



### John Klein Family

Row 1, L. to R. (seated) Erwin, Lawrence, DeLloyd, Marvin. Row 2, Lena, Morris, Mabel K. Bauer, Raymond Bauer, unidentified person, John K., Blanche Danford, Pauline K., Herbert, Lester, Myrtle K. Danford, Danford boy, Freida, Alvin, Verda. Row 3, Harry, Bert, John Bauer, Ed, Frank Danford, Ruth, Georgia (Mrs. Clarence), Lena (Mrs. Ed.) Gertie (Mrs. Harry), Elma. Row 4, Roy, Clarence, Will, Rosa (Mrs. Bert), Floyd.

## John Klein

Kansas and Kansans by Sharon Bauer Nelson

In September of 1886 there arrived in Pawnee County at Burdett a young man determined to solve the problem of existence in Western Kansas, and the story of his experiences and achievements since then has an interest for others apart from himself and his children, who have grown up in this state.

At the time of his coming to Kansas John Klein was married and had three children. He was born in Jasper County, Iowa, February 7, 1858, a son of John and Nellie (Van Mavern) Klein, both of whom were natives of Holland, where they were married. After their marriage they came to this country. Many portions of the State of Iowa were then opened to settlement, and John Klein, Sr., paid \$1.50 an acre for land and secured the deed and title at once. In Iowa he lived out the remainder of his useful and energetic years, and in time had got together several sections of land. He was an extensive cattle and horse man. The period of the Civil war and the consequent high prices made him comparatively wealthy. He voted the republican ticket, but was

never in public office, and was a member of the Methodist Church. His death occurred in 1897, at the age of seventy-six. His wife passed away in 1885, when about sixty-two years of age. Their children were: Peter, of Buffalo County, Nebraska; Nellie, wife of George Dove, of Missouri; John Garrett, of Buffalo County, Nebraska; Etta, wife of Jasper Arbogast, living near Woodward, Oklahoma; Abe, of Jasper County, Iowa; and Jacob, also of Jasper County.

Mr. John Klein grew up in Jasper County, living on a farm, and obtaining his education from the country schools. When he was eighteen and the bride sixteen Miss Nettie Van Ness became his wife. They were married in Jasper County September 1, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Klein ten years later came to Kansas, and together they lived happily and enjoyed increasing fruits of prosperity here for thirty years, until she was taken away by death on October 7, 1916. Mrs. Klein was a daughter of George Van Ness, also of Irish ancestry and an Iowa farmer. Mrs. Klein was born in Iowa, July 19, 1860, and the other children of her parents were: Dan, who served as an Union soldier in the Civil War and lived in Iowa; John; Rebecca, wife of Mr. Blazer; Della, who married Andrew Blazer and lived in Nebraska; and Newton, of Morehead, Iowa.

As already mentioned, Mr. and Mrs. Klein brought with them three children to Kansas. Six more were born in Pawnee County. A brief record of these children is as follows: William, until his death was engaged in farming near Burdett; Harry, engaged in farming at Burdett until his death. Harry married Gertie Kilbourne, their children being Floyd, of Burdett, now deceased; Roy, of Burdett; Marvin and Irvin, still of the home; Rex, of Kinsley; Elmer, of Westminster, Colo.; Morris of Burdett; Lena, of Loveland, Colo.; Larry, of Dodge City, Kansas. Clarence, a retired farmer lives near Larned, who married Georgie Fisher, now deceased. To this marriage was born five children: Ruth, now deceased; Deloyd of Hanston; Lester, of Bison; and Gail and Vern of the home. Edward, a retired farmer living at Burdett, who married Lena Waters. Their children are Fredia Pelton of Burdett and Alvin of Great Bend, Kansas. Bert, who was engaged in farming now deceased. Bert married Rosa Stratch and had children named Elma, of Dodge City, now deceased; Lawrence; Herbert; and Verda, of Dodge City. Mabel, wife of John Bauer, lives at Burdett, and is the mother of Raymond Bauer of Burdett. Myrtle, wife of Frank Danford, of Halstad and is the mother of Blanche Walters of Seward; John Lincoln of Eagle Point, Oregon; Stanley of Halstad; and Earl of Hutchinson. Pearl, the youngest, lives at Dodge City with his wife Mayme. They have two children Bobbie, of the home and Mary Jane. Charles, died at the age of 21 years after being struck by lightning.

From Iowa Mr. Klein came by railroad to Western Kansas and chartered a car to bring his household goods, six cows, four horses and some implements. This car was unloaded at Burdett, and he then took possession of the quarter section he had already bought. A previous

settler on the quarter had been a man named Bradberry, who had constructed a stone house, into which the Klein family moved, and also a small stable. Sixty acres of the land had been broken out by the plow. Mr. Klein started farming and for several years succeeded in growing feed enough for his stock. The low price of cattle from 1890 to 1892 (a cent a pound) left the cow man with little margin when he sold his stock. Mr. Klein harvested his first wheat crop in 1892. In the mean time he had mortgaged his first quarter section in order to buy cattle and horses, and he emphasized the stock industry, especially during the early years. Hardly a season failed to produce enough feed and grass for livestock, though the grain proposition was exceedingly uncertain. Another source of revenue that enabled him to support his family and remain when many others had to leave the country was more or less regular employment on the R.E. Edwards Ranch. At one time, when the financial outlook was especially dark, Mr. Klein went into Republic County to dig potatoes, getting for his labor half of what he dug. He hauled a wagon load of the tubers home and had enough for the following winter. In the same fall he returned to Republic County and husked corn. He had been advised to take his hogs along and fatten them during the husking season. He did this, and he butchered his swine and carried the meat home in the wagon. He also brought home a lot of corn meal, and thus his household was amply provisioned.

