

# Eakin

by Wanda Sieverling Eakin

Samuel J. EAKIN, early settler on the Pawnee Creek, about 6 miles west of Burdett, was born July 5, 1837 in Venango county, Pennsylvania. He was a son of David and Rebecca (Stalker) Eakin, and a grandson of Samuel and Mary (Riley) Eakin who came to Pennsylvania from Londonderry, Ireland in 1798.

Samuel J. Eakin, the subject of our sketch, married Julia Ann Atwell on April 29, 1862. She was born Aug. 24, 1841, daughter of George and Mary Say (McKissick) Atwell, and a granddaughter of Robert and Margaret (Russell) Atwell.

In 1877, Samuel J. Eakin decided to go west, first looking at land in the eastern part of the state of Kansas. He finally bought 160 acres in Marena township, Hodgeman county, Sec. 21 T21, R21. This land had been filed on by an ex-soldier, a Mr. Hodgeman, whose name the county bears. It was later sold to Mr. Deaton, who sold it to Samuel J. Eakin. Mr. Mather had farmed it in 1878, and it was he and another neighbor who met the train at Kinsley which carried the Eakin family and their possessions. They brought with them a large team of horses, harness, wagon, some machinery and furniture. The children then were Lizzie, Ed, Ella, Tenn, Byron, Sam, Lulu and Lena, ranging in age from 16 to 2 years old. Mr. Mather and neighbor brought a wagon with team of horses, and a wagon with a team of oxen. With wagons loaded, they rattled over the rutted prairie trail across the Buckner Creek, up and down draws, and finally across the Pawnee, arriving just at night.

There they found two large dug-outs cut out of the bank of the creek and plastered with magnesium. The gable ends were logs. Rough boards made the floor. In that part of the county almost every quarter had been filed on at that time, and sod houses, rock houses, and dug-outs sheltered the hopeful families of the pioneers. There were a few frame houses but lumber was expensive and had to be hauled so far that cheaper houses were the common form of habitation. Such a change from comfort to simplicity.

For three years after their arrival, there were no schools, but the young family gained some general knowledge, as their father would read to them in the evenings from books they had brought from Pennsylvania.

Some wild fruit grew along the creek beds, plums, grapes and choke cherries. They had their meat, eggs, and milk. Twice a year, the father made a trip to Larned for supplies: salt, yeast, brown sugar, flour, corn meal and dried fruit. All of the pioneers were in the same condition, reduced to the level of "necessity is the mother of invention."

Samuel J. Eakin passed away on Dec. 5, 1888 with typhoid fever during an epidemic that went through the neighborhood that fall and claimed the lives of several. For nine years they had struggled with the

trials of pioneer life when Mr. Eakin passed on, and left the mother with nine children under twenty one years of age. He had requested her to keep the children together if he were taken, and for years that was her chief object in life. She died June 1, 1928. They were the parents of twelve children.

Mary Elizabeth Eakin, daughter of Samuel J. and Julia Eakin, was born March 14, 1863 in Venango County, Pennsylvania. On Sept. 20, 1880 she was married to Charles Freemont Webb "at High Point Town in Hodgeman county." He was an early settler in the county, and later helped build the second house in Leadville, Colorado. They were the parents of three children: Fred, Wilbur, and Myrtle. She died June 27, 1940 in Portland, Oregon.

Edwin Victor Eakin, son of Samuel J. and Julia, was born Dec. 4, 1864 in Venango county, Pennsylvania. He went west in 1887 to Huntington, Oregon where he worked for Wells Fargo on the Union Pacific from Oregon to Wyoming, for ten years. At one time he was robbed of \$85,000. He returned to eastern Hodgeman county, Kansas and was a farmer and cattleman. He married Eliza Amy Armstrong, daughter of J.C. and Mary (Perry) Armstrong. They were the parents of six children: Lewis E., Maude E. Blount, James who died young, Mary, Perry, and Dwight.

