

## Haymond History

The United States is celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of its founding; however, forty-two years prior to 1776 we find the first records pertaining to John Haymond (ancestor of Earl Haymond) who took out a patent in 1734 on a large amount of land in Montgomery County, Maryland. There is a record that Edward Haymond Sr. was Major in one of the regiments under General George Washington during the Revolution.

Time went on, and we pick up the history again with the birth of William Haymond, May 15, 1807. He was married on September 20, 1829 to Anna Griffing. They became the parents of six sons and six daughters. All but the youngest son, Alphesus Oresta (1854-1923) served with the Union Army in the Civil War.

Alphesus Oresta was married October 10, 1875 to Jessie May Norman (1857-1948) in Indiana where their oldest son Clarence was born. Then they felt the "Tug of the West" and moved to Burrton, in Harvey County, Kansas. While there, their son Ray was born; however, things did not work out to their liking at Burrton so they moved farther west and bought land six miles north of Burdett in 1884. The family was enlarged to six by the birth of two more children—a son Earl, who still lives in Burdett, and a daughter Etta Pearl. These were pioneer days for sure and the Haymonds along with all of the other early settlers of those times had many hardships but also a lot of fun and good times.

Mrs. Haymond, whose hair was raven black, had a frightening experience when an Indian came up to her outside of her home and began patting her hair, repeating "Nice lady" "Nice lady!" Poor Jessie! She did not know whether he was thinking how fine a scalp her hair would make, or whether he was just admiring it. Anyway she made her escape into the house as soon as possible and locked the door and no doubt "shook" for awhile. Wouldn't you?

Jessie's sister Mariah and her husband William Crozier came to the Burdett area just prior to the Haymonds and along with their children Russel and Allie made this their home until their death.

In the spring of 1910 Earl and his brother Ray built the Haymond home in Burdett for their parents who then moved to town where Mr. Haymond joined his son Clarence in running a general store, having bought out the interest of C.I. Case who had been associated with Clarence. Later this store building burned and was replaced by a brick building built by the Norrises. The Haymonds had a store here until 1923.

Mrs. Jessie Haymond was a talented, practical nurse who was much interested in Homopathic medicine and she used it skillfully in the treatment of disease. Her garden reflected her interest for there she grew many herbs, including wormwood, spearmint, hoarhound, and catnip. She worked a good deal in conjunction with Dr. Bowie who

was a well liked doctor here in the earlier part of the century. She also served as mid-wife on numerous occasions.

Now for a quicklook into the background of the four Haymond children: Clarence (1876-1939) married Florence Preston (sister of Lester Preston of Burdett) in 1900. After living on a farm east of Burdett they moved into town where he and Vincent Wernet (whose wife was Leora Ethel Mather) operated a blacksmith shop for a while which was later taken over by George Burren (father of Hattie Belle Zahn), (Ed Bauer father of Luella Lynam) and more recently by Lee Bettes so it would seem that that particular corner should be well impregnated with iron having been used for that purpose since soon after the turn of the century, if not before. As before mentioned Clarence was in partnership with C.I. Case in a general store, and later with his father. He also ran a drug store at one time and served several terms as postmaster of Burdett. Their children Ferne, Merle, and Dwight attended school in Burdett but later moved away.

Ray (1883-1935) married Edna Palmer who was the daughter of one of the most colorful pioneer families of this area. Ray built the house now occupied by Maurice Daughenbaugh and lived there for some time. Later, he ran a confectionary in Larned and Arkansas City where he made candies and ice cream before going to Panama where he worked in an office during the time the Canal was being built. He spent most of his life in Flint, Michigan where he worked for the Buick Automobile Company. He and Edna had three daughters: Pauline, Mildred, and Betty.

Earl (1890- ) lives now in the home which he and Ray built for their parents. He grew up on the Haymond farm along with his two brothers and his sister. He started to school in the country schoolhouse nearby (No. 51, later known as the "Haymond School") where his teacher for the first two years was Guy Mather (father of Carolyn Winters) who taught for the magnificent sum of \$25.00 a month and was his own janitor besides!

Earl spent much time herding cattle and to entertain himself killed rattlesnakes with his blacksnake whip. Don Nuckolls now farms the half quarter of land one and one-half miles north of town which Earl broke with a team and a rod-burner plow—a plow with rods in the place of the moldboard, made especially this way for use in breaking sod.

Later the Haymond children came into Burdett to school where Earl graduated from high school with the class of 1907.

In 1913 the "tug of the west" was again felt—this time by the next generation from that which had felt the call to come to Kansas. Earl, his sister Etta and husband John Gregory, with Lester Preston (who married Lena Mather) all took out homesteads eighteen miles southwest of Lamar, Colorado in 1913. Here Earl met and married Zelma Beamer, the daughter of a neighboring homesteader. Rain was scarce as "hen's teeth" out there and not having sufficient grass for their cattle they moved back to Burdett in 1916 where he started in the

garage business, later known as "The Blue Line Garage"—this was the first of a chain of garages by that name to be established in Kansas. He obtained the agency for Chevrolet in 1925, which agency is still held by Shank Brothers who succeeded him in the garage.