With a portion of the money which he had raised by mortgaging his first farm he bought a half section the north half of section 33, township 22, range 24 paying \$150 for the relinquishment. He proved up this tract, and there built a sod house. It was a sod house or nothing with him in those days. After proving up his land he lived on the Edwards ranch for five years and shared in its stock industry. His stock shelter on the half section he owned was dug in a bank and was covered over and provided very comfortable quarters for his animals. Before he left the Edwards ranch he owned a half interest in the livestock. He had paid \$10 a head for the cattle and \$12.50 apiece for a half interest in the horses. Some of the horses three years later he sold for \$200 a head. The cattle also enjoyed an upward trend of price and these adventures and profits put him on the high road to financial prosperity.

After making his success with the wheat crop of 1892 Mr. Klein sold other crops regularly. He had one of the largest aggregate harvests in 1914 in his section of the country, though that year was remarkable for its big crops. His fields gave him 50,000 bushels of wheat, and it was the largest single run made by the threshing outfit which did his work. He has had several other very large and splendid crops though there have been occasional failures. The year 1913 produced about as complete failure as he had suffered in twenty years. Mr. Klein still owns the old homestead and timber claim, but has added to his holdings six quarter sections besides. In January, 1915, he left his farm and moved into Burdett. He is a stockholder in the Rural Telephone Company and the Farmers Elevator there.

With all the hard work and many duties of private business to claim his attention Mr. Klein has not neglected his participation in local affairs. He was a member of the school board of district number 64 almost from the time he moved into the community. He helped build the first schoolhouse. For four terms he was trustee of Keysville Township and for four years township treasurer. The family entered into the spirit of church work with the Southern Methodists and were active with them for years. When the Kleins first came to Keysville Township the entire country was well settled, there being a family on every quarter section. But many of them did not choose to make this a permanent home. In fact, it seems to Mr. Klein, many had come merely to prove up a claim and then mortgage it and get out of the country. Mr. Klein was for a number of years a central committeeman of the republican party and frequently attended county conventions as a delegate.

Mr. Klein was happily married to Mrs. Pauline Brown February 26, 1918, of Marion, Indiana. Mrs. Klein had one son, James Sloan.

Mr. Klein died November 29, 1937.

## Hugh Saxton Family

by May Saxton

In the year of 1883, Charles Saxton and his son Hugh, left Fulton, New York, and came to Everest, Kansas, to the home of his brother, Henry Saxton, who had come near Everest in 1861.

They stayed there a year. Hugh went to school with his cousins that first winter. He always told his children he learned more that winter than all the winters before.

In the spring they came to Larned, Kansas; and here they met a land agent by the name of Blount who brought them north of Burdett where he had a claim with a relinquishment on the title.

Mr. Saxton bought the claim for \$300.00. He then filed on the adjoining claim, planted 10 acres of ash trees and took it as a timber claim. You could row the trees both ways. He tended them like a garden but on account of dry hot weather they never grew very large.

They went to Burdett and got Elmer Mather who was a well man to come out and make a well. He dug several places but couldn't find any water so the family had to haul water in barrels from John Sarver's place. His land cornered father's. He had come out with his family several years before and took claims. The first winter Saxton's were here, Mr. Sarver hired Hugh to help take care of cattle.

In hauling water Hugh often met Mr. Sarver's granddaughter, Emma Keller. As Hugh worked for Mr. Sarver during the winter, he and Emma became better acquainted. The young people of the neighborhood had a good time going to parties and dances, the only amusement there was. By the next winter, Hugh's and Emma's romance had grown so they decided to get married.

On December 15th in 1886, they drove to Browns Grove (that was north part of Burdett) in a lumber wagon to the residence of Mr. Curtis who was Justice of the Peace and were married.

Hugh took his wife to live with him and his father. The house had plaster off in patches. Furniture was homemade. Grandpa had made two tables, a long narrow one for a cook table and a rectangular one to eat on. These he kept scoured white with sand and also his cooking utensils. Grandpa was very particular.

Mother had never learned to do much cooking as she and her younger brother herded cattle when Mr. Sarver came to Kansas. It was free range and Mr. Sarver took in cattle to pasture and they had to be herded. Grandpa Saxton was patient with Emma and she soon learned to cook. He had brought a bushel of buckwheat from his brother Henry's so they had lots of buckwheat cakes.

Grandma Sarver gave Mother three chairs, a half dozen silver tea spoons and 12 chickens. Her Grandfather gave her a cow.

Grandpa Saxton had built a large sod building to run the wagon in with the barrels of water to help keep cool. Mother had a half barrel for a wash tub and spread the clothes on the grass to dry.

Mother was happy. She always did the best with what she had and was contented.

The next September the first baby was born, Mae Saxton. That winter Hugh and a neighbor went south of Larned to shuck corn. When shucking was over, Hugh walked home from Larned in a foot of snow and carried a half bushel of walnuts. He had earned a new pair of boots and ten dollars.

When Mae was three years old, Grandpa proved up his claims. Grandma Keller had started to take the claim next to her quarter. She gave what she had done to Hugh and he planted a dozen ash trees and proved up on it as a homestead. Now they had a home.

Father (Hugh) got help and laid up a large two room sod house. Sod was young and tough and easy to handle. The house had a full window in the south end and half windows in both sides. The inside walls were plastered with slacked lime.

In later years when Emma wanted to clean house she would take everything out and rewhite wash the walls. How happy she was to move into this nice new home. May remembers hearing her father say after being out in the cold all day how good it felt to come in to this warm cozy house.

Father got Mr. Mather out from Burdett and he got Hugh's a good shallow well of good water. Never has that well gone dry in all these years (1973).