Ella Rebecca Eakin, daughter of Samuel and Julia, was born March 26, 1867 in Pennsylvania. She married James Sherman Brady on June 26, 1888. He taught the school at Gray, later they moved to Woodson county, Kansas where he taught school. There she contracted tuberculosis, and died Jan. 19, 1901 after several years illness. She is buried in Browns Grove cemetery. Ella and Sherman were the parents of two sons, James Victor, and Eugene Earl, who were raised by their grandmother Julia Eakin.

Alfred Tennyson Eakin, fourth child of Samuel J. and Julia was born Nov. 29, 1868 in Venango County, Pennsylvania. He served as County Treasurer of Hodgeman county 1898 to 1903. He moved to Idaho where he was a real estate man at Buell, and did much to bring settlers into southern Idaho. He married Ona Ackley and they were the parents of two sons, Barton K. and Max E. Eakin. He died May 16, 1928, and is buried in Browns Grove cemetery.

Byron Leonard Eakin, son of Samuel J. and Julia, was born Nov. 27, 1870 in Pennsylvania. He went west Aug. 11, 1893 to Pocatello, Idaho, and worked for twenty years for Wells Fargo. Later he was postmaster and ran a grocery store at Eden, Idaho. After that he went to Oakland, California and had a grocery store. He married Zaida Mitchell. They were the parents of three children: Kenneth George, Glen Harvey, and Eleanor Lou. Byron died in 1948 in Oakland, California.

Samuel Edson Eakin, son of Samuel J. and Julia, was born Feb. 11, 1873 in Pennsylvania. He married on Dec. 20, 1899 Mary M. Jackson, daughter of U.B. and Sara Downs Jackson. They had eight children: Ralph and Grace, both died young, and are buried at Burdett; Mabel

Alice; Julia Ann; Elsie Vada; Sara Elizabeth; Irene Leila and Floyd William, twins. Samuel died Sept. 11, 1945 at Bandon, Oregon.

Lulu Leila Eakin, daughter of Samuel J. and Julia was born March 17, 1875 in Venango county, Pennsylvania. On Dec. 23, 1902, she was married to Albert DeWitt Shook, son of Andrew and Constantia Shook. They lived at Caldwell, Idaho and had one son, Kenneth. She died Nov. 16, 1967. Most of the material in the sketch of Samuel J. Eakin is taken from various articles that Lula wrote.

Mabel Lillian Eakin, called "Lena," daughter of Samuel J. and Julia, was born in Pennsylvania Sept. 2, 1877. She was married at Lewis, Kansas on Nov. 4, 1908, to Nehemiah Rittenhouse, son of Nehemiah and Minerva Rittenhouse. They lived on a farm west of Burdett, and were the parents of two sons: Floyd, and James Rittenhouse. She died July 23, 1964 and is buried at Hanston.

David Burton Eakin, son of Samuel J. and Julia, was born Aug. 12, 1879 in Hodgeman county, Kansas. In 1901, he was married to Mrs. Effie Fisher Carr, daughter of John and Catherine Fisher. They were the parents of twins, who died young, and Glen E., Thomas William, Agnes, Zaida, and Lloyd Burton. David and his three sons were killed Jan. 17, 1923 near Gooding, Idaho, when a hay stacker came in contact with a power line.

Jesse Benton Eakin, tenth child of Samuel J. and Julia, was born Sept. 3, 1881 in Hodgeman county, Kansas. On November 25, 1908 he was married to Inez M. Orr, daughter of George H. and Charlotte (Sherwood) Orr. They were the parents of three children: Velda, Grace, and Willis Eakin. Mrs. Eakin passed away July 25, 1959. He died Sept. 23, 1972, age 91 years, 20 days, at Larned.

Grace Etta Eakin was born Jan. 20, 1884, youngest daughter of Samuel J. and Julia. She died in June 1901, age 17, of back and chest injuries received when thrown from a horse.

James Floyd Eakin, youngest child of Samuel J. and Julia, was born Nov. 15, 1886 in Hodgeman County, Kansas. On Dec. 6, 1909 he was married to Ethel Laura Larson, daughter of Louis and Susie (Merrick) Larson. He was a cattleman in southern Idaho and northern Nevada, and died June 10, 1964 at Gooding, Idaho. They had one daughter, Erma

## Ed Eakin History

by Maude Eakin Blount

James Cheney Armstrong of Clochester, Connecticut married Mary E. Perry in 1866. They established a dairy farm there and were doing well, but he, with friends went to the "West" to learn about the opportunities for ambitious young people in the wide open spaces in Kansas. When he returned he brought back a number of buffalo hides which he gave away as he was sure he could return to Kansas and get more.