In the winter of 1921 Earl had quite an experience. There was a heavy snow fall which prevented the train from making its run to Jetmore for two weeks until the day in mention. Earl was sick and went to see the new doctor in town, Justin Blount. On arrival at his office he found Dr. Wyckoff from Jetmore also there. Upon examination it was determined that he must have surgery, either performed under makeshift conditions in Burdett or in some way get him to Larned. By this time the train had left so the doctors commandeered a section handcar and all of them went to Larned on it. By the time they reached Larned the appendix had broken but Earl survived the ordeal.

Earl left the garage in 1942 and devoted his time to farming until his retirement. He and Zelma adopted two sons, Cecil and Fay. Zelma died in 1937. In 1939 he was married to Ruth Ochsenein and they live happily together in the house which has been occupied by Haymonds for so many years.

Etta (1893- ) and John had one daughter Lois. After leaving their homestead near Lamar, they lived in Longmont, Colorado for a time, then back to Burdett before moving to Fullerton, California where John was on the police force for twenty years. After his death, Etta moved to Anaheim, California where she makes her home.

A backward glance: On April 7, 1893 someone out around the Hummel farm southwest of Burdett inadvertently started a prairie fire with a cigarette and with the wind in the southwest the fire was fast on its way to the Haymond farm north of Burdett cleaning everything in its path. Haymonds lost their barn and haystacks. Earl was put in the stone milkhouse with some calves to save them while Ray took the rest of the cattle north to a plowed field to save them.

## George Edwin Burres Family

by Hattie Belle Burres Zahn

George Burres was born in Harrison County near Rosewood, Indiana, June 11, 1860. His parents were Leonard Elias and Mariah Grosshart Burres. They had come west to Indiana from Pennsylvania.

George was the seventh child of a family of ten children. His brothers were James, Thomas, William, Charlie and Leonard; his sisters were Ann, Belle, Sarah, and Susie. All lived and raised their families in southern Indiana and the Louisville, Kentucky area along the Ohio River. All preceded him in death. George's early years were spent in the area of New Albany, Indiana where he grew to manhood. He well remembered the excitement and distress in his family of the assassination of President Lincoln in 1865.

Early in his boyhood and because they lived in a wooded area, he enjoyed hunting, trapping and fishing. As long as he lived, he often remarked, on foggy mornings, it would be a perfect morning for squirrel hunting and that they made very good eating. The family were farmers, making their livelihood raising corn and truck gardening. He told of leaving long before dawn with a wagon load of vegetables and berries for Georgetown or Jeffersonville or other area towns. Arriving early at the markets, many of them street markets, was very important.

Later he learned and practiced blacksmithing. He liked shoeing horses and mules which made the bulk of the work before the machine age. He was also a barber and worked at it in the evenings.

After caring for his ageing parents, as long as they lived, he came to Kansas in 1903 and settled in the Burdett Community, of Pawnee County. He hired out to the late Mr. Charlie Keller in the Elmdale neighborhood. Here he lived with Charlie and his Mother in their sod house. Often as he reminisced his first year here, he told of Mrs. Keller arising early enough to have fried chicken for breakfast.

The following year, the Leonard Burres family came to Burdett. The two brothers opened a blacksmith shop where the Bettes Machine Shop is located. It was called Burres Brothers Blacksmithing.

March 27, 1906, Nettie Griffith of Ash Valley became Mrs. George E. Burres. They established their home in Burdett where they lived their entire married life, being active in community affairs and members of the Methodist Church. Nettie was the daughter of William P. and Sophia Baldwin Griffith. The father came from England to Iowa just before the Civil War. He joined the army and served his new homeland over three years. The Baldwins came from Vermont to Iowa. In 1878 the W.P. Griffiths and their seven children came to Pawnee County in a covered wagon to homestead in Ash Valley. Nettie had been helping at her brother Elmer's farm north of Burdett when she met George.

The Burres family consisted of two daughters, Laura Leone and Hattie Belle. The girls attended the Burdett schools and both had perfect attendance records for twelve years. After her graduation in 1925, Laura attended Fort Hays State College and earned her B.S. Degree in Elementary Education. She taught forty-two years, the last twenty-six being in the Larned City schools. After retiring she did part time work in the children's room at Cummins Memorial Library. The church records show Laura was the first baby baptized in the new Methodist Church built in 1906. She married Maynard W. Scott of Rozel and they made their home in Larned.

Hattie Belle married Harry E. Zahn, also of Burdett. They live in the farming community of Sawmill Township. The Zahns have three children; Marilyn Smith, Alva, Oklahoma; Sue Leggett, Strasburg, Colorado; and Noel E. Zahn, Burdett. A son, Darwin Randall, died in

infancy. Their grandchildren are Scot Darwin and Kim Annette Smith, Traci Jan and Robin Jill Leggett, and Amber Fay Zahn.