Mother had blooming flowers in the windows of the south room. The first fuel was cow chips and Hugh would come down west of Burdett and pick up a wagon box full of chips on the Choat ranch. These made a hot fire but burned out quickly and left so many ashes and a lot of dust. The family always kept a little coal for wet weather.

The dish cupboard was shelves on the wall with curtains in front. Later, Hugh bought a walnut cupboard from a Mexican family who were moving away. Grandma gave us a second-hand walnut table.

A Rev. Walker held a revival meeting at the Elmdale schoolhouse. Mother and Father were both converted and baptized and joined the Methodist church. Now our Christian home was started. The Bible was read each evening.

When May was five years old twin girls were born, Bessie and Jennie. Their cradle was a big rocking chair with a long pillow (called a bolster). It was folded and put in the chair. This was the cradle for all the rest of the babies that were born.

When May was six years old, she started to school.

Ida Curtis was the first teacher. She rode out from town horseback. Salary was \$20.00 a month. Years later, May taught school and Ida visited as County Superintendent of Pawnee County schools.

Hugh bought the quarter north of the home place for \$300.00 and in a few years bought a half section that cornered our place on the south for \$600.00. That gave the family more pasture.

Father dug a small cave near the well to keep milk and butter cool. He made a two room chicken house so Emma could start raising chickens. Other sod buildings were made to shelter the stock.

The only way of travel was the lumber wagon. It was such a treat for us children to get to go to Larned. The family put hay in the wagon box and a quilt over it for us to sit on.

When we got to the ten mile house (ten miles from Larned) we watered the horses and ate our lunch which was a treat as Grandma always had something special for lunch.

We wore our bonnets until we got in sight of Larned and then put on our hats. Hazel was three years old when we went once.

We would go west of Burdett to the Negro Grab place and pick buckets of wild plums and grapes. Sugar wasn't very high. We would buy it by the 100 pound sack and Mother made quarts of butter and jelly.

Father was soon able to get a spring wagon. My! how proud we were to have such a good way to go. After we had it for some time Mother and Grandma decided to go to Larned shopping. We needed clothing for us children. They put the horses in the livery stable and stayed at the Farmers Hotel near-by. In the night a cry of fire was given. Red coals were falling down by the windows and they thought the hotel was on fire. A man had set the stable afire to get the attention of the people while he robbed the depot. It was so hard to see the spring wagon and gentle team burn up. The return trip had to be made by train. It was hard to go back to the lumber wagon. It wasn't long before father got a second hand spring wagon.

One day Mother and Grandmother took all of us children to Larned for the day. Mother wanted to get some pictures made. At that time you could angle most of the way to Larned and would come out at the Gib Woodard place and go on into Larned for five miles on a good road.

Mother wanted to start home early that day but Grandma Keller wanted to wait until the lights came on so we children could see Larned lighted up. It was dark when we started that long road home. When we got near the Crozier place there was two roads and it was so dark we couldn't see which one to take.

Grandma got out, took up her skirt so her white petticoat showed and found the right road so mother knew where to drive. When we got nearly to Grandma's there was a little low place. The horses walked up on a ridge and the spring wagon tipped over, spilling us all out, but no one was hurt. The horses were tired and stood still. I ran up to Grandma's house and got Uncle Charlie out of bed and he came and tipped the wagon back on it's wheels and we drove on home. When we got home Father and Mr. Sniff a carpenter who was building our barn had gone to set up with a sick man and Mother had to put the team away at 3 o'clock in the morning.

There were eight girls and one boy in our family. The twins and Hazel and Pearl were born in the sod house. May had been born in the two room frame house on Grandfather's claim. Harry, Gertrude, Rosa and Edith in our new house.

Mr. Norman built our new house in 1900. The Norman family spent the first Christmas with us in our new house. There were two Norman girls, Jessie and Clara the same age as the twins and Hazel. Father went to the tree claim and got a tree. We spent happy evenings wrapping the tree with cotton and stringing popcorn and cranberries to trim the tree.

Jennie died of scarlet fever in January of 1902. Rosa was born in April 1902 and died in 1906.

We moved to town in 1930. Father and Mother celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1937. Father passed away May 28th, 1948 but Mother lived until July of 1959. She was 101 years, 6 months. The town celebrated her 100th birthday by calling it Emma Saxton Day. The only boy Harry passed away in 1968.

## John Elmer Miller

by Mr. Walter Miller

John Elmer Miller was born in Schylkill County, Pennsylvania, on March 3, 1864. John was the son of Rev. and Mrs. Elias Miller. Reverend Miller was a circuit rider. John had one brother, James, and two sisters, Armetta and Flora.

The family moved from Pennsylvania to Michigan when the children were small. Their mother died and in due time Rev. Miller remarried. The family later moved to dry Kansas because of Rev. Miller's asthmatic condition. They settled in Pawnee Rock. John Elmer Miller grew to adulthood and was married to Lena Kretzer, who was born on March 15, 1873 in Ross County, Ohio. Her mother's maiden name was Ellen Evans and she was from Illinois. The Kretzers moved from Rice County Kansas to a farm which they owned near Pawnee

Rock. Lena Kretzer had one brother, William, and two sisters, Letitia and Leona. After John and Lena were married, they bought the Kretzer farm which was southeast a few miles from Pawnee Rock. They lived there a number of years. Five children were born while they lived in this area: Beatrice, June 18, 1894; Oakley, August 22, 1895; Nora, January 27, 1897; Leonard, August 16, 1898; Elsie, June 15, 1900. In 1905, they moved with their family from Pawnee Rock to the Burdett area. In 1916 they built a new two story house on farm land which they had purchased southwest of Burdett in Hodgeman County. Three more boys were born to John and Lena: Walter E., May 7, 1909; Paul E., March 4, 1913; Ralph D., May 6, 1915.

