



# **YESTERYEARS**

A publication of

**The Jefferson County  
Historical Society**

**October 2024**

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Established in 1966, the Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS) connects people to the history of Jefferson County, Kansas, by collecting, preserving, and sharing artifacts, materials, and information. The society provides education and research, maintains an extensive genealogy library and an online archive of artifacts, and manages and maintains [Old Jefferson Town](#) history museum, a unique collection of historical buildings from various locations across the county.

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For more information, or to volunteer, contact the Jefferson County Historical Society, P.O. Box 146, Oskaloosa, KS 66066. Contact JCHS for appointments, group tours and events, or chapel reservations: email, [oldjefftown@gmail.com](mailto:oldjefftown@gmail.com)



## In Memoriam: Janet S. Bowen Jones

30 September 1937 – 24 August 2024

Janet S. Jones, 86, Washington, Kansas, died Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at Blue Valley Health in Blue Rapids, Kan.

Janet was born September 30, 1937, in Oskaloosa, Kan., to George Eli and Sara Emily (McCaslin) Bowen. When she was a 4th grader, the family moved to Washington, and she graduated from Washington High School in 1955. On March 30, 1956, Janet was united in marriage to William “Bill” Jones in Steele City, Neb.. This union was blessed with five children.

Janet worked for her father at the Eli Bowen Insurance Agency during high school. After her marriage, she worked at the Washington County Engineering Department, the Washington County Clerk’s office and retired as the City Clerk of Washington in 2003. Janet and Bill delivered the *Topeka Capital-Journal* for many years, and they farmed north of town until retirement.

At one time she was the secretary of the Washington County Fair Board. She served on the Washington Library Board, volunteered at KSDS, and supplied Hearts and Things with many knitted items. Her hobbies included genealogy, Washington County history, knitting, antiques, and watching sports, particularly the KC Chiefs, KC Royals and K-State Wildcats. She loved visiting with people, feeding birds, and always enjoyed a bouquet of flowers.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Bill; son, Brent Jones; grandson, Tyler McBride; and sister, Joan Abercrombie. Survivors include daughters, Jana (Doug) Allen, Marysville; Rhonda (Tony) McBride, Gunnison, Colo.; Regina (Mike) Rencin, Barnes; and Kara Jones, Gardner; brother, Dr. Richard “Dick” (Joannie) Bowen, Greenfield, Ind.; sisters-in-law, Marilyn Leffingwell and Ernestine Jones, Wichita; six grandchildren, Christopher (Emily) Allen, Mitchell Allen, Bethany (Jordan) Fey, Garrett (Erin Stock) McBride, Alex (Angel) Langton, and Reanna Rencin; five great grandchildren, Jack, Paisley, and Cooper Allen, Jones and Callan Fey; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 24, 2024, at Washington City Cemetery, Washington, Kan. Burial took place in Washington City Cemetery, Washington, Kan. Pallbearers were Christopher Allen, Mitchell Allen, Garrett McBride, Alex Langton, Bruce Jones, Max Abercrombie and Jeff Filby.

A memorial fund is established with the Washington County Historical Society. Contributions may be sent in care of Ward Funeral Home, Washington.

## Book Review: *Kansas and Kansans in World War I* by Blake A. Watson

By Holly Allen, editor of the *Valley Falls Vindicator* and managing editor of the *Oskaloosa Independent* (Published in the *Independent* Aug. 22, 2024, and in the *Vindicator* Aug. 29, 2024.)

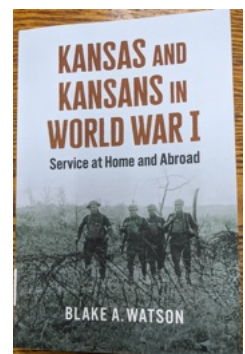
A new book describes how men from Jefferson County and other Kansans participated in World War I. The book is titled “Kansas and Kansans in World War I” and is published by the University Press of Kansas. Through the use of letters, newspapers, and other documents, author Blake Watson looks both at service in France and the war effort back home.

The idea for Watson’s book started with **Ralph Nichols** of Oskaloosa, who was a great-uncle of the author.

“He was only 19 when he was shot through the cheek near the Argonne Forest,” Watson says, “but he returned home to finish high school and then attended Kansas State, where he was a captain on the 1923 Aggie football team.”

This book includes several chapters that describe the lives of **William Davis** of Winchester, **William Smith** of Valley Falls, and **Theodore Blevins, Melvin Dyson, Samuel Gutschenritter, William Kimmel, Ralph Nichols, and Victor Segraves** of Oskaloosa.

These Jefferson County men were both ordinary and extraordinary. One had been abandoned by his parents as a child and rode the “orphan train” to Kansas and a new life. Two were killed in action, three were wounded, and one became a prisoner of war. The German-born parents of one of the wounded men were required to register as alien enemies. One of the men who died was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, while the other man who did not return is the subject of a famous painting. After the war, the survivors took on new roles, including offensive tackle in the National Football League and beloved teacher and namesake of a junior high school.



In 1916, Oskaloosa beat out 10 other Kansas towns for permission to organize a unit of the Kansas National Guard. The guardsmen were sent to the Texas border the same year to guard against a Mexican invasion. When war was declared against Germany in 1917, the guardsmen were made part of the U.S. Army.

They trained in Jefferson County, and when the men left for Camp Doniphan, Okla., on Sept. 24, 1917, the county schools were dismissed to allow teachers and students to attend the farewell ceremonies.

By mid-afternoon a crowd estimated at 3,000 people enjoyed music provided by bands from Valley Falls and Winchester, and the Rexall drugstore served refreshments and distributed bars of soap. When the soldiers marched to the train depot west of town, they were accompanied by a band and followed by people in automobiles and on foot.

**William Davis**, of Winchester, was the first man from Jefferson County to die in battle, the unlucky victim of a trench raid by the Germans in the Vosges Mountains in eastern France. The American Legion Post in Winchester is named for Davis, and the Oskaloosa American Legion Post bears the names of **Victor Segraves** and **Leland Larnier**.

Segraves, whose body was never found, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery during the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Larnier was a popular teacher who was killed Aug. 12, 1918. He is buried in Pleasant View Cemetery in Oskaloosa with his parents and three siblings.

Many of the men from Jefferson County fought in Company B of the 139<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. When Company B went into battle in September 1918, it was led by **Captain Bill Smith**, of Valley Falls. Smith had earned a law degree from Washburn College, and would later become the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court.

According to Watson, “Kansans were in the thick of the fighting, at the battles of Cantigny, Belleau Wood, the Marne, St. Mihiel, and the final Meuse-Argonne offensive.”

Most units in the National Guard became part of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Another military unit, the 353<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, was known as the “All-Kansas Regiment” due to the high number of Jayhawk draftees.

All parts of Kansas took part in the Great War. Four Kansans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor: **John Balch** of Edgerton and Syracuse, **Erwin Bleckley** of Wichita, **George Mallon** of Ogden, and **George Robb** of Salina. Bleckley died in a plane crash while attempting to deliver supplies to the “Lost Battalion” in the Argonne Forest. According to Watson, Mallon was “a former boxer who jumped into trenches and felled Germans with his fists.”

**Charles Orr** of Rice County was “the first American hero” and **Clyde Grimsley** of Stockton and Salina was among the first Americans to become prisoners of war. Musicians from Holton and other towns in northeast Kansas served in the Sixth Marine Regimental Band, but also were gassed when they helped carry comrades off the battlefield. Several African-American Kansans served with honor, overcoming racism and segregation. Camp Funston, located at Fort Riley, is believed to have been the epicenter for the worldwide pandemic known as the Spanish Flu.

The book describes acts of heroism and patriotism, but also mistrust and mistreatment of Mennonite pacifists and ethnic Germans. Watson details efforts to honor veterans, including statues in Axtell, Leavenworth, Oakley, Olathe, Onaga, and Parsons; victory arches in Rosedale, St. Mary’s, and Wichita; bridges in Independence and Neodesha; football stadiums in Lawrence and Manhattan; a clock tower in Columbus; and Interstate 35 (the “Thirty-Fifth Infantry Division Memorial Highway”).

Private **William Davis** of Winchester was the first soldier from Jefferson County to die fighting in France. **Blake Watson** wrote of him:

“It is likely that the largest body of water William Davis had seen prior to becoming a soldier was either the Kansas River or the Missouri River. Shortly after his arrival in England, the young private described his trip in a letter to his father: ‘We sure had some ride on the water. There sure is lots of water. It don’t look like there could be so much. We were fourteen days on the water. I got seasick about the second day but I soon got over it. I only want to ride over it once more and that’s back across.’ The Jefferson County native did travel ‘once more’ across the Atlantic Ocean. But it was to repatriate his remains from their resting place in the Vosges Mountains to his hometown in Kansas. The body of William Louis Davis arrived in Jefferson County on Saturday, June 4, 1921. The following day funeral services were held at the Christian church, followed by the burial at the Wise Cemetery southeast of Winchester.

“The 1921 burial of William Davis in Winchester is the subject of a painting by **John Steuart Curry**, *The Return of Private Davis from the Argonne*. Curry, who grew up in Winchester . . . was two years younger than Davis.”

View the painting on the website of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston:

<https://emuseum.mfah.org/objects/111400/the-return-of-private-davis-from-the-argonne?idx=233>



## Artist responsible for appearance of giant Indian

By Mike Tomlinson

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Aug. 18, 1988 (Contributed and researched by Mary Luse)*

It takes a high vantage point to see him, but a giant Indian has appeared on the ground about two miles west-southwest of Oskaloosa. The appearance, however, is not a result of the supernatural, quite the opposite — it is the result of the natural ability of professional artist **Stan Herd**.



*The Haskell Pow Wow dancer whose image was used for Stan Herd's land sculpture was identified as **Saginaw Grant**.  
Photo: **Jon Blumb** Photography.*

Herd, 37, originally from the small western Kansas town of Protection and now living in Lawrence, has created the 1,100x90-foot Indian head in a wheat stubble field via tractor, plow, and mower.

The Indian, which for now remains nameless, is not Herd's first land sculpture, nor is it his first Indian land sculpture. In 1980, Herd did his first land sculpture, a portrait work of the great Kiowa Indian Chief **Satanta**. Later, in 1983, he did a portrait land sculpture of **Will Rogers**.

Since that time the artist, quickly approaching his 38<sup>th</sup> birthday, says he has gotten away from doing land portraits and has done several more artistically involved designs, including a large potted sunflower in western Kansas, a quilt design for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spencer Museum in Lawrence, and a huge harvest scene near the airport in Lincoln, Neb. Herd says he really did the portrait near Oskaloosa for himself. "I wanted to see if I could pull it off for myself, not for some other entity, city, or festivity," he said.

Saying he really had not managed to get any good photographs of his first two works, Herd indicated that photographing the sculpture was a big part of the reason he did it. Since the time of his sunflower sculpture, Herd has Jefferson County photographer **Dan Dancer** documenting his land sculptures.