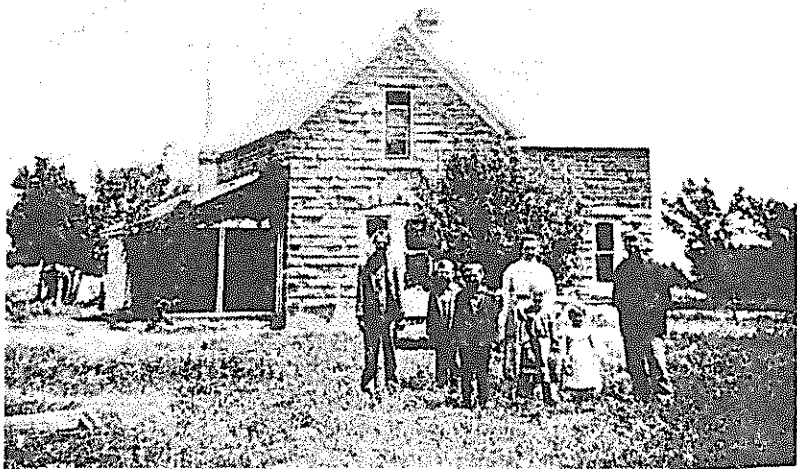
Many pleasant evenings were spent in the Burres home with friends who enjoyed old time fiddler music. One he especially favored "tuning up" with was the late Ed. Norman. Mrs. Norman or a daughter, Jessie, often chorded for them on the organ and later the piano. George also played a jew's harp and the French harp.

After the Leonard Burres family returned to Indiana about 1910, George took the late E.P. Bauer in as a partner and the blacksmith shop then became Burres and Bauer. Later he sold his interest to Ed and George became the custodian for the new high school the fall of 1921. upon retiring, he spent much time fishing and gardening. He passed away in May 1941. Nettie died in March 1968.

At this writing, February 1975, their descendants number ten.

## Browne History

by Margaret Browne Chaffee



L. to R. Fred, Arthur, Richard, Margaret, Elizabeth. Back Row, Ella and Collins Browne.

1902

Excerps from "A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans." Written and compiled by William E. Connelly, Sec. of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka. Volume IV Lewis Publishing Co. Chicago, New York 1919.

John Collins Browne

J.C. Browne has for over 30 years been a stockman and farmer in Pawnee county, locating at Burdett in 1884. He came direct from the Province of Ontario, Canada and arrived in Larned Kansas when he was seventeen years old. He worked first in the Larned Eagle Optic

printing office under the eye of Thomas E. Leftwich. He left that office, came to Burdett in 1886 and founded the Burdett Bugle which he edited for three years. After giving up the newspaper business he continued as postmaster of Burdett, a position conferred upon him during the Cleveland administration.

He left that post to try farming. Land was cheap and unlimited quantities were available at \$600.00—\$800.00 a quarter section. He exchanged his entire printing outfit for a quarter section and also acquired another quarter which laid on the Pawnee Creek. It had been proved up as Government land. Conditions were extremely trying and Mr. Browne had to witness the practical abandonment of the country two or three times. However he decided to stay and as a cattleman this proved to his advantage since everytime the homesteaders left, the range for cattle widened automatically. He got into the stock business as soon as possible, raising horses and at first common grade cattle. Eventually he entered the blooded cattle industry, as a breeder of the Aberdeen Angus cattle.

As a farmer his success was chiefly in alfalfa and wheat, which has proved profitable on the average, having threshed as much as 43 bushel per acre and then has obtained absolutely nothing from his seed. Mr. Browne is both a feeder and shipper of fat cattle and hogs and his Black Polled cattle have done much to advertise Pawnee County at the Kansas City Market.

He was one of the original stockholders in the Farmer's Elevator, and is a Stockholder and Director-Vice-President of the Norris State Bank. He has served as a School trustee and officiated as Justice of the Peace of Brown's Grove Township. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and was Clerk of the Burdett Camp for a number of years" end quote from Mr. Connelley.

John Collins Browne—ancestry and descendents:

John Collins, youngest and ninth child of George Joseph and Sara (Collins) Browne was born March 22, 1867 in Lambton County Ontario and died September 10, 1942 at Burdett Kansas where he had lived 58 years. He married Miss Ella Hoag on March 25, 1888 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Palmer of Brown's Grove. Ella was born January 25, 1869 at Serena Illinois and died May 28, 1942 at Burdett, Kansas.

Ella and her younger sister Mira became wards of their older sister Mrs. Sidney Palmer after the deaths of their parents, Mark and Margaret (Hayes) Hoag. The sisters and Sidney and Elizabeth Palmer came to Pawnee Co. in 1886 to invest the inheritance from the Hoag Estate in Pawnee County land. The Palmer family lived in Brown's Grove Twp. until about 1908 when they removed to Hutchinson. Mira Hoag married Edwin Long and they settled on a farm near Greensburg.

John C. and Ella Browne lived on the land which they purchased early in their married life and later added onto until their deaths in

1942 after 54 years of married life. They are buried in Brown's Grove Cemetery.

Their children—all born at Burdett are:

1. Frederick Collins born March 1899-died August 1965 at Castle Rock, Colorado. He was a student at Kansas State College for three years when he married Miss Grace Goodell of Topeka in June 1915. He and his wife and later their four sons were in a partnership farming operation with his parents for many years. Their eldest son Richard who married Miss Ida Neal Bointnot of Larned served as a Navigator in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II, was killed in military action over Germany in 1944. A younger son, Frederick A. was also killed in Military Action at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 while on duty on the U.S. Ship Pennsylvania. Sidney, the second son and James E. are both married and have raised families. They live in Belvue Washington where they are employed as Electrical Engineers in Air Craft.

Fred. C. Browne and his wife Grace contributed to irrigated farming and stockraising industries of this area. They also took part in other business activities. Fred was president of the Norris State Bank after the death of his father until the Bank was reorganized. He served thirty two years as a school director. Grace was active in cultural pursuits of the community, hot lunch program for the school, Library and Club work of interest to women. She died April 1961 at Corpus Christi Texas. They are buried in Brown's Grove Cemetery.