Mr. Armstrong acquired land in eastern Hodgeman county and

Lane county by pre-emption and also by purchase. He built a frame house on the Hodgeman county land before going back to Connecticut.

By the time they were able to make the trip to Kansas in 1877 the buffalo herds were seriously depleted and many settlers had arrived. The family came by train to Kansas because Mary, who was subject to migraine headaches, did not feel she could cross the prairies in a covered wagon. She also insisted on waiting until they could afford a frame house because she refused to leave a good home and come to Kansas to live in a "hole in the ground."

They had with them her mother, her brothers—Robert and George Perry, and the three Armstrong children—Belle Armstrong Cook, Lida Armstrong Eakin, and James Cheney Armstrong. They spent some time at first in Larned; part of it as guests of the sheriff and other officials. Then they made their home west of Burdett where the early basement and frame house was built on the farm now occupied by the Elmer Selfridge family.

They came in February and in May of the same year Mr. Armstrong was killed. They owned cattle and in the summer months the family took their livestock to Lane county to their grassland. A frame house was built and the family spent the summer months there and the winter was spent west of Burdett. Some one had to ride herd on the stock night and day and it was on one of Mr. Armstrong's shifts that he was killed. No one ever knew whether he was killed by Indians, cattle rustlers, or how, or why.

A searching party was organized and five days were spent before the body was found. One of the men in the searching party was Lewis A. Choat of Meade who later returned to see how the family was faring. He was so impressed by the courage of this young mother that he later married her and assumed the responsibility for the family. Each member of the family learned to love him and thought of him as a father, also each member when he came of age filed on new land and the surrounding pieces which made up the ranch and were purchased as they became available.

In the year of 1910 the Ed Eakin family came to the ranch from Finney county to live on and care for it the rest of his life. He and his wife (Lida Armstrong) had five children: Lewis, Maude, Mary, Perry, and Dwight. Of these only Maude Eakin Blount of Larned, Ks. and Perry of Florida survive. The original homestead and much of the surrounding land has been plowed and is good rich farmland. Most of the original ranch has been owned by only the Indians, the United States Government, and this family and its descendants.

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August 1910: "John Klein has purchased a fine new auto and is now engaged in learning to run it. Those not having their lives insured will do well to keep out of his way as D.A. Delp says he is liable to run into anyone." (D.A. Delp, Bessie Singleton's father and John Klein, Mabel Bauer's father)



**Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bauer.**

## **Jacob Bauer History**

by Miss Kendall Norman

Jacob Bauer, his mother Mrs. Anna Marie Bauer and his fiancee Miss Margaretha Buchert left Germany for the United States in 1893.

He decided to come to the United States primarily because he wished to free himself from the ties of military service. The salary he would receive in the Army would not provide enough for his widowed mother and a wife. So they all set sail for the United States.

Landing in New York, they took a train to Kansas City, where they stayed with a cousin, Jake Bauer, for several weeks. Then on to Burdett by train and to Hodgeman county by wagon to the Johannes Lingenfelder home. Upon arrival at the Lingenfelder home, the Lingenfelder's and Jake's mother took the couple to Ness City where they were married April 22, 1893.

Gretchen and Jake purchased the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 9 from Andrew Johnson in July of 1893. This land is across the road north of what is now known as the R.E. Mooney farm home. Part of the land had a timber stand and part was used for farming. They lived in Hodgeman county about six years and two of the five children were born here. Phillip, and Marie. Later they moved to Ness county to what is known as the John Lewis ranch, where the other three children, George, Louise and Kate, were born. While living at the ranch he wrote his

friends in Germany and helped some of them come to this part of the country to live.