"Since Dan began documenting my work we've considered re-doing Satanta to photograph it," Herd says. "But when I made up my mind to do it, I decided to do a new image." An image, that Herd says, he created from photos he took at the Haskell Indian Pow Wow in Lawrence.

“I felt kind of uneasy about taking the picture, but I decided to go ahead and take them as an artist,” Herd added.

The sculpture of the Indian with his headdress is the combination of three or four photos, but Herd says the face is that of one man. “We’re looking for him now,” the artist said, indicating that not knowing who he is is one reason why he has yet to name his sculpture.

“We’re still looking for a name, and hoping to find the man whose face I used,” Herd said. He enjoys studying Indian culture, adding that if they discover the man they may also discover a name — more like the way the Indians once named their people, by some trait they had or something they did, not by giving them a predetermined name as the white man does.

Herd doesn’t know how long his Indian sculpture will remain in the ground. The man who farms the land, **Harland Courtney**, is an organic farmer and the weeds are really starting to grow up, Herd says. “I need to take care of the weed problem or plow it up,” the artist added, saying he hopes that by mowing the weeds he can make it last until the first week of October.

“We would have liked to photograph it just after the first snow, but that’s just not possible. With all my works I try to work with the farmer so as not to disrupt his schedule too much,” Herd said. “In this case, that means not leaving it too long and allowing the weeds to get out of control.

“I certainly admire the man for being an organic farmer,” Herd said. “I think they have a greater appreciation of the land and are much closer to it — more like the native Americans were.”

Herd also indicated he felt it was unique to be able to do such a work on land farmed in this manner.

When asked how this particular section of land was selected, Herd said Dancer actually picked it out. His farm is just a mile from there and one evening when he was driving home he saw this beautiful golden field of stubble. Dan took care of contacting the owner, **Pat King**, and Courtney, and setting things up.

Herd says the work took a long 10 days to complete as two days were used marking the field with red flags on a 100-foot grid. Through that grid Herd is able to transfer a pencil drawing of the work from an artist’s pad to the field. The pad, also marked with a grid, rests on the side of the tractor as Herd does his unique work, turning the tractor and plow or mower at just the right time on the field to match the curves on the pad.

In doing this particular work, Herd has used a two-bottom plow borrowed from **Tim Hood** and a tractor and other equipment borrowed from **Joe Malone** and his family. Herd also says Malone’s son, **Joey**, helped him with some of the plowing when a film crew from a Chilean television show similar to 20/20 came out to film his work.

The best way to see the Indian, which covers some 25 acres, is from an airplane. But one can get an idea of what it looks like from atop a ridge that overlooks the field.

\* \* \*

Students from Oskaloosa grade and junior high school participated in a unique event about four miles west of Oskaloosa. Over 375 students in grades kindergarten through eighth, wearing either red or blue shirts, became the head band of the Indian head land sculpture done by Lawrence artist **Stan Herd** in August. Originally, Channel 5 out of Kansas City was to film the event, but at the last minute had to cancel so Cable Channel 6 out of Lawrence came up to do the filming. A copy of the tape is to be available for the school to show in classrooms and it is possible an arrangement will be made with Jefferson County photographer **Dan Dancer**, who photographed the event in color, to sell copies to the students and their parents.

\* \* \*

**Stan Herd**’s website, Stan Herd Arts, <https://stanherdarts.com/>, describes the **Saginaw Grant** Earthwork:

“I met Saginaw Grant at a Haskell pow wow and subsequently received his permission to create his portrait. After meeting extensively with Haskell leaders, **Manny King** and **Dan Wildcat**, we came to the conclusion it would be a great opportunity to bring attention to issues of importance to Indian activists seeking redress for the loss of tribal sovereignty and poverty on many reservations.

“When we invited Saginaw to the field we discovered his involvement with Indian youth issues dealing with addiction for his tribe and the larger Native American population. Along with a number of students and instructors from nearby Haskell, he enjoyed his helicopter ride over the twenty seven acre image, carved out of volunteer wheat. Photographer **Daniel Dancer** choreographed four hundred students from a nearby school to perform as beads on the headband the following week.”

*Crop Art and Other Earthworks* by Stan Herd: <https://www.amazon.com.au/Crop-Other-Earthworks-Stan-Herd/dp/0810925753>



## Exhibit begins for local photographer

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Nov. 10, 1988*

An exhibit at the Lawrence Art Center which began Nov. 8 and will run through Wednesday, Nov. 30, will feature the works of local photographer **Dan Dancer**.

Dancer, who has recently published his first book of photographs, "The Four Season[s] of Kansas," has become the exclusive photographer of crop artist **Stan Herd**. In Dancer's book, which will be on sale at the exhibit, Dancer features a photograph of Herd's work as he begins each section of the work.

Dancer's photographs have also become a regular in the magazine "Kansas!" and has several of his works in the best selling book "Kansas in Color."

A native of California, Dancer lives on Sleeping Beauty Ranch about four miles east of Oskaloosa.

The ongoing show at the art center, titled "Dancer's Kansas," features 15 photographs of Kansas.

In addition to promoting his works and his new book, the exhibit serves as a special preview of a portion of the Mid-America Arts Alliance traveling exhibit of Dancer's photographs of Herd's crop art. That exhibit, "Fields in Focus: Art for the Sky," will begin touring the country in September 1989.

*The Four Seasons of Kansas, Revised Edition, Daniel Dancer:* <https://www.amazon.com/Four-Seasons-Kansas-Revised/dp/0700611525>

*From Field Notes.*

## Seeds for Kansas

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Feb. 6, 1861*

A meeting was held last night at the Governor's office, to take into consideration the best means to supply the people of Kansas with seeds for the approaching spring. On motion, **F.D. Parrish**, Esq., of Erie county, was called to the chair, and **A.M. Gangewer**, Secretary. It was stated that many of the settlers in Kansas were entirely destitute of garden seeds, wheat seeds, clothing, &c. After consul[t]ation **Gov. Wm. Dennison**, **W.B. Thrall**, Esq., **L.L. Rice**, **A.M. Gangewer**, **Wm. T. Bascom** and **Dr. H.Z. Gill**, were appointed a committee to lay the wants of the people of Kansas before the people of Ohio, and receive and forward such seeds and money as may be contributed to purchase seeds for Kansas.

F.D. Parrish, chairman.

A.M. Gangewer, Secretary.

## The Fall Garden

*From the Valley Falls Vindicator, July 28, 1933*

It is not too late to grow some of the most important garden vegetables. Nearly two months of growing weather remain before killing frosts may be expected. Beans, beets and carrots for fall use should be planted during July. Beets planted as late as August 10<sup>th</sup> will often mature. At least part of the fall grown crop of beets and carrots should be available for winter storage.

Turnips are usually planted during August, both for fall use and for the winter supply. The turnip crop will be improved by preparing the ground in advance. All the weeds should be removed and soil thoroughly cultivated so that it will absorb moisture.

The winter radish is another crop that may be planted in August and will mature in late fall. It may be stored fresh for winter use. A good selection for a fall garden might include:

Stringless green pod beans, Black wax beans, Crosby's Egyptian or Early Detroit beets, Bush lima beans, Chantenay carrots, purple top strap-leaf turnips, Little Marvel peas, Chinese cabbage, radishes, long scarlet, icicle, and winter; lettuce, Grand Rapid leaf; kidney wax beans, Kale, Spinach.

It is very important to grow more fall gardens this year, since the spring crop was severely injured by the drought and hot weather and many Kansas families will be in need of vegetables during the fall and winter months.

## Agronomy Field Day

*From the Valley Falls Vindicator, May 12, 1933*

Jefferson county farmers will be guests of the Department of Agronomy, Kansas State College, at the ninth annual Agronomy Field Day at the college on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Agronomy field days will be held on May 16, 17 and 18, but the program for the 16<sup>th</sup> is especially planned to answer the questions of farmers from Jefferson and other counties in this section. The Jefferson County Farm Bureau will conduct a tour to the college on May 16<sup>th</sup>, for all those farmers of the county that are interested in going. Get in touch with the county office and we can all go in a group.

The Agronomy field days are held in order to give the citizens of Kansas an opportunity to see the experimental work and to become acquainted with the men conducting the work. Opportunity is given to ask questions and to discuss individual problems with the man who is best qualified to help in their solution. All meetings are held around the experimental plots. The program will commence at the dairy barn at 10 a.m. The arrangement and equipment of the new barn will be studied and the dairy experimental work explained. The experimental work of the Poultry Department will be discussed at the poultry farm from 11 o'clock until 12.

During the afternoon a special program will be available for the ladies. The Departments of Horticulture and Agronomy will present a program consisting of a tour of the gardens, greenhouses and certain sections of the campus to explain the better methods of gardening and of acring for the lawn and shrubs. Improvement of the appearance of the farm home by use of proper types of planting will also be discussed and demonstrated. While the ladies are having their program on the campus, the men will go to the Agronomy farm.

The tours of the projects of the Agronomy farm will start at 1 p.m. each day. During these tours our visitors will see some of the new crops that have recently received considerable attention. Among these crops are the two relatively new varieties of wheat, Kawvale and Tenmarq; the two most widely advertised varieties of lespedeza, Korean and Sericea\*; several new strains of sweet clover that show promise of being better adapted for pasture purposes than the varieties grown in the state at present; and some varieties and strains of alfalfa that show promise of being relatively resistant to bacterial wilt.

The effect of different rotations, cropping systems and methods of seedbed preparations on the growth of crops is very striking and the effect of different commercial fertilizers on various crops is quite pronounced. Methods of utilizing alfalfa, clover and soybeans in the rotation will be discussed in the field. If you plan to go get in touch with the office right away.



*Slender lespedeza plant. (Drawing courtesy of Oklahoma State University).*

\**Sericea lespedeza* was introduced into the United States in the 1930s but was not considered a problem until the 1980s. Its highly competitive and invasive nature, together with low palatability, makes it undesirable on rangeland, introduced cool-season pasture, native warm-season grass plantings, and roadsides. *Sericea lespedeza* can be distinguished from other lespedezas by its leaf shape and flower color. The trifoliate silky leaves are wedge-shaped, and flowers are white to cream-colored with a purple throat. Early identification and prevention of seed production are essential for long-term management and control. An integrated approach to control, using grazing management, burning, mowing, and applying herbicides, offers the greatest success. *Sericea lespedeza* is most common in the eastern third of Kansas but has spread westward through the CRP program, with more than 73 counties reporting occurrence. It was declared a “county option” noxious weed in late 1988. The legislature declared it a statewide noxious weed July 1, 2000. *Sericea lespedeza* is the first federally listed forage crop to be declared a noxious weed. Based on the 2006 inventory conducted by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas had 598,000 acres identified with *sericea lespedeza*.