Beatrice, John and Lena's oldest child, taught school several years, then married Robert Harry Potter, a farmer. Three children were born to this union, Vera, Jennie and Ross. After a number of years living in the Burdett area, the Potter's moved to Ness County where they continued to farm.

Oakley served in the Navy during World War I. Later, as a civilian, he became a barber, working in this capacity at Rozel and later in a shop in Larned, serving there many years. Oakley married Dessie Dixon and they still reside in Larned.

Nora married Carl Schlicht and made their home in California. They had two children, Wilbur and Jean.

Leonard has always been a farmer and has owned farm land near Lewis and Kinsley, living in that area since his marriage to Aleathea Atwood. After her death, he was united in marriage to Paul's widow, Ola.

Elsie attended Business School. She later married Otis Asay, a farmer. They lived west of Burdett a short while then moved to Center, Colorado. Four children were born to this union: John, Cleo, Darrel and Robert.

Walter was employed at the Burdett Farmers Co-op. Grain and Supply Company, becoming the manager in 1946, retiring in 1971. Since retirement he became involved with Church and civic activities, doing carpentry and painting in his leisure time. Walter married Agnes Buckman. They had two daughters, Dolores and Marilyn.

Paul worked as a butcher and clerk in grocery stores in Great Bend and Larned. He owned a store for a while in Claflin. He loved sports and served as referee at many basketball games. He married Ola Garrison. Their children were Dale, Lee, Frances, Roger and Cheryl. Paul and family moved to the Miller farm doing the farming for his mother for several years and up to the time of his death.

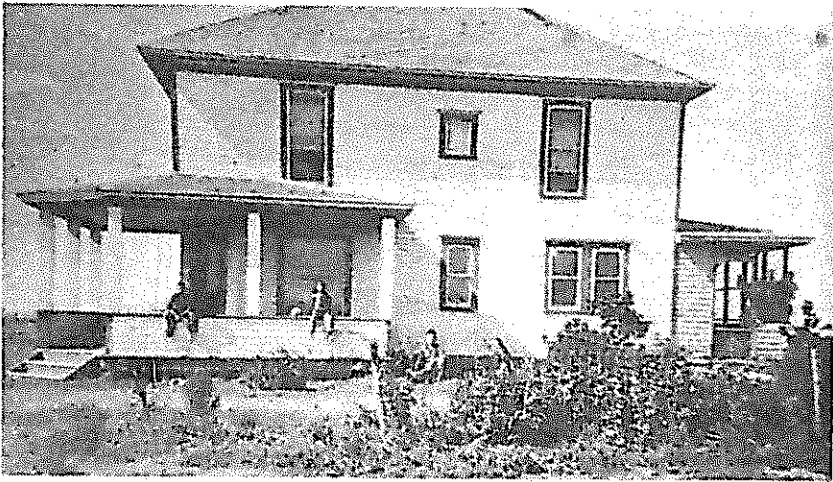
Ralph D. (Jim) served his country during World War II by joining the United States Army. He later married Betty Commer. He worked as the Skelgas man for the Burdett Farmers Co-Op. Grain and Supply Company, serving the customers for many years. Ralph D. and Betty have three children, James, Ben and Debra.

John and Lena Miller moved to Burdett from the farm after their



five oldest children were married. John was custodian at the Burdett Grade School for years. He served as President of The Board of Directors for the Farmers Co-Op Grain and Supply Company in Burdett for a number of years. He was Sunday School Superintendent at the local Methodist Church for some time. Lena was President of the Ladies Aid in the days when it was active.

The Miller's were Pioneer people, moving from an area along the Arkansas River with plenty of water and lots of big shade trees to the dry treeless plains of Hodgeman County.



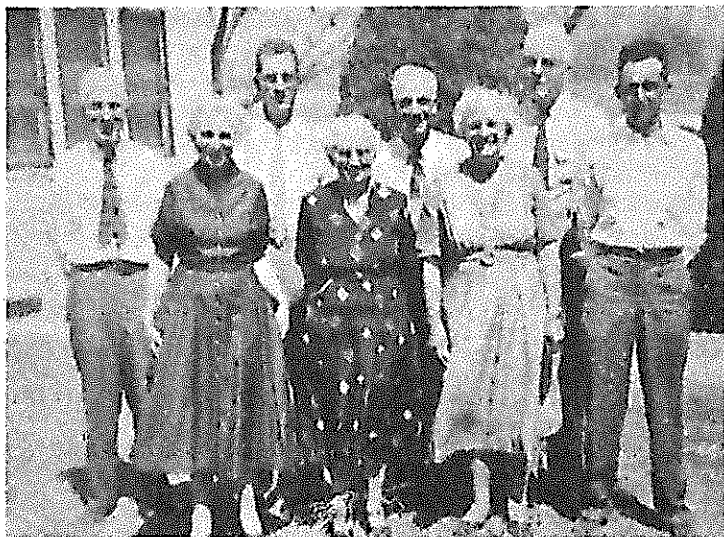
**J. E. Miller Home S.W. of Burdett.**



**Mr. and Mrs. John Miller**



**Walt Miller and his 1927 Ford.**



**John Miller family. L. to R. Oakley, Nora, Paul, Beatrice, Leonard, Elsie, Walter and Jim.**

“In May of 1909 an eleven and one-half pound son arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Miller and announced his intention of staying indefinitely.” (This was Walter Miller)

## Burdett Library

In January of 1937 plans were made for a new Burdett Library. It will be located in the Township Hall. In just one month the reports are that the library is steadily growing. Two more trunks of books have arrived from the traveling library and many other books have been contributed by people of the community and those are greatly appreciated.