2. William Arthur—born January 1892. Enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in A.E.F. from 1917-1919, in England and the battle-fields of France. His Unit was Head Quarters Co 70th Infantry Brigade. He married Miss Marion Keys August 1920 at Enid, Oklahoma. He graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He died September 9, 1959 at Merced California, where he had practiced veterinary medicine and lived many years. They raised one daughter, Marybelle.

3. Richard Hoag—born January 28, 1894. Enlisted in U.S. Army in 1917-1919. He served in the 130 Field Artillery in many of the battles of World War I in France and Germany. He became an attorney-at-law after his graduation from Washburn College. He also served again in World War II as a Captain of an Infantry Unit. He married Miss Pearl Seeman of Larned. The family have lived in Wichita many years where Richard died in November 1973. They raised one daughter, Patricia, who is a librarian and teacher in Wichita School.

4. Margaret Sarah—born December 15, 1896 was a teacher until her marriage to Milo Orville Chaffee in 1921. They lived in New Mexico until 1943 when they came to Burdett to make their home on the Browne "Old Home Place" which they farmed until 1969 when they retired and removed to Hays, Kansas. Their children are: three sons, Russel, James and John who served in World War II and Korea. John was wounded in military action in North Korea. He died in 1969.

Russell married Dortha Lee Reece of Burdett. They have raised four children and lived many years in Corona California where Russell was employed as Electrical Engineer for North American Aviation. James married Alice Eakin of Burdett. They raised three children and have conducted an importing business in Shawnee, a suburb of Greater Kansas City. Elizabeth, married Jerome Fritz of Las Cruces New Mexico. He is an accountant. They raised four children. Margaret married Donald Smith of Burdett, who died of a heart attack in 1966, leaving four young children. Margaret came to Hays where she has been a teacher since 1967. She recently married Mr. Jack Heather of Hays. Catherine was a teacher for some time after she graduated from Fort Hays State College. She is presently located in Milwaukee Wisconsin. Martha married Donald D. Tompkins of Byers. He is an accountant and is employed in Dodge City. They have three young children.

5. Elizabeth Anne-born October 1899, died January 10, 1973 at her home in Burdett. She married Dewey Fagan in 1921. He was accidentally killed in 1937. Elizabeth and her three young daughters cared for her parents in their old age. After their deaths she studied bookkeeping and accounting and became the Cashier at the Norris State Bank for many years. She raised and educated her daughters here. They are: Ella, who married Louis VanMeter when he was serving in the U.S. Navy in World War II. They have raised their family of three children and taken part in community life. Louis has been employed by the Northern Natural Gas Co. and Ella by the Farmer's Cooperative of Burdett. They were with Elizabeth during her last illness and death. Mary Alice, who married Paul Stegman of Jetmore. They have raised five children and presently live in Los Angeles California where Paul is an employee of Boeing Air Craft. Barbara who married Dale Olson of Larned. live in rural Kinsley where they own and operate a farm and cattle ranch. They have three children, all still in the home circle.

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In 1887 the Bugle ran the following item "Free, a six months subscription to the person bringing in the biggest, ripest, and best flavored watermelon to the office." (I couldn't find any report as to who won.)

+ + + + +

November 1885: The stone hotel has come to a stand still. We believe the contractors have thrown up the job, they having taken it too cheaply. Mr. Wadsworth had bought a share in the town site and will have a fine hotel up between now and spring.

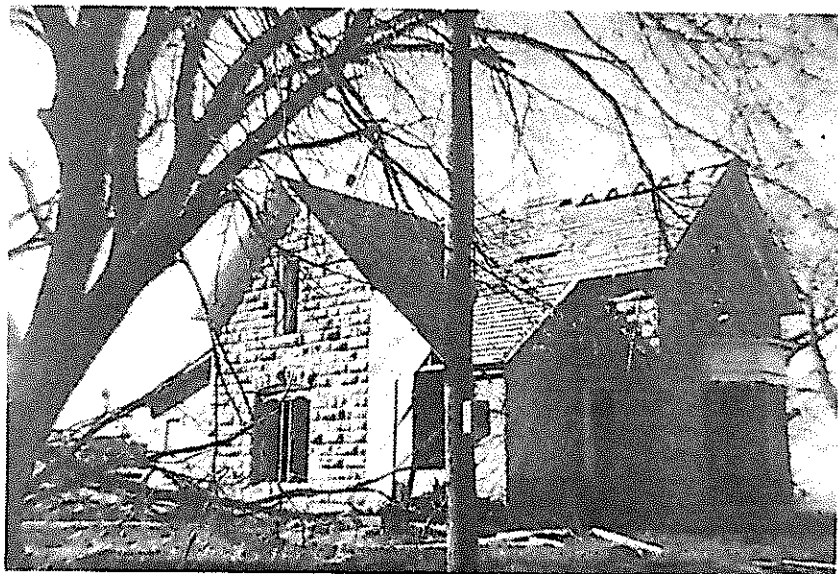




**Ella (Hoag) Browne**



**J. C. Browne**



**Razed in 1975  
Stones used in the city park.**

## Pawnee River

The Pawnee River runs through our city of Burdett. In the past it has been skated on, fished in, picnicked and partied on, it has flooded and it has been dry. It is a part of the heritage of this community. In 1926 a song composed by Rolland Jacquart of Larned was published called "Out Where The Pawnee Flows." It is as follows.