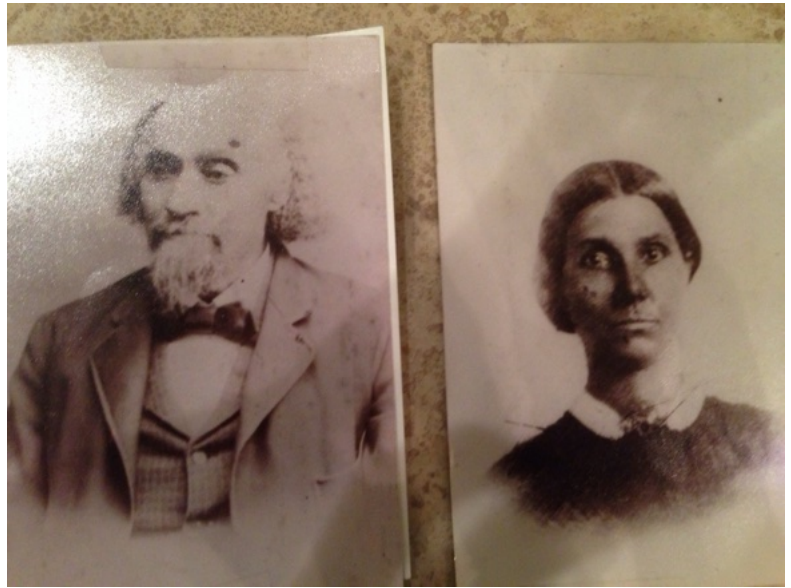
—**Paul D. Ohlenbusch** et al., *Sericea Lespedeza: History, Characteristics, and Identification*, Kansas State University, October 2007.



## Milton and Mary Jane Allison Jones

*From Portrait and Biographical Album of Jackson, Jefferson and Pottawatomie Counties, Kansas, Chapman Bros., Chicago, 1890*

Kentucky Township, Jefferson County, probably has not a more respected citizen than Mr. Jones, who made his way unaided to a good position among his fellowmen. He came to this township in 1878 and purchased first eighty acres of land, to which he subsequently added until he has now 200 acres, comprising some of the best soil in this region. The greater part of this is under cultivation and Mr. Jones has a substantial dwelling, a good barn, orchards, groves, and in fact all the appliances of a modern rural homestead. It is located five miles north of the town of Perry. During the season of 1889, Mr. Jones raised 5,500 bushels of corn from 100 acres of ground, and fed over a carload of cattle, besides from seventy to 100 head of swine, doing his own shipping. He is considerably interested also in good road horses.



*Milton and Mary Jane Allison Jones*

The subject of this sketch was born near Lexington, Montgomery Co., Ky., in August 1825, and is the

son of **Thomas** and **Elsa Jones**, who were natives of Clarke County, that State. His father was a free man, but his mother was a slave, being the property of his Grandmother Jones. Milton was likewise the property of **Mrs. [Lucy Foster] Jones**. Thomas Jones was a farmer in Montgomery County, until selling out, when he removed to Pilot County. There he also engaged in farming, but he was likewise a sportsman and fond of the hunt, very brave and killing bears and panthers. He died in Clarke County, where he had been connected with the Baptist Church. He was said to be partly of Cherokee-Indian blood. The mother was also a Baptist in religious belief, and died in Montgomery County in 1865.

Mr. Jones was brought up on a farm as his grandmother's slave and was not allowed any chance for education, although he managed to learn to read, and picked up considerable information. He was exceedingly bright and especially handy with all kind of tools, learning shoe-making, stone-masonry and carpentering. His duties were varied by driving hogs over the mountains to Atlanta and Charleston, 750 miles away, making usually twelve miles in a day. Such was his good judgment in the handling of these, that when arriving at their destination they were fatter and heavier than when they started. He was considered, in fact, the boss hog driver in all that region. Two men were usually employed for every lot of 200 hogs. The mountain roads were narrow, and sometimes a bear would tumble down the sides among the animals, some of whom would go nearly wild with fright, and it was difficult to keep them from escaping their drivers. They could only be controlled by being blinded by a coat or something of the kind, and sometimes the men would sew their eyelids together, when they would again take the road. On the return trip Mr. Jones would many a time walk fifty-five miles in a day, arriving home far in advance of his comrades.

Upon the death of Mrs. Jones, our subject became the property of her granddaughter, who had married **Thomas Pointer**; the latter thus became the master of Mr. Jones, whom he ever treated kindly. After the death of Mrs. Jones, our subject, with several others, was taken possession of by one **Jackson Toll**, who kept them until the law gave them to their rightful owner. Mr. Jones was then hired out to **Dr. Hood**, of Kentucky for \$90. The following four years he was permitted by Mr. Pointer to work for **Mrs. Toll**, in exchange for another man who was unable to attend to her work properly. Later he remained with Mr. Pointer one month, then went to Missouri to his wife, there to remain until sent for.

Mr. Jones was married in Clarke County, Ky., in 1845, to Miss **Mary J. Allison**. Mrs. Jones was born in Montgomery County and went with her master to Missouri in the spring of 1856, locating in Platte County. In the fall Mr. Pointer allowed Mr. Jones to join his wife and make what money he could for himself in Missouri. Toward spring his Kentucky master wrote him to select a future master and he was sold to one **Landy Barnet**, who afterward sold him to **Mr. Allison**, the owner of his wife. Upon this occasion he paid \$200 of his own money to keep from being thrown into the hands of New Orleans traders.

About 1862 **Mr. Allison** returned to **Mr. Jones** his \$200 in order to try to keep him on the place, fearful that the slaves would be driven away by the Union soldiers. The last time that Mr. Jones was sold he brought the good round sum of \$1,400. In 1863, Mr. Allison, having become addicted to strong drink, was very imprudent and hurried for **Jefferson Davis** in hearing of some of the Union troops, when he was taken charge of and his chattels driven away. Mr. Jones, who had saved up \$300 and a team of horses by working extra hours, then embraced the opportunity to leave the country and came, with his family to Kansas, locating near Oskaloosa. He bought six acres of ground to start with, to which he gradually added and besides engaging in farming and stock-raising, chopping wood and clearing land for others in order to increase his cash income. In due time he became the owner of 170 acres near Oskaloosa. He began raising hemp and was the first man in the State of Kansas to produce this commodity. Upon one occasion he shipped a car-load from Lawrence, which brought him very large profits. He also drove hogs through to the packing houses at Leavenworth. Thus he has been uniformly successful with the exception of at one time loaning \$300 and on account of its non-payment became involved in a lawsuit which cost him \$960.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jones there have been born twelve children. **George**, the eldest, owns and operates a farm of 235 acres in Oskaloosa Township; **Henry** has a farm of eighty acres near Junction City; **Julia** is the wife of **J.S. Carter** and resides near North Topeka; **Greene** now owns a farm of eighty acres near Junction City; **Samuel** is a real estate man and contractor, transferring wood from Oklahoma to Texas and other points, and owns ten acres of land adjoining North Topeka; **Thomas**, one of the best cooks in the West, is employed in a hotel in Salt Lake City; **John B.** is a mail carrier in Topeka; **Lincoln** is a cook in a hotel in Salt Lake City; **Moses S.** works his father's farm on shares; **Dora** is in Oakland, Cal.; **Milton, Jr.**, is working in partnership with his brother, Moses S.; **Sarah (Mrs. Lewis)** is a resident of Valley Falls. Mrs. Jones is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Jones has a letter from the Christian Church in Kentucky. Politically, he is a sound Republican.

When Mr. Jones first arrived in Kansas there was considerable agitation on the subject of negro citizenship, and, consequently, their right to the elective franchise. He was one of the delegates to the State Convention, held at Lawrence, Douglas County, from which place he went from Jefferson County. During the convention an amendment to the Freedmen's Bureau Bill was offered, and after two days' discussion was adopted. Three delegates were elected and sent to the National Convention to present to that body the papers of the Kansas convention, declaring the rights of the negro to citizenship. These papers were accepted by the National Convention and forwarded to Washington, D.C., where they were ratified. To Mr. Jones much credit is due for the deep and intelligent interest he has always taken in these great and important issues, and the good he has done the colored race.

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Jan. 6, 1899*

**Mary J. Jones** was born in 1828 in Montgomery county, Ky., died in Jefferson county, Dec. 31, 1898, aged 70 years. She married **Milton J. Jones** in 1845 and they journeyed together down the stream of life for 53 years. To this happy union were born 14 children, 5 girls and 9 boys. She was converted and baptized in her early life and joined the Christian church in Summerset, Ky., and lived a consistent Christian all of these many years. She had 55 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. While home is bereft of mother heaven has gained an angel. Born in the days of darkness when the clouds with blackness hung in the midst of thundering and lightning, with trouble and war, she in her early lifetime heard of a city called heaven, and she started to make it her home. For 20 long years a sufferer she still kept her promise. From Kentucky to Missouri and to Kansas she came, with the promise in view that if she was faithful until death a home the dear Savior had prepared for her. Her last song before she died was, "I am walking the golden streets."

**D.D. Cole**

### **Milton Jones' Family Reunion**

*From the Valley Falls Vindicator, June 29, 1900*

The large family of **Milton Jones**, who lives seven miles southwest of Oskaloosa met and enjoyed a pleasant family reunion at the old family home last Saturday.

There are nine sons and all are well known and popular in the communities where they live. There are also two daughters.

It is singular, (and fortunate) that all of the nine sons are enthusiastic advocates of the Peoples' Party principles.

The father, Milton Jones, Sr., owns a 200 acre farm and has been a resident of the county for twenty years. The mother is not living. Only a few others besides the family were present. A big dinner was served.

## Jones Family Reunion

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, July 6, 1900*

**Milton Jones'** family had a re-union on the farm between Oskaloosa and Perry on Saturday, June 23, and we have been furnished with a list of those present. It certainly is a remarkable record for one family. Milton Jones and wife fled from Missouri and the old slavery conditions to Oskaloosa during the war and have lived in this place and vicinity ever since, but many of the children, as will be seen, sought other locations:

Milton Jones' family reunion held at the home of Milton Jones Saturday, June 23, 1900. The children that were present were **G[eorge] W. Jones**, age 55, farmer, Oskaloosa; **Julia Ann Carter**, age 53, farmer, Brush Hill, I.T. [Indian Territory, not present]; **Henry Jones**, age 51, farmer, Perry, Kan.; **G[reene] B.C. Jones**, age 50, clerk at Manhattan, Kan.; **S[amuel] S. Jones**, age 44, real estate agt., Kingfisher, Okla.; **Thomas Jones**, age 42, chief cook, Salt Lake City; **J[ohn] B. Jones**, age 40, politician, Topeka, Kan.; **Lincoln Jones**, [age 39] chief cook, Salt Lake City; **M[oses] S. Jones**, age 37, farmer, Perry; **M[ilton] Jones, Jr.**, age 32, farmer, Eskridge; **[Sarah] Cratie R. Lewis**, age 30, farmer, Eskridge.

This was the first time for several years that all the children had been together. About 75 persons were present and the table groaned under the load of good eating. Rev. **D.D. Cole** and Prof. **C.B. Bryant** were present and each gave a nice little talk and some good things were said. Late in the evening Rev. D.D. Cole sang "God be with you 'til we meet again," and a handshaking was had and everybody left well filled. On Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> this body of 9 brothers and one sister attended the old home church at Oskaloosa, the A.M.E. church.