A few of the more recent books are of interest to children. There are approximately fifty children books on the shelves and several books for pre-school age are also available.

A book tea sponsored by the library committee is to be given at the home of Mrs. R.A. Norris. It is being given for the purpose of acquiring more books for the library. Each guest is to bring a book (new or old) or contribute a silver offering which will be greatly appreciated by the committee, as both are needed for the progress of the venture.

“A community carnival will be held on the main street of Burdett next Monday evening September 13, 1937, the proceeds of which will be used to finance the library. A band concert will be the main feature of the evening beginning at 8 o'clock. There will be other features in which everyone may have a part. There will be stunts, contests, and races to suit every age, from the older men and women to the children.

The business men are offering prizes to the winners of each event. Those interested in horseshoes will have an opportunity to show their skill.

Various types of refreshments may be bought at the stands. The community is cordially invited to join in the fun and help boost the library."

First books purchased for the library (October 1937) are: "The Dr." by Mary Roberts Rinehart, "Storm Signals" by Joseph C. Lincoln, "Life with Father" by Clarence Day, "Girl from Montana" and "White Flower" by Grace Livingston Hill, and "Enchanted Ground" by Temple Bailey.

Since the organization of the library thirty-eight years ago we have had twenty-four book reviews at library teas, two travel talks, and one talk on Kansas weather and crops.

Mrs. Kathryn Dow who resides at Dodge City is the only charter member of the original library organization.

The old bank building (south of the fire station) was given to the city in the spring of 1963 and the Burdett Community Library was moved into this new location. New shelves were made and the interior re-decorated.

The library board with help from the boy scouts moved the books to this new place, which it shares with the city offices. The library operates on public funds received from the city and the three townships.

Some of the librarians have been: Beryl Delp, Louise Delp, Norma Lou Delp, Betty Miller, Hallie Bindley, Emma VanMeter, Judy Yust, Katherine Martin, Virginia Bettes, Wilma Bettes, and Arlene Todd.

## Incorporation

There is considerable talk among the citizens of Burdett to incorporate the town. (1916) There is a live commerical club which is working to make Burdett a better town. Talk of erecting a township hall which the community feels would meet the needs as a community meeting place. A town jail also talked of being established as the distance to the county jail is twenty-five miles. This is quite a disadvantage in dealing with persons arrested during the harvest invasion every year. After being apprehended there is no place to keep offenders.

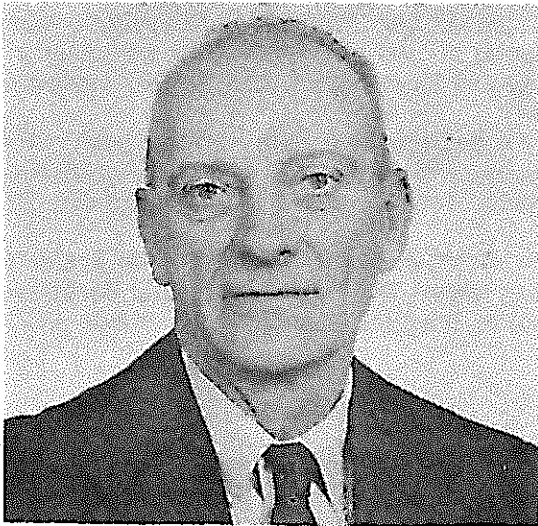
Burdett community in 1946 is anxious to become a growing city and expects to go places in the post war future. A booster club has recently been organized and the town is thinking of becoming a third class city. Burdett is situated quite a distance from any larger town and enjoys a large surrounding trade area.

Burdett incorporates in 1961 making a new city in western Kansas with incorporation status. Burdett has been in existence since 1876 (as Browns Grove) and from 1886 (as Burdett). Why incorporate Burdett?

We have a group of citizens that feel the town should progress and grow.

On Wednesday December 13, 1961 notices were posted for Burdett's first election. The slate of candidates gives the voters a wide range of choice in electing five city councilmen at large. There are two candidates for Mayor, Wayne Catlin and Lester Bauer, but only one for police judge, Louis VanMeter. There are 17 candidates (14 men and 3 women) for the city council. Each voter must choose five of the following nominees: Emmett Bauer, Lee Bettes, Jack Delaney, Beryl Delp, Leon Ditus, Louis Ellis, Helen Gilbert, Mary Lipp, Eldon Lynam, Walter Miller, Clyde Norris, Bill Rucker, Leo Shank, Joe Slavin, Clarence Steffen, Glen Warner and Willis Yust. There are 214 eligible voters in the recently incorporated town.

Burdett has had three mayors, Lester Bauer, Cecil Stinemetz and the current mayor Glen Warner.



**Mayor Glen Warner. 1975.**

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The band performed in the cupola of the Burdett House July 1888 in which a "Glorious Fourth" was celebrated. A picnic was held in Palmer's grove.

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January 1897: The Philomatic society is an organization formed as an auxiliary to the Burdett Library association. It's purpose is literary improvement. The meetings have been successful under the direction of Miss Ida Curtis.

## Electricity in Burdett

Pawnee Power and Water Co. can buy power from Hutchinson cheaper than Larned can produce it. Nathan L. Jones manager for the Pawnee Power and Water Co. presented some propositions at a special meeting in 1919 stating that his company was receiving applications for electric service along transmission lines in excess of what had been anticipated and the plant at Larned could not supply the necessary supply needed. He says that their lines as originally planned have been practically completed and that the load is building up on the line to such an extent that it has become necessary for his company to look about for some other source of current than the limited supply which can be furnished by Larned.