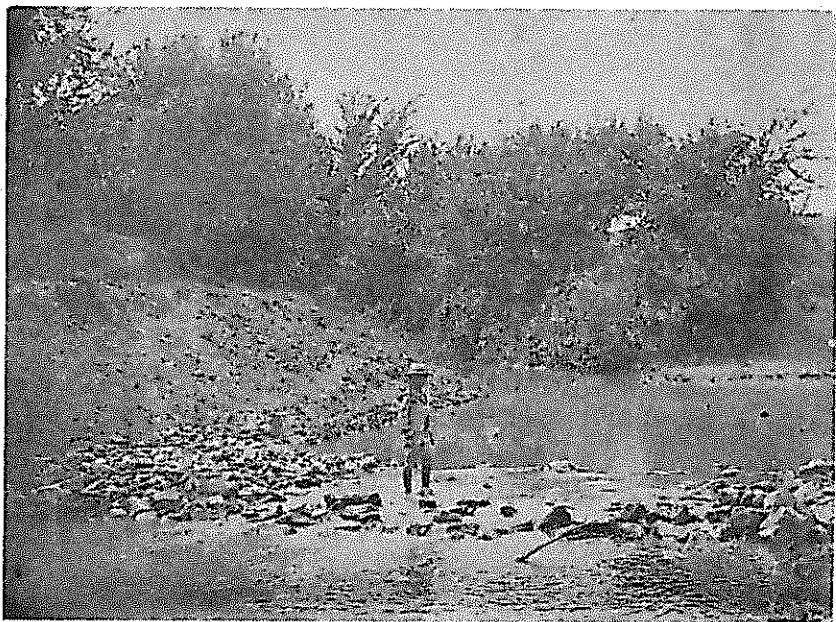
Desert and mount and ocean  
Have lured me with glories bright;  
Wand'ring with fickle fancy,  
I've seen the mad world's delight.  
Always I've dreamed of homeland  
And thought of the boy I was;  
Now there's a peace within me—  
I'm happy just because—

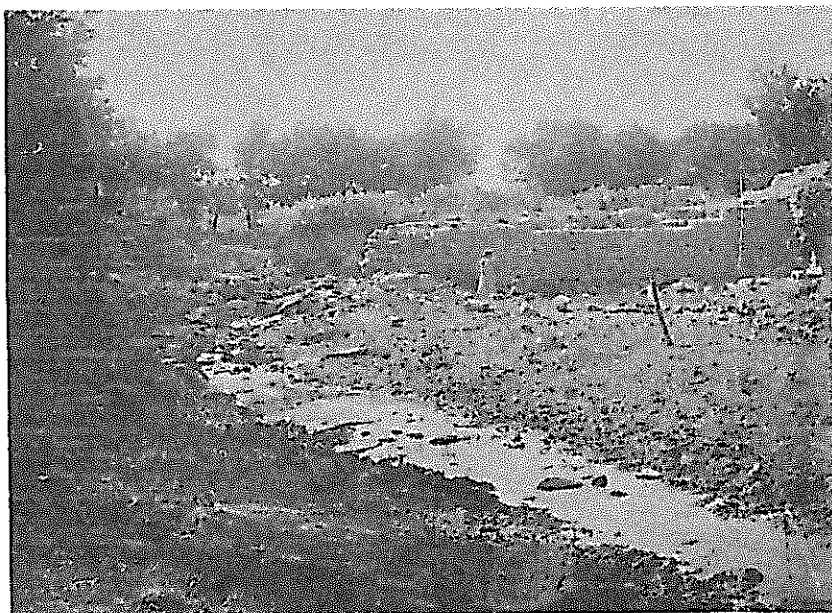
Chorus:  
Kansas is calling,  
Out where the Pawnee flows;  
Out where old friends are waiting to cheer me,  
Out where the sunflower grows.  
'Neath drooping willows,  
There let me idly doze.  
Yes I'm going back to Kansas,  
Out where the Pawnee flows.

Lonely blue days are over,  
I'll leave all the world outside;  
I'll be as gay as a bluejay,  
Never a care on my mind.  
Sunrise is just a picture,  
That brings to my eyes glad tears—  
Showing to me a sunflower,  
Smiling through the years.