*From the Oskaloosa Times, Oct. 3, 1912*

**Milton Jones** was born in Montgomery County, Kentucky, in 1825, and died at his home south of Oskaloosa, Kansas, Sunday, September 29, 1912, aged 87 years. He moved to Platte County, Mo., in the year 1851, where he lived for twelve years, and in 1863 he moved to Oskaloosa, where he had resided since. In 1844 he united in marriage to Miss **Mary Allison**, and to this union thirteen children were born, nine of whom are living.

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Oct. 4, 1912*

**Milton Jones**, one of the old-time colored men of this community, who has been for ten years or more in poor health, mentally and bodily, died last Sunday at the home of his son Moses, between here and Perry, and was buried at Pleasant View Tuesday, the funeral services being held at the colored Methodist church, by the new pastor, **Mr. Self**. Mr. Jones was an exceptional man of his race and raised an exceptional family. Coming to Oskaloosa in an early day from Kentucky with a few hundred dollars of money, he by thrift and industry acquired the farm now owned by **Mrs. True**, where he and his wife raised a large family of boys who in their turn have gone out in the world and made their own way successfully. At the time of his death Mr. Jones was 87 years of age. About ten years ago his mind became affected and he would at times wander away from home and would be found miles away some times. But his sons kept him and cared for him and of late he has been content at home and able to do light chores about the place.

## Colored Men Who Are Growing Rich on Kansas Farms

*From the Topeka Plaindealer, Feb. 9, 1900*

Some of the most successful farmers in Kansas are colored men who came to the state without a dollar and who have, by industry and frugality, accumulated small fortunes. They are to be found in almost every county of Eastern Kansas. In Wyandotte, Shawnee, Douglas, Jefferson and Leavenworth counties there are at least a dozen colored farmers who own fine farms, live in handsome country homes, ride to town in good carriages, are respected by all their neighbors, and have all the advantages and comforts enjoyed by their white neighbors.

\* \* \*

**George W. Jones**, of [Jefferson] county, has 320 acres of splendid land within two miles of Oskaloosa, lives in a commodious residence, has a large family of bright children, and rides to town in a handsome surrey. He was born in slavery and came to Kansas with his parents after the war.

\* \* \*

The idea of Booker T. Washington is right. If colored men of the country can become property owners and men of affairs, instead of mere servants, they will attain influence and standing.



*George Washington Jones, son of Milton and Mary Allison Jones. From the Topeka Plaindealer, Feb. 9, 1900*

## Scandal in McLouth

By Janice Bower Tompkins

My great-grandma's sister, **Mary Ann Bowman**, was a preacher's daughter, the oldest of the nine children of **Abraham Bowman** and **Barbara Hoerner**. Her daddy was a German Baptist Brethren preacher in Pennsylvania in the 1860s. He was also a farmer, because German Baptists didn't pay their preachers.

After the family had moved to Perry County, Pennsylvania, Abraham was called to the ministry by the German Baptist congregation called Lower Cumberland. There was no church building, and members met in their homes or barns in rural locations in both counties. Beginning in 1863, Abraham "rode the circuit," alternating with several other ministers. He was then ordained in June 1868. There's an intriguing note in the Bowman family Bible, which I have. It says that Abraham was "silenced" April 16, 1874, but gives no explanation. Then there's a note dated September 4, 1875, that says "reinstated." Perhaps someday I'll go through old issues of Gospel Messenger searching for the reason. In 1875 the family moved to Auburn, Illinois, where Abraham continued to preach to the German Baptist Brethren before moving on to northeastern Kansas, to the little town of McLouth.

For some reason, Mary seemed destined to be an old maid. She remained unmarried (in the federal censuses) at 22, at 32, and at 42. Then at age 45 she married a Union Army veteran who was living in the local Old Soldiers Home. **Logan Hickerson**, once a farm boy from Kentucky, had fought in the Civil War before some war-related disability put him in the Soldiers Home. When they married in 1893, he was 50, and they settled down together in McLouth. Should have led a dull life together.

The first inkling of scandal involving Logan appears in the *Winchester Star* datelined August 15, 1894, about nearby McLouth:

### Assaulted and Stabbed.

A cutting affray took place at the post office in this city about 10 o'clock this forenoon, which may result in the death of one of our merchants, **S.P. French**, who was assaulted by **Logan Hickerson** with a knife. Some of the parties who were in the lobby of the office at the time of the occurrence did not know what had happened until after the assault had terminated as neither of the parties spoke during the scuffle, and it was over so quickly that they could not be parted. The indications point to the fact that Hickerson must have been there waiting for French to come after his mail, and being ready must have attacked him as soon as he entered the door. Mr. French has a gash several inches long over the heart, one above and one below the elbow on the left arm, and two on the head, from all of which he bled profusely.

As soon as he could, Mr. French reached the door, ran across the street to a doctor's office, where he fell against the side of the house and sank to the walk. He called for his wife and a doctor, and apparently lost consciousness where he was allowed to remain while he received surgical attention.

During the excitement incident to rendering help to the wounded man, the assailant went to his home, put on his coat, and fled the country. A large number of searchers, headed by the sheriff and city marshal, have failed to find his whereabouts. As to the cause for the assault, as soon as it was over, someone asked him why he did it. He said, "I could stand it no longer. He slandered my wife," and that is all that is known about it.

Both men stand well in the community, Mr. French being a merchant and a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows Societies, while Mr. Hickerson belongs to the Grand Army and is a member of the Baptist Church.

The *Oskaloosa Times*, in nearby Oskaloosa, Kansas, the county seat, told a slightly different version in its August 17, 1894, edition:

### PORTER FRENCH STABBED, BY LOGAN HICKERSON.

#### The Deed Was Committed in the Post-Office, at McLouth, Wednesday.

Wednesday morning **Sheriff [J.H.] Weatherford** and **Coroner [Dr. John] Balsley** received a telegram from McLouth stating that Porter French had been murdered by Logan Hickerson. They left for the above named place immediately but when they got there found that Mr. French was still living.

The cause of the trouble was, we learn, that Mr. French had insulted Mr. Hickerson's wife sometime past, and on meeting at the post office where the deed was committed, Mr. Hickerson drew a knife and began cutting Mr. French. During the engagement, Hickerson's nose was smashed, and French received several severe gashes on the head, arms, hands, and over the heart, and also leaving three ribs cut loose, which will probably prove fatal.

Mr. Hickerson is an old soldier about fifty years of age, and served eighteen months in Libby Prison during the [Civil] War. He is said to be a very quiet, peaceable, law-abiding citizen. The deed must have been committed without the second thought. After French was stabbed he ran across the street and fell on the sidewalk near the hotel where he was left until the afternoon.



During the excitement, Hickerson armed himself with a revolver and knife and skipped out going east. When he left he made the assertion that he would never be taken alive. **Sheriff Weatherford** telegraphed for **Deputy [James] Morrow** and **Jas. Smith** and started in pursuit of him.

Nearly a week after the fracas, a Cheney, Kansas, newspaper got a little over-excited, in its reporting on August 23, 1894:

**Fatal Stabbing. S.P. French**, a merchant, was stabbed at McLouth a few days ago by **Logan Hickerson**. The men met at the post office and after exchanging some words in an excited manner, Hickerson drew a knife and commenced stabbing French, French dying in a short time.

Well, not exactly. Porter French didn't die from the attack as reported in Cheney, and that business of "you'll never take me alive" sounds to me like fake news, especially since the newspaper wasn't even located in the same town as the fracas. The next weekly issue of the *Oskaloosa Times*, on August 24, 1894, gives new details:

Porter French, who was stabbed by Logan Hickerson at McLouth last week is still alive and will probably get well. His attending physicians issue bulletins every day and send them to the neighboring towns stating his condition, which shows that he is improving.

Hickerson as we stated last week ran away the day of the trouble but only went out in the country a little way and in the evening went to the farm residence of **Matt Edmonds** and asked for a drink and something to eat. He then went back to McLouth and gave himself up, had his hearing, and was placed under a \$10,000 bail.

More recently I've discovered there was actually a trial, though I would never have predicted the outcome. The October 27, 1894, *Oskaloosa Independent* told its readers:

The trial of Logan Hickerson on the charge of stabbing Porter French with intent to kill is in progress in the District Court. **Lucien Baker** of Leavenworth is assisting the prosecution, and **Capt. Joe Waters** of Topeka aiding the defense.

The next week's report on the trial and its unlikely outcome was found in the *Valley Falls New Era* for November 3, 1894:

Capt. Joe Waters is jubilant over winning his case last week and acquitting his client, Logan Hickerson. The case was thrown out of court by the judge because the attorney for the prosecution, **H.B. Schaeffer**, said that the defendant was "frenzied" or words to that effect when he committed the assault on S.P. French. The judge found that a man "frenzied" was not responsible for what he had done, and threw the case out of court.

The prosecution didn't like the verdict and appealed to the Kansas Supreme Court. State vs. Logan Hickerson, #10.065 Appeal from Jefferson County, agreed with the local judge and dismissed the county's appeal. All of the justices concurred. Logan Hickerson was acquitted because of statements by the prosecution before the jury, and Logan was free from further prosecution.

So what happened after that? Did Porter French quietly accept the verdict? Not exactly. He was still around and unhappy, according to the June 1, 1895, *Oskaloosa Independent*:

Porter French of McLouth broke out again last Saturday, made threats against Logan Hickerson, and paraded a Winchester rifle about. It was intended to prosecute him for this, but he has sold out his stock of goods to a man from Lansing [Kan.], rented his dwelling to the same party, and agrees to move out of the town as a part of the condition, we are told, of the prosecution being dropped.

Broke out again? From where? I didn't find the answer, but now infamous, Porter French and his wife moved away from McLouth, never to be mentioned in the McLouth newspapers again. [Ed.: On January 1, 1897, the *Oskaloosa Independent* reported that Mrs. French and her daughter visited friends in McLouth. The family had moved to Fredonia, Kan., and S.P. French was "well and prospering."]

Uncle Logan and Aunt Mary apparently settled back down in McLouth. They were still there in 1896 when **Jas. Waymer**'s wife died in childbirth, and the grieving husband left his 12-day-old baby girl in the Hickersons' care and left Kansas behind. Local newsfolk approved when, on September 11, 1896, the Hickersons took out adoption papers for little **Bessie Viola Waymer**. "The little one is surely in good hands," the *McLouth Champion* told its readers approvingly.

**Logan Hickerson** (1843-1918) and **Mary Ann Bowman Hickerson** (1848-1942) are buried in the McLouth Cemetery. **Bessie Viola** (1896-1960) grew up and married a fellow named **Wayne David Bradford**, and the couple later moved to Santa Clara, California.

## Harry Truman Goes to the Drugstore

**Sheila Stebbins Harries** remembers the day when Oskaloosa received a visit from a former president. Her sister, **Verna Stebbins Walker**, worked part-time for their parents, **LaVerne “Chick” and Eunice “Ernie” Stebbins**, in the Rexall drugstore on the southwest corner of the square in Oskaloosa.