The house in which they lived at this ranch was build by E.E. Norman. Later they had him build a barn and of course had the traditional barn dance. The night of the dance a gang known as the Kiner gang broke up the dance and carried off several articles owned by the Bauers. "Old Jake" got mad and shot at the gang as they rode off, hitting one of the men in the thumb. The gang yelled back a threat of death at Jake, so he decided to dissappear for a while. Leaving his family and two hired men, Charlie Black and Robert Notestine, to care for the place, he went to Colorado.

Shortly after his return, he picked up his family and moved to Burdett. He sold his Hodgeman county land to the Phillip Bauer's and the Ness county land to Hayes. In Burdett he purchased the Mercantile Store from Elspass. Fourteen years later he established the garage. (Mabel's Cafe is now on the site of the old store.)

While in the store, Jake also had a skunk farm in the area of the southwest corner of the block. He raised the skunks for the fur and even imported pure black skunks to up grade his furs.

Gretchen's favorite story about Jake's skunks was:

He had a badger tied to the old windmill out back. He used the badger to dig holes for the skunks so they could keep cool in the summer. One morning Gretchen got up to get breakfast and looking out the window in the kitchen she said, "Oh my, the badger has gotten tangled up in the windmill and has hung himself on that old rope." Jake hurriedly dressed, muttering all the time, and rushed out the door—Gretchen called after him "April's Fool"

She always added "That's the only time I ever pulled a good joke on Jake and was he ever mad at me."

In 1917 Jake purchased the Dr. Elting home and moved his family from the rear of the store to this home.

Shortly after moving, he turned the store over to his oldest son, Phillip, to run. A few years later he turned the garage over to George and his wife, and Marie and her husband.

Other properties were then divided between Kate and Louise.

Jake spent most of his past time hunting and fishing and always had several men with him.

After nearly forty years in America, Jake and Gretchen, decided to return to Germany for a visit. They sailed on the "Europa" in May 1930, for a six month stay. While in Germany they saw various relatives and toured several countries. One of the highlights of the trip being the Passion Play at Oberammergau. They returned to America aboard the ship "Bremen," in Nov. 1930.

Jake's mother lived with them while in Hodgeman county. She then moved to Illinois where she married Conrad Glies then returned to Kansas after her husband's death.

Jake passed away in 1934 and Gretchen in 1961.



**"The Skunk Farm"**

In September of 1910 Mr. and Mrs. B.E. Starr of Kingman rented rooms from S.E. Notestine and are making their home at Burdett. Mr. Starr has charge of the Merritt-Schwieer cream station.

New things are springing up in Burdett February 1912. The latest is a skunk farm owned by Jacob Bauer and helper B.E. Starr. They will no doubt reap a big harvest as their farm is stocked with nine full grown skunks.

March 1912 press clipping heading "As In Days of Old" "Burdett Trapper drove into Larned with a load of furs on a sled drawn by dogs!" People who were on the street Thursday evening in Larned were treated to a sight which reminded the old, old timers of an occasional incident of the early days but which looked more like a scene from one of Jack London's Alaska stories.

A sled drawn by two capable looking coon dogs (evidently near kin of the 'houn which a recently popular song says you can't keep kickin' around in Missouri) drove in from the west and pulled up at the Santa Fe depot with a flourish and the driver commenced to unload pelts, hides, and furs with which the sled was piled high.

The outfit was driven by B.E. Starr well known trapper of the upper Pawnee and manager of the "Burdett Skunk Farm." About 120 furs of different kinds were on the sled which Starr had sold for delivery on board cars not later than March 1.

There had been no trains on the Jetmore branch for five days since last Saturday. The roads being impassable for any kind of a vehicle drawn by horses Starr determined to deliver his furs in the good old way practiced for ages in the trapping country of the north.

He left Burdett about 9:30 a.m. Thursday and was due to arrive around 7:30 p.m. In some places the roads were covered by drifts of

snow ten to fifteen feet deep but the light sled skimmed without trouble over places which would have been impossible of passage in any other way!

In April 1912 the farm possesses eighteen full grown animals and the project is growing. The proprietors have just received steel fence posts and wire with which to enlarge the farm. At this time Mr. and Mrs. Starr left for Oklahoma where they will make their future home. They will take charge of a cream station owned by his brother. Their many friends here wish them success in their new home. Mr. Starr has sold his share in the skunk farm to Jacob Bauer and it will continue under his capable management.