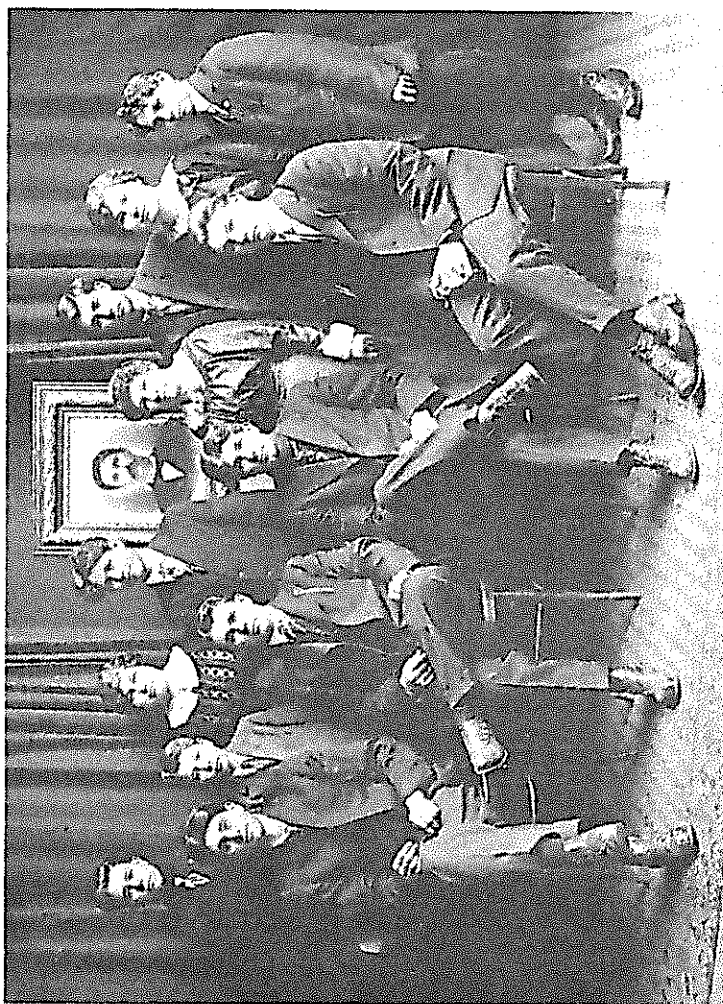
On the cover of this music was a traveler walking down a pathway leading home, shaded by cottonwood trees and skirted by ripened wheat fields on each side. The song is in waltz movement, and has two verses and the chorus.

## Pawnee Creek Scenes





# Olsen Family



**Olsen Family**  
(Seated) L. to R. Bob, Ole, Walter, Herbert. Top Row, Pat, Frank, Betty, Nance, Dad (in photo), Mother, Sigurd, Laura, John.



**Olsen's country home. Built in 1905.**



**Pat Olsen and Elmer Foss harvesting on the Larry Mooney Farm.  
(Now the Raymond Ryan home).**

# Smith Family History

by Zella Mussleman Smith

The name Smith is a very common name and because of the commonness they have always had to contend with certain annoyances and humorous fables that have been told throughout the years. A great many articles have been written on the origin of the name the most reliable volume dealing with the origin that I have encountered was published early in 1950 under the title "The Story of Our Name" the work of a Chicago lawyer. Smith is almost but not quite purely occupational in origin but there are a few Smiths whose ancestors had nothing to do with working in metals. Their name derives from the fact that in old England they lived near a smooth field, which was called a "smeeth field." The famous Smithfield region of London where knights of old slew one another in tournaments, got its name not from any member of the Smith family but the fact that it was a "smeeth field" meaning not bumpy.

I have no way of knowing the truth but I am wondering if the Smiths I am going to write about did not live near this "Smooth Field." I do know they lived twenty miles from London at Charlton near Dunstable Bedford Shire, England. I am very proud to be Frank Smith's wife the youngest son of Esau Smith whose father Jacob Smith lived his entire life in England and raised a family of seven children namely Jacob, Daniel, Esau, a twin of Jesse, who died young, Isaac, Emma, Dinah, and Ruben. Little is known of those who chose to live in England. Isaac chose the army and served with the Canadian Royal Mounted Police. When his term was up, he visited the United States and liked what he saw and soon got a paying job but missed his family at home, so he wrote his brother Esau to come to America. Esau was working for a farmer to whom he had been apprenticed, as was the custom in England. He liked his work but also admired a maiden Charlotte Rembow who came from a family of six and was also apprenticed by her father to the same farmer family, hoping she might learn the art of keeping a home. Esau and Charlotte became engaged, but he had accepted his brothers invitation to visit the United States, promising her that he would send for her if he liked the country. In 1871 she came as did another brother Ruben Smith.

Esau and Charlotte were married in March 1871 and started their life together in Galena, Illinois. He had been told of the wonderful opportunity that if he would move west to land owned by the U.S. Government he could acquire the home he so wanted for his wife and two young children. He would be required to file a claim and live on it for three years. In 1874 he proceeded in a covered wagon to Rooks County Kansas, but due to the loss of their crops by grasshoppers, fear of Indians, and the hardships, he gave up and went back to Galena, Illinois. As their family grew so did their longing for that dream home.

In the year of 1879 they ventured again. This time they came further

west to the rolling plains of Kansas, Pawnee County to a creek called "The Sawmill." They paused visiting settlers, two brothers that had taken a claim living in a dugout dug on the banks of the creek. Preparing to leave one morning Esau went outside to find his horse had died and saying in his Englishmans quiet manner "Well, what do I do now?" The brothers were lonely, so they gave up and offered to sell their claim for the only money Esau had just "fifty dollars," they took it gladly and were gone. With a growing family, and only one horse he mounted it and went to Dodge City to get his legal papers for his 160 acres of land.

With his determination and faith he succeeded and raised seven children; Will, Charley, Jenny, John, George, Arthur, and Frank (my husband).

In 1901 they went back to England for a visit with relatives, and friends, but their family and their beautiful adopted country drew them back to their beloved home in America. Their home was where the Clinton Smith family now live on the banks of the Sawmill Creek.

Watching their children grow and marry, when their youngest son Frank was seventeen they prepared for a trip to England again when Mother Charlotte became ill. The doctor was called but she passed away in the home she loved so well at the age of sixty years. She was buried in Brown's Grove Cemetery August 4, 1909. Three months later her husband did make that trip to England. One morning while watching the sun rise his heart gave way and he went to join his wife. They brought him back to America and buried him by the side of his wife. The trip took six weeks by boat.