Harries said, “I was too young, but Verna told a story about **Harry Truman** coming in, wanting to cash a check. She told him she didn’t know him, so she’d have to check with her Dad. He just smiled and said, ‘Of course.’ Dad was shocked and embarrassed, but he accepted the check. He wanted to keep it but couldn’t. It was enough that he needed the cash for the next day.”

Harries had an encounter of her own to report: “I also remember riding my bike to play with **Karl [Swoyer]**, but wasn’t allowed by [Truman’s] guards. Karl had to meet me at another location. Guess I was a threat?”

Truman was in town to visit his niece, **Martha Ann Truman Swoyer**, daughter of the former president’s brother, **J. Vivian Truman**. Swoyer, an attorney and teacher, lived in Oskaloosa with her husband, **Jim**, and their son, **Karl**. In a 1991 interview with **Jim Williams** of the National Park Service, Swoyer said that her uncle Harry and aunt **Bess Truman**, came to her home for a family dinner in the early 1960s. She stretched the end of the kitchen table and offered a buffet for 30 guests. The adults ate in the kitchen and the children in the dining room. Dishes the Trumans had given to the Swoyers were on display, and Bess helped to clear the table along with the other women.



## The First Steam Threshing Machine

*From the Winchester Star, Nov. 6, 1942 (From the files of Raymond Riley)*

We hear a great deal today of being loyal and getting things done. When [I was] a small boy in the 80s Mr. **Ad Bromley** brought the first steam rig into our neighborhood. He was a very energetic man and made things go from sunup till dark. The machine was manufactured by the Russell Co. The trade-mark was a large picture of a bull on one side of the machine and under the picture was the words “The Boss.” The engine was of the same make. It would pull itself, but had to be guided by a team. There were no wind stackers or self feeders. It took six men to operate it—two feeders, two hand cutters, one engineman and a water-hauler. **Bob Scott** was the engineer and **Warren Winkler**, water-hauler. Mr. Ad Bromley was the boss. In those days water was no small item, and in some places hard to get. There were not many windmills or supply tanks, but that made no difference to Ad Bromley. He came on your place to thresh, and got the job done. He lived east and south of Winchester at that time, and he would be out there by daylight. Bob Scott would steam up and Warren Winkler would have a load of water if it took all night. It was not a matter of hours or wages. His main object was to do you a good job of threshing and get it done. The wheat, oats and flax were most all stacked and they would thresh up to cold weather. And to us boys threshing in our neighborhood was a big event. We would cut bands all day for fifty cents, with the privilege of all the dust and dirt we could take, but we got some cash. Our mothers and sisters also had an important part. It was to bake bread and pies and kill and dress the chickens, dig the potatoes and get them ready—and to feed ten to twelve men was no small job. But our neighbor women always had a part, also, and would come and help out—and what fine dinners we would have, for it was threshing time on our place. So when I hear over the radio, “Be patriotic, dig down till it hurts,” I often think of our fathers and mothers of that day. There were no electric ice boxes or heatless oil stoves; no café to serve meals for your help—but they got the job done. But this country is in war, and each one will do his or her part, both old and young, in respecting the American flag and keeping it flying.

**W.S. Fulton**

## Mechanical Refrigeration

*From the Valley Falls Vindicator, May 12, 1933*

Mechanical refrigeration is now available for homes without electric service. Kerosene burning refrigerators are now on the market that require attention once each day. The fuel container is filled and the burners lighted, and refrigeration is provided for the next 24 hours at a remarkably low operating cost.



## A Tom Thumb Wedding



*From the McLouth Times, May 22, 1914*

The Tom Thumb Wedding given under the auspices of the Young Peoples' Society of the U.B. church at Harris Hall Tuesday night and participated in by about seventy fine little tots under a professional trainer was one of the cutest and most enjoyable entertainments ever held in our town. The little folks were dressed in grown up society costumes, the little gentlemen in miniature dress suits and the little ladies in society dresses with long trains. Little **Mildred Means** was the handsome bride attired in all the proper wedding toggery of a grown up including the bridal veil. She made a typical Tom Thumb bride. Little **Donald Bower** dressed in the conventional black was the groom. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rabbi **Roy Silverman**. Be it remembered however that it was not a Jewish wedding.

*At left: Groom, **Donald Bower**; bride, **Mildred Means**; bridesmaid, **Shirley Casebier**; best man, **Arthur Means**. Photos from **Janice Bower Tompkins**, daughter of the "groom."*



## HAIL! YE SOVEREIGNS!

### KANSAS PROBABLY ADMITTED!

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Jan. 30, 1861*

**Almost in the Union** — The Kansas admission Bill passed the Senate on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. The vote was such as to secure our early admission even in the event of a Presidential veto, as will be seen by the following dispatch from St. Louis to the Leavenworth *Times*:

**St. Louis, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 11 p.m.**

**J.K. Bartlett:** The Kansas Bill passed the Senate with Fitch's amendment, relating to Judiciary, by a vote of 36 to 16. McKee & Fishback.

The House will probably concur in the amendment, and the Bill be sent to the President for his signature, if this has not already been done.

**Latest.**—We learn from a private source that a telegram was received in Leavenworth at three o'clock yesterday, (Tuesday) announcing that Kansas is admitted into the Union as a sovereign State. We have no particulars, and neither ink nor space for a more extended notice this week.



*Thirty-four stars. Boston Public Library public domain image.*

## Kansas a State

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Feb. 6, 1861*

The admission Bill has received the signature of the President, and Kansas is a sovereign State, and stands on an equal footing with her sisters in the Confederacy. On the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. Hon. **Martin F. Conway**, the Representative elect under the Wyandotte Constitution, was sworn into office, and took his seat in the popular branch of Congress — Mr. C. is a gentleman of talent, pleasing address, temperate in his habits, and an eloquent public speaker; and we have no doubt he will make an efficient Representative.

Kansas, though the youngest, is by no means the least important of the sisterhood of States. Her central geographical position will give her at once an influence in the councils of the nation that no other new State has ever had; and the rapid development of her natural resources, a steady and increasing growth in population, the inauguration of an efficient system of free schools, the establishment of manufactories, and the proper and judicious encouragement of internal improvements, will in a few years give her a place among the first States in the Union.

Very soon the guardians of the vital interests of the young State will be called upon to enter upon the duties assigned to their several positions. Not many weeks hence the legislature will convene, to whom is entrusted weighty responsibilities. Among the first and most important business that will come before them, will be the election of two Senators to represent the people of this commonwealth in the United States Senate. It is needless to say that the wisest, most sagacious, and yet the most prudent of the prominent men of Kansas should be selected to fill these high stations of honor and trust; the good of the nation and the State alike demand that our Senators should be the best statesmen we have. We will not now suggest our preference for any individual for the position of Senators, for we believe the combined wisdom of the State Senate and House of Representatives will elect those men who are the best qualified to fill those stations.

After the election of the Senators, it devolves upon the Legislature to enact and inaugurate a thorough, liberal, yet economical system of statutory laws. While high taxation and a heavy State debt should be studiously avoided, free schools, agricultural, mechanical and manufacturing interests, and a judicious system of railroads and other internal improvements, should receive liberal encouragement from the State government. A proper disposition of the public lands should be made, for the benefit of the State, and not be disposed of in a way that will line the coffers of individuals with the gold that ought to fill the public treasury.

Possessing the advantage of the history and experience of other States that have preceded Kansas, our legislators ought to devise a system of State government and enact a code of laws, far in advance of any of her predecessors; thus giving her an impetus to future greatness and influence unparalleled in the history of the nation.



## Foot Ball Game

*From the Winchester Star, Oct. 29, 1903 (From the files of **Raymond Riley**)*

Saturday dawned bright and clear, just the day for a good game of foot ball. A little warm for the players but an ideal atmosphere for the spectators prevailed, and the side lines were filled by a goodly number of citizens.

The "Townies" won the toss and the High School kicked off with a 50 yard liner. The Townies failed to make any return in the kick-off and were held for downs immediately. The High School now took the pig skin and after a few end runs, **Thornburg** of the H.S. was pushed over the line for the first touch down. No goal was attempted.

The Townies kicked off, making a short punt out. The H.S. made a good return and by a series of line bucks and end runs, the ball in the hands of **Lawless**, went across the line for another touch down and thus ended the first half of the game, Score 10 to 0 in favor of the H.S.

The sound of the whistle brought the teams to the field once more and each man took his place with determination written in every feature. The Townies kicked off and after repeated changes of the ball thro' downs and fumbles and a deal of hard knocking they made their first touch down while **Eastman**, the full back for the H.S., was weakened by a blow in the ribs. The H.S. now kicked off for the second time and again the Townies were tackled almost at the drop of the ball. They were held for downs and the ball went to the H.S. who made repeated gains and were making a last drive for the third touch down when the ball was lost on a fumble. The Townies now pounded the H.S. line with vim and energy, but time was called with the ball near the Townies ten yard line.

The features of the game were the long end runs by Lawless and Thornburg and the line bucks made by the Townies while the H.S. team was somewhat disabled.

Both sides were well supported and on the whole it was a good, clean game considering the fact that most of the players were amateurs in the game.

*From the Winchester Star, Dec. 1, 1905 (From the files of **Raymond Riley**)*

On account of the many serious and sometimes fatal injuries received by players in the game of football, there is a growing sentiment in favor of banishing the game from the list of college sports. Supt. **J. Greenwood** of the Kansas City, Mo., schools characterizes the game as usually played, as more brutal than the prize fight or the Mexican bull fight. It certainly seems that the youth of our land should not be allowed to engage in such a dangerous sport.

## W.H.S. Girls' Basketball Team County Champions

**Perry High Shares Honors With Winchester—Both Teams Win 10, Lose 2—Trophies Awarded to Both Teams**

*From the Winchester Star, Mar. 4, 1949 (From the files of **Raymond Riley**)*

The W.H.S. girls' basketball team, last Friday night, by trouncing the Meriden high school girls on the Meriden court 26 to 13, added another beautiful championship trophy to the Winchester high school trophy case. Perry high school, who also won 10 and lost 2 in league competition, is sharing the honor of being co-champions of the Jefferson County League. Both teams received first place trophies.

The coaching of the Winchester high school girls' team was wished off on Mr. **Logan Guffey**, Industrial Arts Instructor, since we had no lady teachers on the faculty that qualified to coach basketball. Mr. Guffey did an excellent job as evidenced by the record his team made.

The championship team is composed of a number of veteran players, who were in there battling all the way and stopping many a threat thru the season. Probably the most experienced and valuable player on the team was **Dorothy Funk**, Forward. This was her fourth year of competition, and she could always be relied upon in close competition. **Mary Anne O'Neill** and **Wilma Moon** were rated as the two outstanding guards of the league. No game was lost during the season because of inefficiency at the guarding posts, which was again demonstrated in the game Friday night, when they held Meriden to one point in the first quarter. Not a single field goal could they make over these tall and stocky guards.

