

Browns Grove Cemetery

Burdett citizens met at the school house in October 1887 to discuss the question of a cemetery.

The meeting was held with Mr. J.F. VanMeter in the chair and George A. Cox secretary. The object of the meeting is stated as follows: "That arrangements be perfected by which we can purchase and improve grounds to be used as a cemetery."

Mr. N.O. Mather requested that Mr. H.R. Brown be given the floor. Mr. Brown stated that he would deed to the people of Burdett and vicinity sufficient ground for the use of a cemetery, stipulating that said people fence the same and keep the fence in good repair. He also reserved a lot of at least twenty feet in length and two lots wide.

Mr. Blossom suggested that on behalf of the people the offer be accepted and the ground be fenced with a tasty and enduring fence.

On motion of Mr Blossom, the Cemetery Association was formed, and it was moved and carried that the name of Browns Grove Cemetery be the name of the organization.

A charter was issued October 24, 1887 and the term for the corporation is to exist 99 years.

Five members were appointed trustees: Almon Brown, N.O. Mather, C.R. Case, C.R. Dill, and E.E. Blossom.

A.G. Provine, George A. Cox and R.M. Norris were named a committee to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of defraying the cost of surveying and fencing the ground. At the next meeting this committee reported \$42.50 had been collected and it was agreed to hire S.A. Himrod to survey and plat the cemetery providing he would do the work for \$10.00. N.O. Mather, H.R. Brown and E.E. Blossom were elected to assist him.

The land Mr. Brown gave was the northwest area of our present cemetery. This was a corner of his pasture. His son Lorenzo died in 1884 age 10, and his wife died in 1886. Both are buried here and it is thought these burials were here when he gave this land for a cemetery. He gave a 3½ acre tract.

Another tract of 2½ acres was purchased from Mr. L.H. Munn and wife in 1911 and an additional 3 acres were purchased from George and Lena Smith in 1913. These three tracts of land make up our present cemetery.

Burials prior to the forming of the cemetery were made on the homesteads although there are two burial grounds where several persons are buried. In the Sawmill vicinity there was the "Notestine" burying ground and several graves were made on the A.B. Deaton claim northeast of town.

December 1893 J.M. VanMeter was elected president, H. Mirow, vice president, J.M. Fisher, secretary and N.O. Mather, treasurer of the cemetery association.



First Burial in Browns Grove Cemetery.

The secretary was instructed to mark the names of lot owners on the second plot of ground which are not marked.

A purchase of four hundred and ten (410) bricks to be used for corners of lots at the cemetery was made.

Mr. Mirow was appointed to repair the fence, buy posts and set them and put on the wire.

Mr. N.O. Mather was instructed by the board of directors to buy one pick, spade and shovel, and straps for the use of said cemetery and the secretary was instructed to sell waste posts from repairing of the fence.

Henry R. Brown died May 23, 1896 of pneumonia at the National Military home in Dayton, Ohio. He was 70 years of age and for many years was a resident of the Burdett Community. He came to Pawnee county and lived here until 1894 when he left for his former home driving a horse and buggy to Chautauqua county, New York. He enlisted in Co. C. 70th, N.Y. volunteers at the beginning of the late war and served until it's close. A daughter Miss Jennie Brown lives in New York and five brothers, four sisters survive. One brother G.W. Brown and a sister Mrs. O.D. York reside at Burdett.

Mr. Brown was well known in Burdett and will be missed by his friends here. He is to be remembered as giving the land for Browns Grove Cemetery.

June 1908: Burdett was up in arms about "Browns Grove Cemetery" growing up to weeds. A group of ladies sold ice cream at the Henderson sale and made \$22.00 toward fixing up the cemetery and cutting weeds.

All persons interested in the improvement of the cemetery (1912) are requested to be present at the meeting to be held at the school building at 2 o'clock Saturday December 7. New officers will be elected and other matters of public interest and improvements of importance will be presented.

The following is an article taken from a Larned paper May 1913. S.E. Notestine writes of a recent article in the county paper that might cause some people to get the idea that we here at Burdett are a careless lot. The heading of the article reads "Burdett People Not Careless."

"The reason the gravestones of Albert Phillips laid around the Burdett depot so long was because the government had made a mistake and sent two headstones for him. One was erected at the gravesite and the government has not asked for the extra one to be returned.

Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Norris also stopped at the Tiller and Toiler office to explain and correct the matter.

The first set of stones for the Phillips grave came five or six years ago in 1908. Through some error a second set was sent about two years ago. (1910) In the same way two stones were sent for the Lucius Baker grave but in this case both of them were erected over the grave. This burial site is decorated with three tombstones.