Esau Smith's land was divided among his seven children and the land I lived on was left to that seventeen year old son my husband Frank. He lived on this land for many years alone and herded cattle for his father and loved living close to nature. One day I came to teach a country school. Four years later on October 30, 1918 (I Zella Musselman) married this "English Gentleman." We lived here where he was born for forty eight years and to us was born three children, two boys and one girl, Rex Neville, a quality control Engineer, Donna Bea, a nurse, Dexter Dean, a farmer.

When they were quite young one Christmas night our home burned down and to add to that loss we lost ownership of everything we had, but being his father's son, he gained all back and much more. Frank (youngest and last of the family) died May 28, 1966 at the age of 75 years.

## WILLIAM SMITH HISTORY

by Clinton Smith

William Edward Smith was born June 2, 1872 near Springfield, Illinois. He died October 10, 1951. His parents Esau and Charlotte Rembow Smith came to America from England and from Illinois they came to Rooks County Kansas in 1874. They stayed only a short time as



grasshoppers destroyed all the crops and this added to their fear of the Indians decided them to return to Illinois.

In 1879 they came again with four children at that time. They stopped with their covered wagon (and a milk cow) near Sawmill creek south of Burdett for the night. After spending the night with a man who was proving up on this claim Grandad (Esau) the next a.m. discovered one of his horses was dead. The man was tired of his bargain and sold his rights to the claim 160 acres to Mr. Smith.

In 1910 William inherited this quarter from his folks and in 1947 he transferred it to his son Clinton. It has been the site of his home since 1948.

William Edward took a claim south of Burdett in 1897 when he was 25 years of age. This was the last claim available in this area and this was because an ex-slave came and started to prove up on it but gave up and went back to Virginia. In due time the claim could be protested so William got on his saddle horse at 4 a.m. and rode to the land office in Dodge City to file a protest. On his way out after filing the protest he was met by a neighbor William L. Thomson who asked "what are you doing here?" William told him and Mr. Thomson replied that he was there for the same reason but since Mr. Smith had beat him they rode home together arriving home that night.

William with the help of Daniel Delp built a house on the claim in 1900.

In (approximately) 1882 when he was about ten years old the U.S. Cavalry moved the Cherokee Indians (the ones they could find) from the east coast to Oklahoma. One day at noon they stopped to eat about one mile east of the Esau Smith claim and William got permission to ride his pony over where they were and watch them. The Cavalry had a herd of cattle with them and he saw one of the men shoot a steer and butcher it. Bits of liver were thrown to the children who swarmed to pick it up, the older Indians ate raw meat too. He noticed that the older Indian women and the small children rode in wagons but the rest walked.

In about 1910 most of the open range was fenced and cattle and horses had to be kept in private pastures. Until this time William had run quite a lot of cattle and horses but had to reduce his herds due to the influx of settlers wanting to use their own grass.

William Smith was married in March of 1911 to Nellie Ethel Dillinger. They had four sons Clinton of Burdett, Clayton who died (at the age of twenty one) in 1934, Glenn died in 1943 in World War II duty. His ship (a destroyer) was sunk near Salerno, Italy, and Leroy who now lives in northwest Arkansas.

Charles Walter Smith was born March 4th, 1875 in Springfield, Illinois and came with his parents to settle south of Burdett when he was very small. He attended school at the Brick school and during his growing-up years he helped his father and brothers farm and raise cattle. December 25, 1901 he married Ida Howell of Rozel, Kansas.

They lived on a farm a mile west of the Brick schoolhouse now owned by Fred Weidemann. They had two children Walter and Bertha. In November of 1907 Ida passed away and Charles took his two small children home to his parents. The grandparents (until their deaths) raised the children. Walter and Bertha were shifted around to different relatives until March of 1911 when Charles married Laura Jones. The family lived south of Burdett for two years and in 1913 they moved to Hodgeman county where they resided until 1948. While in Hodgeman county south of Hanston they had four children, Mary (deceased), Ethel, Margaret, and Fred.

After retiring from the farm in 1948 they moved to Dodge City where Mrs. Smith still lives. Charles died April 6, 1954.

### JENNIE SMITH HISTORY

by Louis VanMeter

Sarah Jane Smith was affectionately known to her family and friends as "Jennie." She was the third child of Esau and Charlotte Smith and the only daughter among six sons. Born in Illinois in 1877 she came to Kansas in a covered wagon at the age of two years, and grew to young womanhood in Sawmill township. About 1900 she was married to Mr. Ed Goudy and they lived in the ranch house on his homestead in Hodgeman county. Three children were born there; Harry, Loren, and Charlotte. Mr. Goudy died in 1905 when Charlotte was three-weeks old. The mother brought her young family to Burdett to live and in 1911 she married David VanMeter. Three children were born to this union Ruth VanMeter Dugan, and Louis VanMeter, Freddy who died in infancy. Loren Goudy now lives in California, Ruth Van Meter Dugan lives in Ellinwood, Kansas and Louis resides in Burdett.

Jennie passed away in 1963 in California at eighty-four years of age. She was a true pioneer woman and entertained her children and grandchildren with stories of life in early years in Pawnee county. Prairie fires were greatly feared and she recalled one which started west of Kinsley by the train. When the fire reached the Smith home the blaze separated and went around the house and then burned north to Bazine, Kansas.