Other players that played outstanding basketball in a number of the games during the season were **Vera Lou Lindsay**, **Berneice Nicholson**, **Nina Noll**, **Hazel White** and **Barbara Nivens**, as forwards, and **Edna Mae Bowers**, **Betty Trower** and **Stevens**, guards.

Although girls' basketball has been ruled out for next year as a regular county league affair, there is considerable sentiment in a number of communities in the county that it should be carried on. Winchester is one of those communities that does not want girls' basketball dropped from their schedule.

## Triple Wedding at Ozawkie Attracts Wide Notice

(Contributed by *Leanne Chapman*)

The wedding of three **Stember** sisters, which took place Sunday, January 30, at Ozawkie, is a social event doubtless unique in local history and has brought exceptional publicity in the daily press of Topeka, Kansas City and elsewhere. The Star's morning edition of the 31<sup>st</sup> carried a half page feature on the wedding, topped by a four-column by six inch photo of the three brides being carried by their husbands from the church steps across the icy highway to their waiting automobiles.

Each of the girls—brunette, brown-haired, blonde—is lovely, charming, talented. At the marriage altar, in Ozawkie E.U.B. church, they and their bridegrooms made an imposing group that called for no attendants. The young men, too, have looks, talent, personality, giving relatives and friends at the wedding the comfortable feeling that all parties concerned had “done right well.”

**Rev. Edwin F. Price**, Methodist pastor-counselor to students at University of Kansas, Lawrence, was flawless in his conduct of the double ring service which he had skillfully adapted so as to permit unison answers to many of the questions. Thus it was not a one, two, three ceremony but three-in-one.

And so, **Donna Jean**, 25, became the bride of **Mr. John Meyer** of Quincy, Ill.; **Muriel**, 23, became the bride of **Mr. Shelton Hannig**, of Hobart, Ind.; **Beverly**, 21, became the bride of **Mr. Oval West** of Kansas City, Kansas.

Preceding the ceremony a program of piano numbers was skillfully played by John Meyer's father, **Mr. Rudolph Meyer**, clothing merchant and musician of Quincy, Ill., who also accompanied **Mrs. Sheila Domme**, of Topeka, who sang “I Love Thee” and “O Perfect Love.” Mrs. Domme is daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Tom Quinlan** of Perry, a cousin of the Stember family. Mr. Meyer played the wedding marches.

Four candelabra at the altar, banked by baskets of white gladioli, were lighted by **Jimmie Stember**, 12, and **Charles Adams**, 14, cousins of the brides.

Miss Beverly was escorted to the altar by her uncle, **Frank Stember** of Ozawkie, Miss Muriel by her uncle **Raymond Adams**, of Lela, Okla., Donna Jean by her father, **Paul Stember**, who remained at rear of the group until he had thrice said “I do,” then sank into nearest seat beside his wife. Opposite were parents of the youths, **Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Meyer**, **Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hannig**, of Hobart, Ind., **Mr. and Mrs. Oval West, Sr.**, Kansas City, Kansas.

The identical wedding gowns, made by the brides' aunt, **Lucile Stember Mitchell**, were very attractive. They were of white satin, basque style, net yoke edged with a flange, sleeves pointed over wrists and fastened with rows of satin-covered buttons. Skirts full and gored with short trains. The fingertip veils of French illusion floating from lily-of-the-valley half halos were fashioned by a Denver friend of Muriel's.



**SISTERS IN TRIPLE WEDDING**—The three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stember, who live on a farm northeast of Ozawkie, Kas., are carried over the snow after they were married in a triple ceremony at their hometown church. Left to right are: The former Donna Jean Stember, 25, ad her husband, John Meyer of Champaign, Ill.; Muriel Kathleen, 23, married to Shelton Hannig, Terre Haute, Ind.; and Beverly Joan, 21, who wed Oval West, jr., of Kansas City, Kas. Some 250 friends and relatives from Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois and Ohio were present for the ceremony.

*From the Parsons Sun, Feb. 1, 1949*

Bridal bouquets were of white carnations on satin-covered frames centered with pink carnations, which were detached as corsages for the going-away suits—rose for Donna Jean, gray for Muriel, lavender for Beverly. Each bride wore a string of pearls.

Ushers were **John McCalla**, Kansas City, Kans., and **Jack Badel**, of Columbus, Ohio.

A reception for the nearly two hundred guests was held at the high school gymnasium, which afforded plenty of room for freedom of movement; surprisingly it was a company by and large unacquainted with one another, since it included friends and relatives of the principals from several communities, colleges and states.

Hostess **Mrs. Paul Stember** was assisted by four aunts of the brides—her own sister, **Mrs. Ben Sequay** of Enid, Okla., **Mrs. Murna Stember** of Ozawkie, **Miss Tena Stember** of Topeka, **Miss Meta Stember** of Washington, D.C.

Guests were registered in three books by the assistance of **Miss Marjorie Newell**, Ozawkie; **Miss Claudine Chamberlain**, Augusta; **Mrs. Marian Bertleson**, Russell, Kansas.

At the gift table were **Miss Jo Strowig**, **Miss Meyer**, **Miss Swoyer**.

The brides and grooms simultaneously cut and sampled the three wedding cakes and later stood in line while the long procession of well-wishers expressed their compliments. Vocal numbers were sung by **Mrs. Dixie Werner** of Dodge City, Kansas.

A rehearsal for the wedding Saturday afternoon was followed by a dinner for family and in-laws at the rural home of the brides' parents.

The brides are graduates of Oskaloosa high school, each in turn was "tops" in the music department, particularly on piano. **Donna Jean** finished in 1941 and enrolled at University of Kansas, where her mother graduated back in 1918, a classmate of **Rev. Mr. Price** and a charter member of Kappa Phi, Methodist girls' sorority, of which **Mrs. Edwin Price** is now the sponsor. It is a custom of Kappa Phi for a member bride to wear at her wedding a chapter emblem, as a bracelet, but at the **Stember** triple wedding the bracelet was worn by the girls' mother. Donna Jean's local friends anticipated for her a musical career, but she chose nursing instead and, in due time, arrived at University of Illinois on a scholarship. Later, as a teacher of student nurses at Blessing hospital, Quincy, she met **John Meyer**, a graduate of Oberlin college, Ohio, specialist in psychiatry now doing his internship at Champaign. The state provides their apartment, as Mrs. Meyer is director of nurse training at the state-owned Burham hospital at Champaign.

**Muriel** graduated at Oskaloosa high in class of 1943, followed her older sister to Kansas University, to residence at Watkins hall membership in Kappa Phi, studied zoology, went to University of Illinois on a fellowship, worked out her master's degree and landed a job as technician in the Mayo hospital at Rochester. **Shelton Hannig** seems to have put an end to that career by calling Muriel to a higher one. The two met at a Sunday evening youth service in Urbana while she was student there; he was studying architectural engineering, and is now employed by an architectural firm in Terra Haute where the couple have chosen an apartment.

**Beverly** graduated from Oskaloosa high school in 1945. At a social event in Watkins hall, Kansas University campus, she met **Oval West**, a student in personnel administration. He graduated last June, she is specializing in Education, will graduate this spring. They are fitting up an apartment in Kansas City, Kansas. Mr. West is employed with Libby, McNeill and Libby, on the Missouri side.

For their honeymoons the Meyers went to southern Illinois, the Hannigs to New Orleans, the Wests direct to their new home, since their vacation time is quite limited.

Brides, and brides to be, form the major part of the housekeeper's course at the agricultural college, Manhattan. For this reason it is known as "the diamond ring course."

*From the Jefferson County Tribune, Nov. 14, 1919 (Contributed by Leanne Chapman)*

## Snowstorms

*(From the files of Raymond Riley)*

*From the Winchester Argus, Feb. 12, 1881*

One of the severest storms that has occurred within the recollection of the "oldest inhabitant," set in yesterday morning and continued through the day and night. Snow drifted to the tops of fences in many places, trains stopped running, and travel and business of every kind was suspended.

*From the Winchester Argus, Feb. 19, 1881*

### OUR DELAY

The snow blockade on the railroad prevented our paper from reaching us in time for our usual publication day (Saturday). Rather than miss the issue, however, we spent Sunday and Monday in making the trip to Leavenworth and return, that we might be enabled today to give our readers the best we have in the shop.

The great storm found Winchester's coal supply exhausted, and as a consequence no small amount of inconvenience was experienced.

### SNOW-BOUND

#### Business and Travel Under Blockade by the Great Snow Storm.

#### Communication with the Outside World Cut Off for Twelve Long Days.

The great storm which set in here on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> and continued through the day and night, proved more disastrous in its effects than any that has occurred for many years. The snow drifted in the lanes and completely stopped travel to and from the country. As an instance of the difficulty in getting around, four men started from **Samuel Richardson's** place, one and a half miles distant from town, at 7 o'clock on Monday morning and were until 8 o'clock in the evening reaching here. They were on a mission that had to be performed, being sent after a coffin to be used for the burial of **Mrs. Chas. Richardson**, who had died the evening previous.

The farmers worked faithfully on the roads during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and by Thursday, those living several miles distant were enabled to reach town. During the five days previous to that, however, business was almost at a stand still. There was scarcely no country trade at all, and but few persons in town were on the stir.

**The Railroad** was completely blockaded at this point for more than a week. The last train that passed here was the west bound passenger, on Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, and we were without sound or sight of a train from that time until Monday (the 21<sup>st</sup>), when the two engines working eastward had made their way through the drifts to this place. At the time of going to press (10 a.m. Tuesday), it seems probable that the train from the east will reach

here and the road be opened by this evening, in which case, the first regular train in twelve days will reach here on Wednesday, the 23d. In what is known as the government cut, near Leavenworth, twenty feet of snow had to be shoveled from the track before the train could pass.

The secret of this long blockade, however, lies in the parsimonious action of the railroad officials in employing men at the beginning of the trouble. An order was sent out to agents to hire men at \$1.10 a day, and when inquiry was made as to the possibility of getting a slight advance from that price, there came the insulting reply for them to take that or "go to hell." But for this niggardly course, the road would no doubt have been opened and trains running a week ago.

The Santa Fe road was also blockaded for a week, and from all we can learn at this writing, nearly every road in the West experienced the same inconvenience.

### Frightful Accident.

A track inspector on the Santa Fe road, whose name we were unable to learn, met with a horrible death near Valley Falls, on Wednesday. While walking through a cut, he was overtaken by two engines with a snow plow, which ran over and crushed him. It was on a heavy grade, and the man was not discovered in time to stop the engines.

### Blockade Incidents.

**Dave Smith** made two trips to Leavenworth with passengers, picking his own road through fields and drifts.

**Thos. Cathcart**, in company with a couple of young ladies, started for Oskaloosa on Friday morning, to attend the Teachers' Examination, but was obliged to turn back after going about three miles.

**Kins. Martin**, living near town, invested two dollars in a pair of mittens and a shovel, and went to work for the railroad company. He worked long enough to freeze his feet, and then quit with the princely sum of fifty-five cents coming to him.