Mr. Norris paid the freight on the stones and plans to keep them until the government asks that they be returned or he is reimbursed the freight charges. He hints if a good opportunity is made they might be planted over the reporter who turned in the item published last week."

In 1926 Henry Webster was in town circulating a petition in the interest of Browns Grove cemetery. If the proposed plan carries at the November election, control will pass from the cemetery association to the three townships. By levying a small tax, funds will be provided to keep the grounds up in a creditable shape.

The improvements thus far are a well, and windmill, a large cement tank, and a toilet. There will be a tool house added.

Cemetery board officers are: C.A. Crawford, president; Henry Webster, vice president; Mrs. Cora Harris, treasurer. G.W. Bindley was elected secretary and manager.

The cemetery board met with the township board (1926) for the purpose of turning the management to the three townships. Browns Grove, Sawmill and Shiley.

Officers elected were D.S. Gibson (Sawmill), president; H.V. Klein (Sawmill), vice president; G.W. Bindley (Browns Grove), secretary and manager; J.O. Line (Shiley), treasurer. A motion carried that each township put in \$100.00 making a working fund of \$300.00.

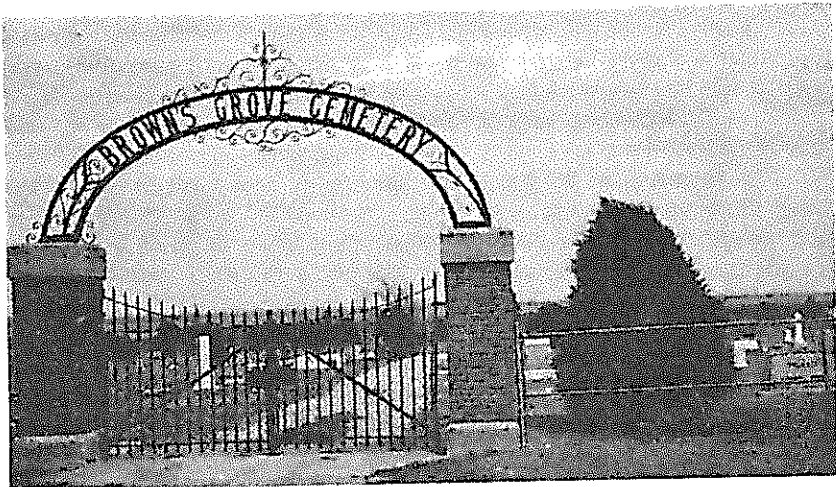
A movement started in 1927 to put down a new well and Mrs. Cora Harris solicited the community for funds for this project. A list of names and their donations was published in the Tiller and Toiler February 3, 1927 along with a list of those who donated labor. The balance of the cemetery improvement committee (of which Mrs. Harris was treasurer) \$97.64 was transferred to the township boards and this was to be used to purchase an ornamental gate for the west entrance.

The W.C.T.U. and the M.E. ladies aid each gave \$5.00 worth of trees. The trees were planted by a corps of Burdett High school students and their teacher G.L. Rucker. G.F. Mather also assisted the group.

The first caretaker on record was Guy Newport serving only a few weeks in 1929. Win Dovel was hired in 1931 as a full time employee. Mr. C.C. Bartlett, Albert Bettes and Mr. and Mrs. Art Pelton have also served in this capacity. At present Mr. Rodney Sunberg is caretaker.

We are very proud of the cemetery and the trees and grass are kept in fine condition. Evergreen trees were set out in 1931.

In 1950 an area in the southeast corner was sold to the Catholics for their burials.



From what information we can garner there are five negroes buried in the cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Jones who lived southwest of town in the Mooney neighborhood, their daughter Nettie and her husband Jim Grabbs and Jim's brother William. Jim and Nettie lived on the Buckner south of Charles Lynam's. The brother William was a slave and died here in 1919. Though there are five burials only markers for two have been established.

In the early days graves were opened by pure man power. Men volunteered to do this work and it was the same then as now, only a small few seemed to do the job whenever the need arose. In 1957 a backhoe and tractor was purchased with money left to the cemetery association. Times do change; one man can open the grave and a charge for this service is customary.

Browns Grove Township

August 1878: In the proceedings of the board of county commissioners at Larned Kansas a legal petition having been presented to the board praying the organization of a new township on the west line of the county to be called Browns Grove Township. It was ordered that town 20, ranges 19 and 20; town 21, ranges 19 and 20; town 22, ranges 19 and 20 be the same is hereby set apart as a municipal township and the election for the organization of the same will be held at the house of the Sanders Brothers, Browns Grove on the 21st. day of August 1878.