The line now extends to the towns of Kinsley, Lewis, Belpre, Garfield, Rozel and Burdett and will be constructed at once to Pawnee Rock. In addition to this applications for electric service have been made by the towns of Fellsburg, Trousdale, Macksville, and Offerle. Representatives of these towns have been in conference with Mr. Jones this week in the matter of extending the line to these points.

Farmers along the transmission line route are putting in the electric service almost universally, Mr. Jones says and many of them are asking for service wires heavy enough to carry electric stoves, motors for pumping, washing machines and irrigation pumps.

The propositions made to the council by Mr. Jones was as follows: "The Pawnee Power and Water Co. would purchase all of their power totaling \$15,000.00 per annum from the city of Larned if they could provide for the needs of the company's line at a rate they could afford. Also they wanted twenty-four hour service for a long term of years."

February 1920: The latter part of the week the Power and Light company set their poles and stretched wires into this place. It is the hope of all Burdett people that the current will soon be turned on.

February 1920: The Commercial club of Burdett held a meeting last Thursday evening at which time they took up the subject of lighting our streets. The club organized with the election of Dr. Winchester as president, Mr. Hardy was named secretary and Clarence Haymond, treasurer. These officers expect to contract with the light company for street lights if satisfactory arrangements can be made.

February 1928: Street Lights for Burdett. The board of county commissioners authorizes a levy for thirty lights costing \$540.00 annually.

At their meeting Monday the board of county commissioners approved a petition presented and signed by practically everyone in Burdett and Browns Grove township requesting that a benefit district be established, permitting the levying of a tax for street lights in Burdett. A contract will be made with United Light and Power company for the lighting of Burdett. The company already supplies lights to individuals in town. It is planned to have thirty street lights and the

estimated cost will be approximately \$540.00 per year. A law passed by the last legislature authorizes such benefit districts.

Present This Bill at Your Bank

No. *a 38*

IN ACCOUNT WITH

**PAWNEE POWER AND WATER CO.**

Larned, Kansas

To *Ranostating* ----- Burdett, Kansas

For Month of *JUL* 192*7* ----- 192*7* -----

	SERVICE CHARGE		\$
LIGHT	THIS MONTH READING	<i>38</i> KW	
	LAST MONTH READING	<i>33</i> KW	
	CONSUMED	<i>5</i> KW	<i>1.00</i>
POWER	THIS MONTH READING	----- KW	
	LAST MONTH READING	----- KW	
	CONSUMED	----- KW	
TOTAL CHARGE			\$
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE IF PAID BY THE 10TH DAY OF MONTH			\$ <i>1.00</i>



### 1912 Sieverling Family Picture

Back Row, L. to R. Henry, Fred and his wife Stella, Annie, August, Otto. Front Row, Fredrick and Johanna and first grandchild L. F. Sieverling.

## Sieverling

by Wanda Sieverling Eakin

It seems a sketch on the Sieverling family should start with Henry C. Sieverling of Greene County, Illinois, early settler and homesteader of Browns Grove township, and the first of the brothers to come to this community

Henry Conrad SIEVERLING, son of Conrad and Eliza (Bullman) Sieverling, was born April 9, 1828 in Braunschweig, Germany. After receiving his education in Germany, he served four years as an apprentice in the machinist and blacksmith trades. In 1848, he sailed for America on a vessel bound for New Orleans. In 1851, he worked as superintendent for the construction of canal locks there. He later moved on up the river and worked at Baton Rouge and St. Louis, where he married Mrs. Elimor Helmbold. In 1858 he located in Greene County, Illinois. First at Woodville, and in 1866 at Carrollton where he had a blacksmith shop and was a manufacturer of wagons and plows. His early interest in Browns Grove is shown by the following newspaper items.

Whitehall (ILL.) REGISTER, January 29, 1876—H. C. Sieverling  
Jos. Stohr, William B. Brown and others going west last week

bought lands at \$5 and \$7 per acre and located homesteads within 3 to 8 miles of good railroad towns . . . These lands are reported to be enticing almost beyond description.

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WHITEHALL (ILL.) REGISTER, August 5, 1876—H.C. Sieverling reached home this week from Kansas still full of the fever and having with him a sample of Kansas sod-corn that he thinks is hard to beat. (The sod-corn alluded to is not in the liquid form.) Mr. Sieverling thinks Kansas beats any state he has ever seen for the farmer.

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THE LARNED PRESS, April 6, 1877—Last week we published an article on Pawnee County. How many persons have read it no one can tell, neither can anyone tell how much influence it may have in turning the attention of men in the east to this locality. But that its influence will be great no one will seriously question after reading the following from one of our settlers who is now in Illinois on business: CARROLTON, ILL., April 2nd, 1877.

DEAR DOCTOR:—I saw in the last week's PRESS, a description, by Mr. Davis, of the progress of Pawnee county, which I think is a credit to Mr. Davis. I had the paper not one hour before a dozen persons wanted it and that very article will take a number of our people out there this summer. Please send me a few of the last number of THE PRESS for distribution, and I will make it all right as soon as I come out.

Respectfully yours,  
H.C. Sieverling

—Mr. H.C. Sieverling this week reached home from southwest Kansas, and is full of enthusiasm over that country. He claims the railroad has doubled on its land since he bought last year, and that the preemption lands are all taken up, and no country he ever saw is improving like the region around Larned. He is only a Pilgrim here till he finally removes to that happy land of Canaan.  
WHITE HALL (ILL.) REGISTER

Henry C. Sieverling's homestead was one-half mile east of the present town of Burdett. He also has an undivided one-sixth interest in the South half of the northwest quarter of Section 28, T21, R20, on the town plat of Browns Grove, commencing at the northwest corner of Lot 7, Block 6. He was not a long time resident, however, as he returned to Carrollton, Illinois and carried on his blacksmithing business there until his retirement in 1899. He died June 7, 1901 at Carrollton.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Sieverling were the parents of three sons: William H., born Jan. 16, 1860, died Apr. 12, 1924 in Chicago; Otis A., born Aug. 24, 1862, died Jan. 9, 1927 at Chula Vista, California; George B., born Oct. 15, 1864, died Dec. 5, 1914 in St. Louis.