Two plucky individuals came to this place from Valley Falls, on horseback, during the snow blockade, and then started east on foot to meet the train that was clearing the track between here and Leavenworth. One of the parties, Mr. **John Abernathy**, of Leavenworth, walked from Holton to Valley Falls.

Several gentlemen were on the streets, on Friday, with a snow plow. They did excellent work, but it was "worth a quarter out of Dad's pocket" to see them upset in a snow drift. For a while all that could be seen was about sixty-nine inches of **Sterrett's** feet sticking out of the drift, looking like the platform of a pair of scales.



## And More Snowstorms

*From the Winchester Argus, Jan. 14, 1886*

Business in Winchester was pretty generally suspended last week on account of the storm.

Wednesday of last week the weather clerk of the Argus told us we would now have "some glorious Italian weather" and we penned the item for the devil to put into type, and was preparing a nice little verse for this week's paper on the ethereal mildness of our climate; but oh, my countrymen! What a change, our verse has been knocked into pie, the ethereal mildness was put off, postponed, the Italian weather didn't suit, we think the weather clerk lied, don't believe it was Italian weather at all; it came with piercing wind, blinding snow, and cold enough to freeze a base burner with a red mica. Don't want any more of it, thank you. The mercury dropped and kept on dropping till the thermometer shed icy tears, the trains could not make their trips, business was stopped every place save around the heating stoves, there one was constantly employed stoking, men froze their noses, ears, toes &c. while going from the stores to the woodpiles; **Smith's** mouth was frozen while open telling one of his funny stories, the words were froze in solid chunks as they come out, (they will thaw next week and we will all laugh then at the story no doubt) **Rube McClure's** wooden leg was froze stiff and not a muscle has since relaxed, the editor's pocket book was closed in his pocket and froze that way, he has not been able yet to get it open to pay for groceries and provisions that were necessary to keep the little **Robinsons** from starving. Everybody was cold, and if it was Italian weather, we pity the poor harp players of Italy. Not any more of that kind Mr. Clerk, give us a little mild Kansas winter weather.

As we put this item in type the weather is beautiful but the Lord only knows what it will be tomorrow.

When the mercury plays around at 24 and 26 and 28 below zero it is cold enough in this country. That is the kind of weather we had last week.

We will not attempt to prophecy again about the weather. We are not near so smart as we thought we were: Wednesday of last week we wrote for our Thursday's paper that it was "beautiful weather again," and before our edition was mailed one of the most terrible blizzards that ever struck us was raging, the roads were blockaded and our mail did not get out of town for five days.

*From the Winchester Argus, Jan. 28, 1886*

Quite a number of Winchester boys joined the snow shoveling brigade on the Kansas Central last Saturday

and Sunday. The train staid all night Saturday in town. The crew was made up of old men and little kids, any body that could stand the cold and carry a shovel was offered a job and boys who could not carry in an armful of wood for their mothers during the storm, seized an old shovel and fell into rank. It was a change, you know.

*From the Winchester Star, Feb. 15, 1901*

The snow plow with two engines and a couple of coaches went through last Friday evening ahead of the passenger. The section men from this place and Easton went with it. The snow Friday was very heavy at the west end of the road being from five to ten feet deep in the cuts.

*From the Winchester Star, Feb. 27, 1914*

The weather last Sunday and Monday came nearer being what used to be called an old time blizzard than anything we have had during the winter. The high wind filled the air with sleet and snow and made it most miserable to be out of doors. As it was down to zero the snow piled up in hard drifts, blocking the roads in many places. All outside communication was cut off, either by telephone or telegraph and there were no trains from Saturday night until Tuesday noon, when the freight came in from the west. The east bound passenger due at 8:40 a.m. was seven hours late Wednesday. The evening passenger due at 6:40, was two hours late. All the trains, passenger and freight, are running on time today.

*From the Winchester Star, Jan. 14, 1916*

### THE BLIZZARD

A blizzard raged here all day Wednesday and Wednesday night the thermometer run down to 20 degrees below zero. There was a stiff wind accompanied by sleet and snow Tuesday night. Wednesday the wind continued to blow and drifted the snow. The temperature did not get away from the zero mark Wednesday and this, with the blowing snow, made it almost impossible to get about. A number of people lost their house plants Wednesday night. Today, Thursday, it is fair and the sun is shining bright. Wednesday night is said to have been the coldest in twenty years. According to daily paper dispatches, the storm was general over the country.

The trains were delayed by the storm. Wednesday's west bound freight got as far as Lee station, and, fearing snow drifts, backed into Leavenworth. Wednesday night's passenger did not get in until this morning.

## Midnight Prowlers

*From the Winchester Star, Mar. 25, 1927*

*(From the files of Raymond Riley)*

Winchester can boast of a musical organization, which made its first appearance Tuesday evening at the basketball banque[t]; they were given hearty applause, which goes to show their efforts were appreciated. They have been given the name of "Midnight Prowlers," owing to the fact that they are business people and are always late before getting together, and as one expressed it, "They don't know when to quit, when they do get together." They are all music lovers and for that reason we predict that Tuesday evening will not be their last public appearance. Those playing are: **Mrs. Harry Price**, piano; **Harry Price**, clarinet; **Mary Price**, banjo; **Frank Haas**, violin; **E.O. Everett**, saxophone and bass; **Francis Haas**, trumpet.

## Double or Nothing

*From the Winchester Star, Dec. 8, 1944*

*(Contributed by Leanne Chapman)*

"It's double or nothing" for **Mr. and Mrs. Frank Funk** of Nortonville and it's a safe bet you'll draw the same conclusion when you hear the evidence. Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Funk became the proud parents of twins, a boy and a girl. Ordinarily this would unruffle the calmest of fathers and leave no room whatever for saneness and serenity. But not this father as he had been through the ordeal again, again and again. Yes, it was their third set of twins in four years and that's a story for Ripley. Looking over this unusual family you find **Marvin**, the five-and-a-half-year-old singleton of the family, followed by the first set of twins, **LeRoy and Leonard**, four years of age; **Donald and Roland** who will be three in January, and then the newest and latest additions who arrived Thursday. But these are different—one's a boy and one's a girl. The mother is the former **Agnes Penning**, daughter of the late **Mr. and Mrs. Jake Penning** of Potter.—*Atchison Globe.*

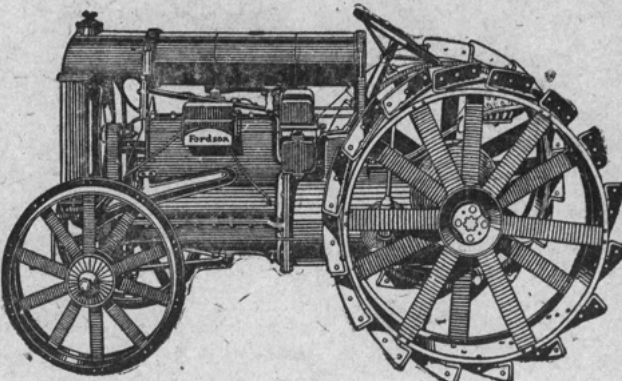
## Rebecca Stice

*From the Oskaloosa Sickle, Jan. 18, 1879*

Miss **Rebecca Stice** was thrown from her horse, last Thursday night, while coming home from school. The horse got frightened at the train, ran towards **Mr. Kindle's** fence and tumbled her off in the snow, which, however, did not hurt her. She is attending Spring Grove School; her father being determined to make a teacher of her.

*[Editor's Note: Rebecca "Becky" Stice was born in Platte County, Missouri, in 1862, the daughter of Phillip W. and Schilda Cockriel Stice. Her family moved to Delaware township in Jefferson County, Kansas, after 1870. She attended Brush Creek and Spring Grove schools, where she excelled in spelling, arithmetic, and deportment. She is listed as a "Lady Student" at the Normal Institute in July 1878. Her brother James Stice registered a land claim in Osage County in 1880. Rebecca Stice died July 30, 1881, aged 19 years, five months, 11 days, in Melvern, Osage County, Kansas. She is buried in Melvern Cemetery, [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54756617/rebecca\\_a\\_stice](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54756617/rebecca_a_stice).]*

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## Wallace Motor Co.

*From the Winchester Star, Oct. 21, 1921*

## OGS student becomes published author

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Nov. 10, 1988 (Contributed by Mary Luse)*

On Sept. 21 **Shannon Knight** turned 10 years old, but prior to that date she became a published writer.

Knight, now in the fourth grade at Oskaloosa Grade School, was a member of **Barbara Holter**'s third grade gifted class when she wrote the story, "The Day the Monkeys Went Wild." Originally the short book was written for an illustrated book contest in Kansas City. But in the end, the non-illustrated version was selected for publication in "Young Kansas Writers," a book published by the Manhattan Arts Council. Knight's story was published in the June 1988 edition, Volume 73, Number 4.

Knight, who says she really enjoys writing, is quietly excited about having her story published in the book. "It's nice," she said with a shy smile that wrapped from ear to ear.

Having the first-ever book she has written published may be a bit overwhelming for the fourth grader, but it hasn't made her set her sights on a professional career as a novelist just yet. When asked if she might someday like to write stories Knight replied, "Yes, maybe. But I think I want to be a teacher."

Knight is the daughter of **Dorothy Stapel**, Oskaloosa, and **Ralph Knight**, Topeka. Of the 2,500 entries submitted to be published in Young Kansas Writers, which is a collection of stories written by grade school students, only a handful were selected. Following is Knight's published story.

### THE DAY THE MONKEYS WENT WILD

One day in the zoo the monkeys were hanging on the bars just talking and playing. One said, "Maybe we could have a party!"

"No, I don't think so, the zookeeper will not let us if we even tried to," said one monkey.

"Well, I'm certainly not going to," said another monkey.

So the other monkeys planned out the party. They were so excited that they were nearly going WILD! The Zookeeper went up to where the monkeys were and that very instant the monkeys were silent. In fact, they were quieter than mice. The zookeeper was getting ready to feed and let the monkeys run around the zoo for a while. The reason why he let the monkeys go run around the zoo was because he was very nice.

One monkey said, "Since the zookeeper is so nice maybe he might let us have that party that we've all been wanting."

"I still don't think he'll let us have it. Let's ask the zookeeper if we can have the party," said the other monkey.

So they asked the zookeeper and the zookeeper said, "No, you can't have a party because the other animals will want to have a party, too." But what they didn't know was that he was just kidding. He was going to give them a party the week before, but he didn't because they were acting up. Now he planned to for a surprise. They had been good little monkeys for the whole week, but the other animals had been very bad. Especially the birds. They had been saying bad things about the other animals.

The next day was the day of the surprise party for the monkeys. They had banana cream pies, banana splits, banana popsicles, and fruit punch.

All the other animals said, "That's no fair. They got to have a party and we didn't."

"I know what," said one of the elephants. "Maybe we could try to escape."

"Shh! We don't want the zookeeper to know," said another.