May 1878: "Agricultural statistics of Walnut and Browns Grove townships." Both of these townships were set off from Larned and Pawnee townships last year during the summer. Walnut from Larned and Browns Grove from Pawnee.

Browns Grove contains 6 congressional townships and Walnut 2. The latter was settled first therefore the difference in the number of acres under cultivation. From all indications the increase in acreage of winter wheat will be fully four times more than it was last year, and the number of acres under cultivation in the county will probably reach near 60,000. Number of acres improved in Browns Grove 3628; unimproved 18,152; winter wheat 1154; rye 3; spring wheat 163; corn 808; barley 227; oats 288; irish potatoes 33; sweet potatoes 3; sorghum 70; flax 16; tobacco 1; broom corn 161; millet and hay 379; clover 14, acres fenced 50; forest trees cultivated 153. The above amounts are acres. Horses 138; mules and asses 49; milk cows 109; other cattle 375; swine 88; pounds of butter made 3558.

In 1873 not an acre broke in Pawnee county in 1878—14,115 acres.

January 1879: We are informed that if the prayer of the petitioners is granted a new county be made out of portions of Hodgeman, Ness and Pawnee. It is seriously contemplated to float that portion of the county from Ness and Hodgeman to the gulf of Mexico where it will be anchored and used by the U.S. Government as an insane asylum. The projectors of the new county will be received gratis.

June 1919: The people of the west half of Keysville township which at present is a double township have petitioned the county commissioners to set off and organize all of township 22, range 20 into a new township to be known as Sawmill township.

The precinct in west Keysville has always been known as Sawmill precinct ever since it was organized, taking it's name from the school district. More than 50 electors have signed the petition asking for action by the commissioners at their October 6th. meeting. The hearing date is set so far ahead because the law requires at least 3 months notice must be given for such a proposed organization and the petition must be published for 3 consecutive weeks in the county paper.

The petition asks for the full 36 sections of township 22, range 20. At present 3 sections of 22, nos. 4-5-6 are now included in Browns Grove township. The rest of the territory being Keysville.

October 1919: The county commissioners added a new township to Pawnee county at their meeting Monday. All formal preliminaries complied with the new township was formed which is six miles square and will include sections 4-5-6 which have belonged to Browns Grove township up to this time. Officers have not yet been named and taxes will not be collected separately this year but collected as assessed for Keysville township.

With this formation Pawnee county now has 18 townships.

February 1931: The following account was written by Geo. W. Bindley.

"The original book used by the township clerk 53 years ago is still being kept by the present board of Browns Grove Township and in looking it over many interesting things are found.

Browns Grove township was organized in 1878 and included all of what is Keysville, Sawmill and Shiley townships.

The first board appointed was S.O. Jackson, trustee, O.E. Dewey, treasurer, and E.P. Robb, clerk.

The township was divided into three road districts, each with an overseer. They were E.T. Simons, F.W. Hanchild and H.T. Payne. Their wages for the year were: Simons \$22.50, Hanchild \$29.00 and Payne \$28.00. Disbursements for the year totaled \$134.98 leaving a balance on hand of \$4.37.

One of the bills allowed at the first meeting was to G.W. Crane of Topeka (now Crane & Co.) and we note the present board are still doing business with them.

Comparing 1878 with last year Browns Grove alone (the other townships have drawn out and each look after their own business) spent \$7000.00 for road building, maintenance, street lights and equipment. One thing noticed was the frequent change in the members of the boards, this showed that the population was transient, that officers were elected and soon moved away, making it necessary for someone to be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Another noticeable thing was the penmanship of some of the clerks. They were all good. John T. Duff, a brother-in-law of C.C. Case of Larned wrote an exceptionally fine hand.

In the early days there was not much road work to be done, for roads were made where you wanted to go, and when one trail became to bad for travel, there was plenty of room so a new one could be made beside it or wherever it was best. So about all the work needed was to fill in washouts for there were no bridges.

There is surely a great difference in the road system of today compared with those when the township was young. Now each section line is open and there is a network of highways all kept in excellent condition for school busses, mail carriers and all weather travel. The county is forging ahead in road building, and each year sees more township roads taken over by the county and made into county roads and as this is done they are sanded and made into all weather high-

ways. The time is not far distant when it will be possible to get anywhere in the township on graveled highways.”

Browns Grove Township, clerks books from 1878 to 1932 have been viewed and the above article is true as researched from them. I do not agree with my Dad as saying the writing is good as some is so bad it is practically unreadable. J.B.T.