William SIEVERLING, son of Conrad and Eliza (Bullman) Sieverling was born Nov. 8, 1838 in Germany. He came to America in 1876, and located on a farm near Burdett, where he lived until 1886 when he moved to Kansas City, Missouri. He made frequent trips back to Burdett, and it was while he was on one of these trips that he passed away at the home of his brother, Frederick, on Oct. 19, 1908. William was unmarried. He is buried on the family lot in Browns Grove cemetery.

Frederick C. SIEVERLING, son of Conrad and Eliza (Bullman) Sieverling, was born in Braunschweig, Germany on March 11, 1842. On April 14, 1872, he was married to Johanna Ebeling in the Lutheran Church of Braunschweig, of which they were both members. Two of his brothers having preceded him to Pawnee County and taken up land, Frederick and Johanna then came to America in the spring of 1878. They located for a year on the farm owned by his brother, Henry C. Sieverling, one-half mile southeast of Burdett. In 1879, they moved to their homeplace, Section 2, T22S, R20W, two and one-half miles southeast of Burdett. Frederick and Johanna were the parents of seven children, six sons: William, Fred A., Herman, Henry, August and Otto, and one daughter Annie. Two sons, William born in 1873 and Herman born in 1877 died in Germany of diphtheria. Johanna (Ebeling) Sieverling died Dec. 26, 1915 in San Antonio, Texas. Frederick Sieverling died Oct. 4, 1916 at his home near Burdett. Both are buried in Browns Grove Cemetery.

Fred A. SIEVERLING, son of Frederick and Johanna (Ebeling) Sieverling, was born in Braunschweig, Germany June 29, 1875. As a young man, he went to Great Bend, Kansas where he later had a machine shop for many years. He married Estella Dumbauld, and had two sons: one died young, and L.F. Sieverling of Sun City, Arizona. She died in 1925 in Great Bend. Later Fred moved to California where he had an orange grove for a few years, later retiring in Pasadena where he died Jan. 10, 1952. He is buried on the family lot in Browns Grove cemetery.

Henry Sieverling, son of Frederick and Johanna (Ebeling) Sieverling was born Dec. 20, 1878 on the homestead of his uncle one-half mile southeast of Burdett. He married May Alta Marshall on June 15, 1912. He was a farmer and built his home across the road north of his parents home. Later he moved to Larned, where he died Feb. 23, 1938. His wife, May, died in California. Both are buried in Browns Grove cemetery. They were the parents of four children: Glenn, Lena Belle, Beulah, and Gaylord, all presently living in California.

August Sieverling, son of Frederick and Johanna (Ebeling) Sieverling, was born June 26, 1881. He was a farmer, residing on N $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 35-21-20, one and one-half miles east of Burdett. On Sept. 16, 1922 he was married to Martha Jarvis. They were the parents of two children: a daughter, Virginia Lee born and died Feb. 19, 1924, and a son, John Hadley Sieverling of Eules, Texas. About 1930, they moved

to his parents place where he died Jan. 7, 1931. He is buried in Browns Grove cemetery.

Annie Sieverling, daughter of Frederick and Johanna (Ebeling) Sieverling, was born April 13, 1881 near Burdett. She graduated from Normal School in Larned, and was a school teacher. She married George Compton of Larned. She died of typhoid fever on Nov. 29, 1928, and is buried in the Larned cemetery. She had no children.

Otto Sieverling, youngest son of Frederick and Johanna (Ebeling) Sieverling, was born Feb. 29, 1888 near Burdett. On June 1, 1912, he married Hazel Waterhouse. She was born in Hodgeman county on March 24, 1894, daughter of Hazen M. and Gertrude R. (Ward) Waterhouse. Otto was a farmer and lived on the Northeast quarter of Sec. 2-22-20 in Sawmill Township about one-half mile east of his parents homeplace. Upon his retirement from farming in 1948, they moved to Burdett. He died July 30, 1952. His wife died Feb. 6, 1965. Both are buried in Browns Grove cemetery. They were the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter. Wesley, the eldest, died Jan. 2, 1974, unmarried, a resident of Burdett. Wanda Lois, married Willis Eakin, son of Jesse B. and Inez (Orr) Eakin, lives in Larned. They have two sons, Wendell and Nolan. L. Clair Sieverling married Ruth Nuckolls, daughter of Chas. and Elsie Nuckolls. They live in Phoenix, Arizona and have two daughters, Debra and Shannon. Lynne Sieverling married Jane Fugate, daughter of Justus and Josephine Fugate of Wichita. They have two sons, Joe and David, and live in Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

## 90th Birthdays

"Burdett Citizens who have celebrated their 90th or over birthdays are not too many but of those who have reached this milestone we are proud. Mr. William Shuck a civil war veteran was honored on February 21st., 1932 at his son Logan Shuck's home on his 90th birthday. A family dinner was held with his children, grandchildren and their families. Mr. Shuck came to Pawnee county in 1881.

Another who lived to see her ninetieth birthday anniversary was Mrs. Jessie Haymond, mother of Earl Haymond (who is still one of our exceedingly active citizens). Mrs. Haymond passed away April 12th, 1948 at the age of 91 years.

Mr. J.C. Searcy celebrated his ninetieth anniversary in 1945 with a party at his home with his family.

In 1965, Mrs. Emaline Zahn was honored with a party for her 92nd birthday with her family at the home of her daughter Mrs. Viola Reece in Burdett. She passed away in 1968 at the age of 95 years.