"Well, if he doesn't love us, we should try to escape."

The next day the animals were getting ready to escape WHEN the zookeeper found out because the parrots were talking in their sleep.

"Hold it," said the zookeeper. "I heard the parrots talking about it in their sleep. Get back in your cages right this instant!"

They all got back in their cages.

"At least we tried to escape," said one elephant.

"But it didn't work," said another.

"Yeah, but it was worth getting caught; he does love us, at least that is what he says."

A couple of days later the monkeys said, “We’re smarter than any of the animals in the zoo so let’s try to escape.”

“I don’t think that will work,” said the monkey that didn’t ever agree with the other animals.

“Well, we can do it and we are,” said the others.

They made a plan. The next day they escaped and they had fun, I mean FUN! They climbed up telephone poles and climbed buildings; big buildings and little buildings. They even swung on people’s satellites and on people’s porches. They got into lots of supermarkets and into lots of shopping malls. But when they saw the zookeeper they started running every which way. There were some other men with the zookeeper and they caught the monkeys.

When they all got back, the other animals said, “Welcome back you silly monkeys.”

“I guess we found out that we should have hidden and not have been seen out in the open where everyone could see us,” said the monkeys.

So they got locked up in their cages for a month and didn’t get to go out to run around the zoo because they were bad little monkeys.

The birds said, “You’re very, very bad little monkeys.”

Everyone started laughing, even the monkeys started laughing too.

“We are happy here anyway,” said all the monkeys.

“And we shouldn’t have tried to escape in the first place,” said the monkeys.

“Yeah!” said the monkey who never agreed with the other animals.

They all got in a circle and played lots of neat games. They ate and drank lots of stuff. After that the birds didn’t say bad things about the other animals and none of the animals tried to escape anymore.

**Shannon Knight**, Grade 3, Oskaloosa Grade School, Oskaloosa

(Re-printed as published in the June 1988 edition of *Kansas Young Writers*.)

## **A Melody for the Plains**

(Contributed by **Rick Nichols**)

Valley Falls celebrated its centennial 70 years ago, and as the town originally known as Grasshopper Falls was preparing to mark the grand occasion with an array of festivities, a daughter of the Sunflower State was so inspired by the natural beauty that surrounded her that she put pen to paper and came up with the verses below for her production “The Prairie’s Song,” which “portrayed in pantomime outstanding events in the community history from its first cabin in 1854,” quoting here from the August 19, 1954, issue of the *Oskaloosa Independent*.

Here are the words to **Virginia Reichart**’s “The Prairie’s Song” —

I’ve roamed the wind swept prairie  
I know its lonesome song  
And as sure as a soul is inside of me  
I know where I belong.  
I’ve seen the sunset’s splendor  
Blue skies that stretch beyond  
But never on earth have they thrilled me  
Like the sound of the prairie’s song.  
For a prairie can sing till the heavens ring  
Till the wild prairie grasses sigh  
Till a busy young stream will pause just to dream  
A meand’rin’ by.  
I’ll take the wind swept prairie  
And thrill to its ageless song  
And my soul will expand like the wind o’er the land  
For the prairie’s where I belong!



## Payment in Kind

*From the Nortonville News, Apr. 30, 1886*

An eastern farmer very generously sends us an order for advertising to be paid for in seed. We thank you, gentlemen, we are about as seedy now as we can be and get around town.

*From the Nortonville News, July 23, 1886*

—**Wm. Rogers** has our thanks for some very fine Astrican apples, the largest we have ever seen in this country. Mr. Rogers says his apple crop is very large this year.

—**John Curry** surprised us last Saturday evening with a fine mess of early roasting ears, the first of the season. He knows how to Curry the favor of the newspaper man.

*From the Nortonville News, Aug. 6, 1886*

We will give one year's subscription to the *News* free for the best half bushel of potatoes brought to this office between this and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1886. This is an excellent opportunity to secure a whole year of your local paper for the value of 20 cents worth of potatoes. It sometimes happens that only one half bushel is brought, so that even if your potatoes are somewhat small they may take the prize.

*From the Nortonville News, Sept. 24, 1886*

We have concluded to extend our offer of a year's subscription to the *News* for the best half bushel of potatoes, size, quality and weight considered, till the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. Persons wishing to compete for this prize will bring in only half a bushel.

*From the Nortonville News, Oct. 1, 1886*

**John Oiler** brings us the first half bushel of potatoes. They are of the early rose seedling variety. They weigh thirty-one pounds and are so large that it only requires 41 to make the half bushel. In other words, they average larger than an ear of corn. Who is the next gentleman?

**Mrs. John Brown** sends us half a bushel of sweet potatoes yesterday that are very fine, and were raised by John himself. The whole family returns thanks.

*From the Nortonville News, Nov. 12, 1886*

—**S.P. Griffin** esq., brought in a ten pound beet last Teursday (*sic*). It took a gallon of vinegar to pickle it.

—**Corydon Williams** has our thanks for some very fine potatoes, which proved to be the best we have ever used.

—**W.L. Hummel**, of Atchison county hands us a subscription to the *News* this week, for which he has our thanks.

—**Geo Stephens** has our thanks for a half bushel of fine rose seedling potatoes which were highly relished by the little Thums. [Ed.: **O.F. Thum** was the editor of the *Nortonville News* in 1886.]

**Wood! Wood!!**

We wish all those of our subscribers who wish to pay for their papers in wood, to bring it along very soon; and all who are not subscribers and would like to take the *Independent* and pay for it in wood, do likewise. We wish to get our wood for the winter all in this fall. We will pay cash for good wood for the amount we need over what subscribers furnish. Those having wood to dispose of can give us a call.

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Oct. 29, 1864*

*From the Winchester Argus, July 14, 1887*

Mr. **Johnnie Davis** presented the editor with a fine lot of roasting ears last Saturday, for which the aforementioned individual returns thanks.

**Thanks.**

Mr. **W. C. Rose** sent into our office one day this week a couple of quarts of large delicious strawberries of the Charles Downing variety, grown on his place. They would average an inch in diameter. Mr. Rose will have the best wishes of this office hereafter, and don't you forget it. He will plant two acres of this kind of fruit.

*From the Valley Falls New Era, June 4, 1881*

## The Printer

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, July 27, 1867*

The following beautiful tribute to the followers of the “stick and rule” is from the pen of **B.F. Taylor**, of the Chicago Evening Journal:

The printer is the adjutant of thought, and this explains the mystery of the wonderful word that can kindle a hope that no song can; that can warm a heart as no hope can; that word “we,” with hand-in-hand warmth in it—for the author and the printer are engineers together. Engineers indeed! When the Corsican bombarded Cadiz, at the distance of five miles, it was deemed the very triumph of engineering. But what is that range to this, whereby they bombard the ages yet to be?

There at the “case” he stands, and marshals into line the forces armed with truth, clothed in immortality and English. And what can be nobler than the equipment of a thought in sterling Saxon—Saxon with a spear or shield therein, and that commissioning it when we are dead, to move grandly on “to the latest syllable of recorded time.” This is to win a victory from death, for this has no dying in it.

The printer is called a laborer, and the office he performs is toil. Oh, it is not work, but a sublime life he is performing, when he thus cites the engine that is to fling a worded truth in grander curve than missile e’er before described; fling it into the bosom of an age. He throws off his coat, indeed; we but wonder the rather that he does not put his shoes from off his feet, for the place where he stands is holy ground.

A little song was uttered somewhere, long ago; it wandered through the twilight feebler than a star; it died upon the ear. But the printer takes it up where it was lying, there in the silence, like a wounded bird, and he sends it forth from the ark that had preserved it; and it flies on into the future, with the olive-branch of peace, and around the world with melody, like the dawning of a bright spring morning.

*[The editor apologizes for “bombarding the ages yet to be.”]*



*From the Winchester Star, Apr. 22, 1910  
(The typo was corrected in the Apr. 29, 1910, issue.)*

## A Secret Society Yarn

*From the Jefferson County Tribune, June 15, 1900*

The hall of the Modern Woodman camp at Ipswich, S.D., is situated over an opera house. Recently the opera house was wrecked by a gas explosion. The camp of Woodmen was in session at the time of the explosion and a candidate was being adopted. The degree team was just in the middle of the ceremony, when there was a fearful noise, and the floor was raised about six feet, while the ceiling came half way down to meet it. The members of the camp fled forgetting all about the candidate. One member, after the explosion had spent itself, returned to search for the remains of the unfortunate, but found him standing among the debris, “waiting for the rest of it,” he said. It required considerable effort to convince him that the explosion was not a part of the ceremony of adoption, “because,” he said, “it wasn’t any worse than the rest of it.”

*From the Winchester Star, Apr. 20, 1945*

*(Contributed by Leanne Chapman)*

**Harry Hampton**, Oskaloosa furniture dealer and undertaker, says there seems to be some mistake in the way his business is listed on the records of the State Sales Tax Division. At least all letters to him are addressed to: “Oskaloosa Fuel Co.”

## Events and Exhibits at Old Jefferson Town, 2024

### Jefferson County Authors

Authors with ties to Jefferson County visited Old Jefferson Town during the 2024 season.

**Mable Caldwell**, a graduate of McLouth High School, is the author of *The Dangers of Chemistry*.

**Jennifer Binkley-Bostock**, who is the granddaughter of the late Donna Ward, is the author of *Bridleless* and *The Forgotten Road*. She is working on another writing project that will involve some fascinating Jefferson County material from the 1920s.

**Fran Borin** is a McLouth native whose mother was a volunteer with the Jefferson County Historical Society for a number of years. She is the author of the trilogy *Orion O'Brien and the Ghost of Samuel Grayhawk*, *Orion O'Brien and the Spirit of Quindaro*, and *Orion O'Brien and the Phantoms of Wakarusa*.

**Linda Williams Jungling** is the author of *Hey I Didn't Sign up for This*, an account of her bout with cancer. She is a Jefferson County alumna.

**Joy Lominska** is the author of *The Old Home Place, A Story of a Kansas Farm*, about her home in Sarcoxie Township, southeast Jefferson County.

**Emily LeRette**, the granddaughter of **Virgil** and **Clarice Dick** of Perry, writes young adult fantasy. She has published six books in the series, *Tempest Rising*.

**Karl Ramberg** has been a stone mason and carver for almost 40 years. His book, *Stone Diary: Confession of a Hard Hewer*, tells of his life in stone carving.

**Billy E. Hill**, author of *Protecting Kansas Wildlife*, was a game warden for the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, now the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. He served 27 years in every corner of the state including Jefferson County. Hill passed away July 6, 2023, but his children attended the recognition ceremony at OJT.

**Helen Dunlap Newton**, a Nortonville native and Jefferson County North graduate, wrote *Do You Hear What I Hear?* and *Night of the Amber Moon*.

### Wedding Dresses on Display

Wedding dresses were showcased last July in the Edmonds Chapel at Old Jefferson Town. These are just some of OJT's beautiful dresses from Jefferson County brides. Visit OJT next summer for new exhibits. Photo by Denise Spainhower.