County Commissioners

“The office of county commissioner is one of the most important in the community. It is through them that all the money for the county is collected and expended and it requires a man of business ability and one that is well acquainted with his county. Elmer Griffith was nominated for commissioner by the people of the second district in 1912 and at the primary in August, he received every republican vote cast in his township. He began serving in this office in January of 1912.

Howard Thompson was appointed to this position in April of 1968 to complete the unexpired term of Elmer Arnold. He was elected to the office in the primary in November of 1968 and took the oath of office in January 1969 and is serving at the present time.

These are the only men that have had Burdett as their home address who have served as county commissioners.

The three darkly outlined townships are Districts 1 and 3. The other 18 townships are District 2.

		Rush		County				
		Shiley	Lincoln	Conkling	Ash Valley	Walnut	Barton Co.	
Hodgeman Co.		Browns Grove	Grant	Norton	Pawnee	Larned	River	Barton Co.
Edwards Co.		Sawmill	Keysville	Pleasant Ridge	Santa F.	Pleasant Grove	Logan	Stafford Co.
Edwards Co.			Garfield	Orange	Pleasant Valley	Valley Center		Stafford Co.
		Edwards County		County		Stafford Co.		

E. P. Bauer History

by Luella Bauer Lynam

One of Burdett's pioneers was Edward Philip Bauer or E.P. as he was known to most in the Burdett community. He spent seventy-seven years of his eighty-six years in or near this vicinity. He came from Germany with his Grandfather in 1888. They lived in a sod house in the Hodgeman community. Ed attended school in the Hodgeman school walking three miles and stopping on the way to feed and harness Doctor Bowie's team for him, then on to school to start the fire so the room would be warm for the teacher and the other children. He and his grandfather's family, and an Uncle and Aunt and family (the late John Lingenfelder Sr.) attended church at the Hanston Mennonite church. Most of the time they walked. E.P. would help pull a little wagon in which they hauled the younger children. (Gus and his brother Philip Lingenfelder were the children.)

Ed and his grandfather farmed together until Ed homesteaded a quarter of land west of the Hodgeman school. His first good wheat crop was headed and stacked waiting for the thresher to come. Before the threshers got there a prairie fire swept across the area and the entire crop was burned.

He told of making trips to Burdett in a spring wagon for supplies, they came to the Jake Bauer store. In 1903 E.P. came to Burdett and worked in Jake Bauer's store until 1907. He then bought the livery barn and the dray business which he operated until 1910. He had many eventful trips many of which were taking a Doctor in stormy weather to some far away farm family.

He ventured into the blacksmith business in partnership with the late George Burres and in 1918 he bought out his partner and continued in the business until 1952.

The old saying "you can take the boy away from the farm but you can't take the farm out of the boy" proved true for E.P. He began farming again and continued until 1964.

To have a good and growing community and a forward going community was one of Ed's main interests. In 1906 he helped to build a telephone line to Hanston, 1914 he was elected to the Browns Grove township board as trustee and held this office until 1952. He was one of the organizers of the cemetery board in 1925 when the three townships took the responsibility for the improvement and care of the cemetery. He served for nine years a clerk on the school board.

In 1927 he helped to get an electric line built from Rozel to Burdett. This line was coming from the east moving west but had bogged down. Through much effort the line finally came on and many people had bright lights and power. The kerosene lights were put away.

Ed was a stockholder of the Burdett State Bank and of the Co-op elevator.

At the time of his death in 1965 he was the oldest stockholder of the Co-op.

He married Emma Miller of Hanston in 1906 (daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. J.P. Miller.) They had three children: Lester Bauer, Luella Bauer Lynam and Robert Bauer. His wife died in 1925. He married Tillie Franz of Moundridge in June 1926. She died in June 1968.

E.P. BAUER "a pioneer recalls"

Mr. Ed Bauer a blacksmith in the city of Burdett for many years recalls early times in this community. He came here to Kansas in 1888 with Mr. and Mrs. John Lingenfelder Sr. when he was 2 years of age. The first year was spent in Kansas City where Mr. Lingenfelder had work. "Leaving Kansas City we came to Burdett just after the railroad was built. We were met by an ox-team and taken to Uncle John Bauers home in Hodgeman County, where we made our home until our house was built. Mr. John Bauer's home was a dug-out on the Pawnee river not far from the old Duncan Crossing and was made like all the others of the early settlers. One door, one small window, roof made of poles and brush covered with prairie grass and dirt and then covered with sod.