Jennie's mother was the only woman in the area owning a sewing machine and neighbors and friends who came to use the machine often brought a dish in gratitude for the use of the machine, this resulted in a lovely collection of old dishes still being enjoyed by her great grandchildren.

We who knew her loved her and considered our relationship a privilege.

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John Henry Smith, the fourth son was born shortly after they came to Kansas on a sunny day in June 1881. He received his schooling at the Brick school and at its completion he became a professional carpenter. In 1914, he and Bessie Adella Ruff were married and they made their

home one mile south of the schoolhouse. They had three children, Rowena born 1915, Elaine 1921, and Roscoe 1925.

John spent his lifetime in the construction and farming business. When a brother or neighbor needed anything built John was usually called. Many homes and barns south of Burdett were of his construction.

After his death in 1946 his widow, Bessie and son Roscoe continued to live on the farm. Roscoe stayed on the farm for a few years after his mother's death, but found it very lonely. He married Ella Aswege and they retired from the farm in 1973 and moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. Rowena, (Mrs. Delmar Matthews) lives in California and has one daughter. Elaine, (Mrs. Ruben Gross) a farmers wife lives in Bazine, Kansas. They have five children. An untimely death claimed Ruben leaving Elaine and the children to carry on alone.

### **GEORGE SMITH HISTORY**

by Lorena Smith Ditus

George Albert Smith was born in a dug out on the Sawmill Creek bank on May 15, 1885. He was the fifth child of Esau and Charlotte Smith. He grew to manhood on the prairie four miles south of Burdett and attended school at the Brick School house along with his brothers and sister. On Sunday the family attended Church at the school house, so the schools in the early days often doubled as a Community Church on Sunday.

He set up his own home in 1914 on a quarter of ground three miles northeast of the Brick School House, downstream of the Sawmill Creek. He was a wheat farmer, but his big love on the farm was his horses. He raised and bred Percheron Horses all the years he spent on the farm. When there was no longer a need for the horse for transportation purposes or farm work he continued working with his horses as a hobby. Across the Sawmill Creek to the east of his farm, on the Henry Webster farm, lived a pretty maiden named Lena May. On June 20, 1918 he claimed her for his bride and to this union was born four children. Lewis Hadley 4-4-1919, Robert DeLloyd 7-21-1920, Lorene May 2-19-1923, Arlene Charlotte 7-22-1926.

As his children grew to adulthood, he often told them tales of his early life on the prairie.

He told about living in the dug out. When it rained, the roof leaked, and they would protect the younger children by putting them under the dining table. He told of the many prairie fires, rattle snake invasions, droughts, and other hardships that drove many families from their homes. His Mother was a very remarkable woman. She made all the clothes for her seven children and even wove hats for them. Each summer she would grow the straw and then during the winter months made the hats. (This was a trade she had learned in England).

She was a professional mid-wife and she helped with the delivery of many people who live in the Burdett community today, in fact George's own wife Lena, was delivered by her. The profession of mid-

wife kept her very busy, as most of the time the nearest doctor was in Larned. Each night as she prepared for bed she would lay out a change of clothes in case some one would come for her services during the night. Sometimes she would be gone two or three days and the home work would fall on the shoulders of her only daughter, Jenny who was very young but capable. Money was very scarce and many times Charlotte was paid for her services in other ways. She would bring home from her night of labor a beautiful dish, a jar of canned fruit or vegetables, a live chicken, duck or turkey, a length of material, or anything the family had of worth, that they could spare.

George's own family grew and attended the same brick school house their father had attended. They loved the stories of their father's early days on the prairie and they even experienced some of the same. George fixed up his retired horse buggy and his own children attended school riding proudly in their fathers old buggy pulled by an old plug horse that knew the way to school without anyone touching the reins.

In August 1937, he lost his beloved wife, Lena May.

In October, 1938, George married Helen Atwater of Zook, Kansas. She was a friend of the family and at one time had taught George and Lena's children at the Brick School.

In May 1949, George retired from farming and moved to Hutchinson, Kansas. His sons, Lewis and Robert, took over his farms. Lewis moved to the home place that George had built and of which he was so proud.

In Hutchinson, George and Helen lived a very active life. Then in April 1953, death claimed him. His widow, Helen, moved to Larned, Kansas, where she still lives.

His son Lewis still farms, but lives in Salina Kansas. He is the father of six children.

Robert is a college professor teaching at Hays Kansas. He is the father of three daughters.

Lorena Ditus, a housewife, is the mother of four children. (The only member of the family still living in the Burdett Community.)

Arlene Hendershot died in 1968, in Garden City, Kansas. She was the mother of four children.

George helped make the past and has many heirs to make a future.

#### **ARTHUR SMITH HISTORY** by Vernon Smith

Arthur Smith was the son of Esau and Charlotte Smith, who were emigrants from England.

He was born 1888 in a dug out on Sawmill Creek and spent his schools days in the Old Brick School House in Sawmill Township.

On November 23, 1910 he married Iona Newport, and they lived on a farm southeast of Burdett. He was a farmer and lived in the same community all of his life. They had four children, Vernon, Everett, Donald, and Norma.

Arthur always liked to tell of his early childhood days and one of his jobs was to herd cattle on the prairie on a mule.