The 1974 was our banner year. On March 14th, Mrs. Erma Lynam had her 95th birthday party at the Hammond Holiday Home in Larned where she resides.

Mrs. Bertha Rupright celebrated her ninetieth anniversary with open house for her family, friends and neighbors. She lives in Burdett alone in a trailer home and enjoys reading and visiting with family and friends.

Mrs. LuRena Paris resides at the Holiday Home in Larned and she celebrated her 93rd birthday in August.

In September the 92nd birthday honor for Mrs. Gertie Klein was observed in the old Klein family home where she still lives south of Burdett. Mrs. Klein still does some of her own housework.

Two of Burdett's residents reached their 100th birthdays. Mr. J.R. Hanna wrote a letter to the County paper on his anniversary and a copy of that letter is reprinted here:

### FORMER RESIDENT REACHES 100

In a recent letter written by J.R. Hanna he writes that Kansas is celebrating it's 100th birthday and that the state has nothing on him for on October 17th he will celebrate his own centennial year. He is quite well for one of his age and would enjoy a visit back to Kansas but thinks it is not wise to make the trip. The history of the Hanna family is interesting and their moves from one home to another over a large area of the U.S. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hanna were born in West Virginia where they were married and moved first to Iowa in 1894 where they lived for eight years. Their next move was to Osbourne, County Kansas their home from 1902 to 1909 then the family came to Pawnee County settling on the Littel Ranch one and one-half miles east of Burdett. This was the family home until 1923 when the farm was sold and they moved to Longmont Colorado, where Mr. Hanna still resides. Mr. and Mrs. Hanna were privileged to observe their Golden Wedding anniversary

in 1936 and four years later in 1940 Mrs. Hanna passed away and Mr. Hanna is living alone now in Longmont. During their stay at Burdett Mr. Hanna was active in church and public affairs. For many years he was Sunday School superintendent of the Methodist Church and served several terms on the local school board. He was elected the first president of the Burdett Co-op serving in 1910, the year it was organized. Mr. and Mrs. Hanna were the parents of eleven children who grew to adulthood and through the years the family has increased with the addition of twenty six grandchildren and fifty four great grandchildren. Three sons live in Nebraska, Kenny at Fairbury, Eldred at Cozad and Lloyd at Gothanburg. Two sons are in Colorado, Alex at Colorado Springs and Ernest at Loveland. Paul is in California, two daughters in Kansas (Florence) Mrs. W.A. Nuckolls of Burdett and (Maude) Mrs. Elzer Gagna of Concordia.

The children are planning to be with their father for this very special day. What changes have been made from 1861 to 1961, from covered wagons to jet planes which get you to your destination before you can sit down and realize you are on the way. From the hand cut tied bundles of grain, old header and threshing machines to the modern combines. Now the radio, the television so that news of the world is as common as neighborhood news. These changes have been made during the lifetime of Mr. Hanna who has been permitted to live a full century. Happy Birthday from all the friends at Burdett, Oct. 1963.

The other citizen with this distinction was Mrs. Emma Saxton who was 100 on December 10, 1967. That day was proclaimed by the Mayor of Burdett as "EMMA SAXTON DAY." Following is the proclamation: WHEREAS, on December 10, 1867, Emma Elizabeth Keller was born unto Henry and Mary Keller, residents of Shippenburg, Pennsylvania, and said parents and child moved to Pawnee County, Kansas, in the year 1877, and WHEREAS, said Emma Elizabeth Keller resided with her parents until her marriage to Hugh Saxton on December 16, 1866, from which time she resided on a farm in Pawnee County, Kansas until 1935 when she moved to Burdett, Kansas; that nine children were born unto said marriage and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 1967, said Emma Elizabeth Saxton will have completed her one hundredth year and the City of Burdett, Kansas desires to honor this senior citizen, NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lester M. Bauer, Mayor of Burdett, Kansas, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 9, 1967, as Emma Saxton day, the same to be celebrated in the honor of the many contributions of this early day pioneer to the development of the City of Burdett and the surrounding area.

Executed at Burdett, Kansas, this 8th day of December, 1967.

LESTER M. BAUER, MAYOR.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS

There have been several Golden Wedding Anniversaries celebrated in our community:

Mr. and Mrs. N.O. Mather	1901
Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Case	1915
Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Myers	1921
Mr. and Mrs. George Mitten	1921
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Matteson	1925
Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Waterhouse	1935
Mr. and Mrs. C.N. Rucker	1936
Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Hanna	1936
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Saxton	1937
Mr. and Mrs. James Hayward	1938
Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Browne	1938
Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Shuck	1938
Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Norman	1943
Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Zahn	1943
Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Notestine	1951
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lynam	1951
Mr. and Mrs. S.C. Huffman	1952
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rhemert	1952
Mr. and Mrs. E.D. Lipp	1953
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ellis	1954
Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Thomson	1954
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Foreman	1955
Mr. and Mrs. Med Childers	1961
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Preston	1963
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Myers	1963
Mr. and Mrs. N.L. Rucker	1964
Mr. and Mrs. Gus Lingenfelder	1965
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mooney	1969
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brown	1969
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reece	1971
Mr. and Mrs. M.O. Chaffee	1971
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Nuckools	1973
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Stinemitz	1974
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Waterhouse	1974
Mr. and Mrs. Estol Jones	1975

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August 1896: W.F. Kerfoot and wife returned from a rather extensive trip to Mexico. His sojourn there gave him many objective lessons. He received over \$27.00 in Mexican money for \$15.00 in American money. He reports the common laborer gets only thirty-seven cents per day wages. Mr. Kerfoot is not a free silver man.

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August 1887: The first train arrived in Jetmore completing the branch line.