Mrs. Lingenfelder had a hard time becoming accustomed to the country she had been used to better homes than the ones offered her here. Real bedsteads with feather beds, and such, not just a few poles layed crossways for slats, covered with a tick filled with prairie hay. and on top of all this she could not speak a word of English so could not talk to the neighbors had she a chance to see them. The nearest neighbor lived about three miles away. She was homesick and when left at home alone with us kids (there being four) she would break down and cry and we would gather around and cry too because she was crying. Mr. Bauer said "I remember our first trip to the church. After being here a while we heard of the Mennonite church northwest of Hanston. Of course there was church at Brown's Grove but they did not talk the German language, and Mrs. Lingenfelder wanted to hear someone talk so she could understand. So early one Sunday morning we got ready and started, John and I pulled one of the little ones in a small express wagon and Mr. Lingenfelder carried the baby. Going west we hit the old Hays-Dodge City government trail and followed it southwest until we were southwest of where the Hanston cemetery is now located. Then west to the church, only about ten miles.

"On our return we were more fortunate as a neighbor, Mr. Huffman, and wife, who owned a team and wagon, took us home with them for dinner then on home in the evening. The first year we got along fairly well, Mr. Lingenfelder having a little money, but after that it was not easy. Many the time I have ground in a coffee mill some of the little flint corn that we raised to make meal that we might have bread for breakfast. We kids were taught to work as soon as we were big enough and as soon as I was strong enough to hold up one end of an

ox yoke so that I could yoke up the team I learned to plow. They didn't ride then when plowing, but "Hot-footed it" barefooted besides. Our feet got tough and all that bothered us was to have an old diamond back rattlesnake roll down into the furrow just where we were going to step next. "Yes, there is great change, now the ground I broke as a kid with the ox-team is cultivated with modern machinery doing as much work in a few hours as we did in one month. But such were the days then and now. (Mr. Ed Bauer was the father of Mrs. Eldon Lynam)

J. A. Grubb

The following biography is from the 1887 Burdett Bugle and is of Mr. J.A. Grubb who operated a store in Burdett for perhaps a year.

"J.A. Grubb was born in Mahoning County, Ohio June 12, 1854 and while yet an infant his parents moved to North Beaver township. In 1861 they moved to the township of Little Beaver and here both his parents died. He evidently lived here (probably with relatives or friends) for some years and married. He moved his family to Wampum, Pa. in 1881.

His parents were quite poor and although quite young he has seen a great deal of the rougher side of life. When only fourteen years of age he was crippled in both legs and knowing his straightened circumstances and his inability to support himself with physical labor he applied himself diligently to study. In a few years he was qualified as a common school teacher and by teaching in the winter and attending college in the summer he soon rose to the head of the profession and received the highest grade of certificate issued by the County Superintendent.

At Wampum he went into the grocery business which he successfully followed until a few months ago. He has twice suffered severe loss by fire and on the last such occurrence he came very near to losing his own life and that of his wife and family.

In public affairs he has always taken an active part, especially in the cause of education and at the present time he is on the Wampum school board, secretary of the Burrough Council, Justice of the Peace, and a member of the Republican County Committee. To all of the above offices he has been re-elected except the latter.

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The attention of our readers (Burdett Bugle August 1887) is directed to the mammoth advertisement of our popular merchant Mr. J.A. Grubb which appears in this issue. His stock is large and carefully arranged and his genial disposition and good business qualifications are assisting him in building up an enviable business. It is to be hoped that the people in this section will show their appreciation of the enterprise displayed by Mr. Grubb by extending a liberal patronage. The ad states: "THE NEW PENNSYLVANIA STORE." DRYGOODS.

CLOTHING, GROCERIES AND NOTIONS, DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES.

WE HAVE COME TO BURDETT TO STAY AND WE MEAN TO OFFER YOU GOODS AT PRICES THAT WILL INDUCE YOU TO STAY WITH US AND SAVE YOU THE TIME AND EXPENSE OF GOING TO LARNED AND ADJOINING COUNTIES TO BUY YOUR GOODS." J.A. GRUBB SELLS A SPLENDID OVERALL FOR 60 CENTS AND CLARKS O.N.T. THREAD FOR 4 CENTS A SPOOL.

W.I. Taggart and J.A. Grubb made quite a successful hunting trip down the Pawnee last Thursday, September 1887. After an absence of about two hours they returned with a fine string of game consisting of twenty-five wild ducks and a light sprinkling of prairie chickens.

In December of 1887 Mr. Grubb disposed of his business to Mr. H.C. Hudson and on a Monday morning in 1888 he left on a prospecting trip to Wichita and other towns. He traded one of his farms in this locality for city property in Newton where he plans to settle in the near future.

Last Monday (August 1889) J.A. Grubb killed a mammoth "rattler" measuring over seven inches around and having eight rattles and a button.

