmail.com for more information.



Now we're weaving!



Tonya Ketchum at work. Ardie Grimes winds yarn.