J.A. Grubb, Justice of the Peace, Attorney, and Land and Loan Agent, turns out to be a school teacher as well and has been employed to teach our school the coming year.

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Mr. and Mrs. Grubb have a son buried in Browns Grove Cemetery.

Formerly of Pawnee

S.N. Norris Prepared His Own Biography for His Friends.

A few weeks since there appeared in this paper a notice announcing the death of S.N. Norris, a former well-known citizen. From the Kesosauqua, Republican, we copy the following.

"Died—S.N. Norris, July 27th. 1900 at the home of S.H. Bennett. The funeral was from the house, conducted by Rev. Rolingson at four o'clock p.m. July 28th. 1900 and the body was followed to it's resting place, Maple Grove cemetery, by a large concourse of relatives and friends. His last sickness covered a period of about five months. During this time he was continuously an intense sufferer. A short while before he ceased going out in town he had the following biographical sketch written, with the request that it be published in the Kesosauqua Republican, then sent to the Larned Chronoscope for the same purpose."

Stephen Nelson Norris, the tenth child of John and Fannie Jones Norris, was born the 15th. day of December, 1815, near Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1820 the family emigrated to Franklin county, Illinois, where his mother soon afterwards died. In 1827 they moved to Terre Haute,

Indiana. From this time on, at the age of twelve, young Stephen was thrown upon his own resources. Wages were low and for several years he could do no more than to make a living by farm work. Occasionally, by working for his board, he attended school a month or two in winter, and by this and his own efforts, learned to read and write fairly well and acquired some knowledge of arithmetic.

In 1842 having saved enough to own a team, bed, a few farming tools and a little money, he left Indiana for the west. In the same year he arrived in Van Buren county and located near Pierceville and went to work. In a short time he entered three forties and bought another and went to improving it. December 30th. 1844 he married Rachel Moore. This union was blessed by a family of five sons and two daughters, viz: John Wesley, who died in infancy; Lizzie, who married George Bonar and died in 1874 at Belle Plaine, Kansas, leaving three little daughters in care of her parents. Sadie, who married S.H. Bennett and lives in Cantril; George L. and Des Moines, who also live at Cantril; Frank, of Geneseo, Kansas, and Robert, of Burdett, Kansas. About 1865 he sold the Pierceville farm and bought the Capt. Mayne tract of 720 acres near the present site of Cantril, and which he owned at the time of his death.

While living on this farm he engaged extensively in stock raising. In 1880 he retired and moved to Cantril and engaged in mercantile business with his son George. He was also elected mayor of the town, was an active member of the school board, and in 1882 was appointed postmaster by President Arthur. In 1891, with Frank and Robert and S.H. Bennett, he left town with a drove of cows and young cattle and located at Larned, Kansas. In 1897 his wife died and in 1898 he returned to Iowa, where he made his home with his children at Cantril.

S.N. Norris was remarkably healthy, a vigorous man with strong will power and great positiveness. In the winter of 1847, at a protracted meeting held by Rev. John Hay, at Cameron's school-house, near Pierceville, he united with the M.E. church and was ever after faithful to his trust, keeping well to the front in everything pertaining to the welfare of the church.

While in politics he trained with the Whigs, he was in principle an Abolitionist. After it's organization he identified himself with the Republican party. There never could be any misunderstanding as to S.N. Norris' position on all religious and political questions, as he never hesitated in expressing himself plainly, freely and fearlessly. By his great physical strength and endurance, guided by sound judgment, he was well equipped to encounter the hardships and privations of pioneer life, and became a prominent character among the many, by whose active industry, energy, enterprise, patience and perseverance, the state of Iowa has been developed and placed in the front ranks of the American constellation.

He was public spirited and never hesitated in extending aid to all laudable, expedient and practical enterprises. His alms were never

misplaced; while he entertained a most kindly feeling toward the afflicted and needy, he was guided by the same strict and unerring rule in dispensing charity that governed him in all other business transactions.

At the allotted age of three score years and ten he was still active and vigorous, the ravages of time being almost imperceptible. Not really until past four score years did his strength and vigor begin to fail. His life was a successful one, and while his heart swelled with pride while he contemplated the greatness of his adopted state, yet his greatest pride and source of happiness in his declining years was the family that had grown up around him, all of them being respected and honorable citizens, successful in the affairs of the world.

S.N. Norris lived in service of his God, his family, his neighbor and his country, and rejoicing in the reflection of a well spent life, died in the hope of a glorious immortality. (Gt. Gt. Grandfather of Clyde Norris.)

Palmers

S.L. Palmer and his wife Elizabeth Hoag met in 1875 when she was studying music at the New England Conservatory of music in Boston and he was at that time touring the east with John Philip Sousa's band. They were Quakers.

They were married and he put his coronet away for awhile and became a telegraph operator for the railroad in Illinois. A daughter Marietta was born in Illinois in 1876 and six years later the family moved to Scott City, Kansas and only a few months later to Burdett seventeen miles above Fort Larned. A son LaVern Jr. and another daughter Edna were born. The family settled on a wheat farm which boasted also a small orchard. All the children were taught to play musical instruments. It was said of Mr. Palmer "He owned a farm but the farm in no sense owned him."

The first home at Burdett was located on the property now belonging to Mrs. (Mae) Frank Thompson. The following was found in one of the Pawnee county papers. "Mr. Palmer has erected a water wheel in the Pawnee and is preparing to have waterworks on his place next summer. People living along this lovely stream might use it's sparkling waters much more to promote the comforts of their homes. In order to control the entire force of the current he has built a small dam placing a flume in the center in which to put the wheel. He has arranged a sort of elevator at the side using a long rope to which is attached a number of buckets and two pulleys for which the rope to pass around. A platform and a small tank for receiving the water were next erected in the top of one of the large elm trees which rise to a convenient height, nearly forty feet we would judge. Water is easily conducted to his residence and different parts of his lawn and garden. When the winter frosts interfere with this process a force pump is used

which performs similar service but does not furnish as much water as the elevator. Considering the small outlay in it's construction we do not believe it can be beat. When once firmly constructed no extra expense need be incurred and it runs night and day.

(Mrs. Palmer's sister) Miss Ella Hoag's eighteenth birthday was celebrated at the S.L. Palmer home in February 1887. On March 29, 1888 Miss Ella Hoag and Mr. J.C. Browne were married in the Palmer home by Rev. J.L. Gibson.

Mr. Palmer became interested in archeology after a trip to the World's Fair in Chicago and decided that travel would be the only thing that would satisfy his longing to discover something new.

His wife Elizabeth and three children accompanied him on the extensive traveling they did in the southwest in the 1890's. Each year their trips seemed to lengthen.

Their traveling home (a wagon) was a conventional Studebaker wagon running gear. The wagon was built out over the wheels with two seats lengthwise along each side and separated from the front of the wagon from floor to top cabinets. More cabinets were at the back for storing clothing, bedding, cooking utensils, and supplies. Above this storage at the back just under the roof were cases lined with blue plush and fitted with glass doors and here the musical instruments were stored. The entire family were musical and at the evening campsites the family entertained with concerts.

Marietta the eldest daughter played the harp and guitar.

In their travels they met Richard Wetherill, discoverer of the Mesa Verde Indian ruins, and he and Mr. Palmer worked together on archeological mining operations in Chaco canyon, New Mexico and acquired a vast amount of Indian relics.

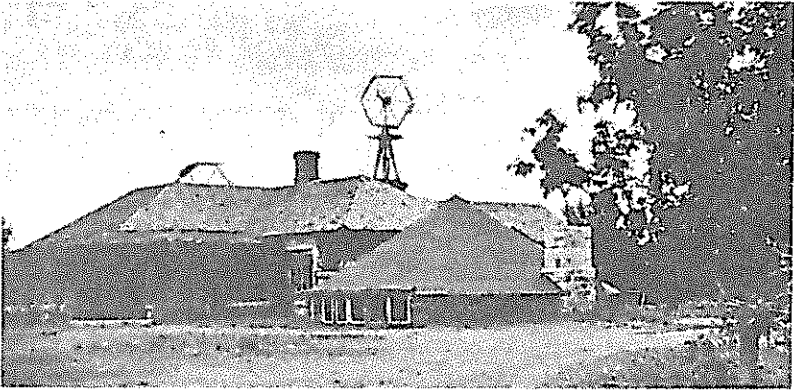
Marietta married Richard Wetherill in 1896 and they lived in New Mexico in the Navajo country. Richard was killed by the Indians in 1910.

The other sister Edna, married Ray Haymond a brother of Earl Haymond. LaVern Jr graduated from Burdett High School in 1903.

The last covered wagon trip the Palmers took was in 1898. Another daughter was born in Ventura California in this year. This daughter (Beatrice) attended school in Burdett.

A home was built west of Burdett from rock salvaged from the old "Browns Grove Flour Mill." This was a beautiful home from descriptions given by persons who were fortunate to have seen it. A large round room (an estufa) was built first and was used for living quarters during construction. Inside was a wide platform in front of south windows which were at ground level. On this shelf were decorative plants. A quaint little stairway went up to the windows, underneath was a storage area.

Beyond the fireplace around the north wall were rows of shelves. Indian artifacts, pottery, and relics were displayed on the shelves.



S. L. Palmer's home.

Beautiful Indian rugs carpeted the floor. The musical instruments, and books had a place in this attractive room.

There was beautiful wood paneling in the ceiling of the room in the house next to the estufa.

A windmill was geared to power the tools in his shop and a taller mill pumped water for the house. Water flowed through a cement cooling tank to a pond and garden.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brownlee lived for many years in this house. The estufa had been abandoned years before.

The Palmers also lived at Lawrence, Kansas, and at Hutchinson where his archeological relics were on display in the Hutchinson Library for eight years. Mrs. Palmer died in 1916 at Lawrence.

Mr. Palmer at the time of his death was living in Sierra Madre, California. In 1930 he went to Hutchinson and packed the relics there to move to his California home. He died at the age of 76 years of age in Texas enroute home.



**Stone from "Old Mill"
when Palmer house razed.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Brownlee.**

September 1887: Mr. Welch of the Pawnee Rock "Leader" who in company with several of his fellow townsmen paid Burdett a visit is the author of this most exhaustive description of the valley and our beautiful little city.

"About dark we pulled into the new and rapidly growing little city of Burdett which is located near the west line of Pawnee county. For some time this has been the terminus of the Larned extension of the Chicago, Kansas and Western railroad and has developed into a trading point and distribution center for a vast scope of fine country which is being rapidly developed and bids fair to become one of the most important towns in the valley. We dropped in for a moment to see out friend Browne of the "Bugle" who is also postmaster and then drew into camp at "Browns Grove" a half mile north of Burdett.

Near our camping ground resides a "genius." He has a stone house on the north side of the river whose verdant grounds slope down to the wooded water's edge. He has constructed a water wheel which pumps water into the house and barn and irrigates the grounds. Among the trees of the grove he has arranged rustic seats, swings, and cozy nooks and one could almost imagine himself in fairyland.

South of his house he has constructed a wire cable suspension bridge, which is an exact replica of the Niagara bridge and it required much labor and mechanical ingenuity to build. Steel cables the size of a man's thumb are firmly anchored on each bank and run up and over towers which suspend the bridge over the river. It is probably 150 feet long and swings 25 feet above the water. It answers as a foot bridge for it's owner and family. In crossing it gives an easy swinging motion and is perfectly secure."

Early Days in Hodgeman County

(By Michael Sweeney in a 1907 paper)

"My first experience in what is now Hodgeman county was in November of 1868. I was then attached to an independent company of scouts employed by the government to fight and hunt Indians, as they, the Indians, at that time were continually committing murders and depredations along the Saline and Solomon river valleys.

As it was late in the fall the Indians were returning south. The instructions from Gen. Sheridan were to make a winter campaign as at that season of the year the Indians could not procure forage for their ponies, as the buffalo were also going south.

The troops, consisting of the 7th. U.S. Cavalry, commanded by Gen. Custer accompanied by the company of scouts which comprised thirty six men, also Gen. P.H. Sheridan in full command, left Fort Hayes on a fine morning of that November and on the second day out, camped on the south bend of the Pawnee creek close to the ranch of one John McLoughlin, who was at that time the only resident of Hodgeman county.

The evening was beautiful, about dusk a blizzard set in with a snow storm. The wind must have blown at a rate of 50 miles an hour. The impression among the men was that several would be frozen to death before morning, but luckily there were no casualties. We were badly prepared for the storm.

Sometime in 1870, McLoughlin traded the ranch to a George Duncan who lived there several years.

The bodies of the four men and one woman found buried near Hanston were two boys named Jordan and two hired men, the woman was the newly wedded wife of one of the Jordan boys. They had left Hayes City late in the fall of '69 on a buffalo hunt. They intended to hunt all winter, put up a sod house and dry salt the buffalo. After being away for six weeks with no word of them, the father of the Jordan boys, who kept a boarding house in Ellis became uneasy about them so a party went out from Hayes and the bodies were found. They were buried where found. It was shown they had put up a good fight with the Indians as there were over 500 cartridge shells found near where they fell. It was supposed at the time that they were killed by Kiowa Indians led by white men, as they had two good mule teams which were also gone.

The Fort Hayes and Fort Dodge trail was first made in 1867 and abandoned when the Union Pacific railroad was built into Hayes and Dodge City.

During the trail's useful years there was considerable traffic over it as all freight from Camp Supply, Fort Sill and Fort Union went over this trail. By 1875 most of the buffalo were driven out."