John Gregory will tend the cream and poultry business left by the Starrs.

A visitor from Pawnee Rock visited the skunk farm in January 1913 and gave the following report.

'While in Burdett celebrating Christmas, I visited the skunk farm with fear and trembling.

The little varmints seemed as tame as an ordinary cat and since they evidenced a desire to play fair we had ample time to see how beautiful they really were.

The owner goes in and out among them with his best store clothes on without the least danger of becoming infected or starting something he could not stop. Good money is claimed to be made from this unusual pursuit!'

Skunk Exhibit at State Fair 1913.

Among the livestock exhibits at the state fair this fall may be a herd, flock, pen or whatever it is proper to call a group of skunks.

Jacob Bauer who has a skunk farm near Burdett is being urged to bring a pen of them to show at the fair as an exhibit of Kansas Industry that is different. It will be strictly a Kansas exhibit as all the skunks which are to be shown were bred and raised in Pawnee county. The animals are raised for their hides and Mr. Bauer makes money at it for there is a good demand for the skins. They are easy to raise and with proper handling the obnoxious features connected with the animals are overcome.

(No report could be found as to whether the skunks were exhibited.)

The skunk crop was harvested last week January 1914 and 170 animals were skinned. The price of furs is not as high as last year but it still was a profitable crop. Mr. Bauer expects to improve the quality of his furs having kept only the black and short striped stock for next year. He is sending north for some pure black ones. In a few years he will have all black skunks and will get a great deal better price for the furs.

(In our research no more articles were found on the "Skunk Farm.")



## New Planet Pluto Now Recognized

The planet Pluto, discovered by Clyde Tombaugh of Burdett Kansas, a Pawnee county boy has been officially recognized by the astronomers of the United States naval observatory at Washington. Pluto's existence was expected many years before it was discovered. Finally it was located by C.W. Tombaugh on March 13, 1930. Clyde was graduated from Burdett Rural High School in 1925.

1930 Larned Chronoscope: "A distinguished visitor at the Crane observatory at Washburn College yesterday was Clyde Tombaugh, the Kansas farm boy who startled the world recently by the discovery of a new planet. He appeared at the observatory in overalls and accompanied by his father (likewise in overalls) his mother and sister.

When the father appeared at the door, he was met by Prof. Fleming G. Moore of the physics department. "May we see the telescope?" the farmer asked.

"The astronomy professor is away now and the room is locked" replied the professor.

"Well, my son discovered Pluto", explained the farmer, "and he is quite eager to see this observatory, which he is told is the largest between Chicago and the Rockies."

The farmer was assured that his famous son, Clyde Tombaugh could have the keys to the college if he wanted them and could look at the telescope just as long as he chose. The family climbed to the top of the observatory where Moore showed them Washburn's 11½-inch equatorial telescope. Clyde told Prof. Moore the planet Pluto would not be visible again until fall. The family seemed to be on a telescope inspecting tour. Their visit at the Crane observatory lasted about three quarters of an hour. They planned to visit at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Neb. to inspect the telescope there.

Clyde made his first telescope and what he learned about astronomy was learned among the currant bushes on the Kansas farm.

In the fall of 1928 he went to Flagstaff, Ariz. and was put in charge of the new 13-inch telescope at Lowell observatory.

This summer of 1930 he is back on the farm helping with the wheat on his father's farm.

It was quite like him to visit Washburn observatory unannounced and finally reveal his identity only as the last means of gaining a view of the telescope.

**Burdett's Air Mail Stamp Honors Clyde Tombaugh Discoverer of Planet Pluto.**

"Burdett, the boyhood home of Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered Pluto the ninth planet is honoring the young man in a special stamp it has made for Air Mail Week observance. Postmaster S.E. Notestine

says that Burdett has a unique stamp, and one that no other office can duplicate.

The stamp or cachet is two and one half by two inches square, and at the top carries the lettering "Air Mail, May 15-21." Just beneath that is a large outline star, flanked by smaller stars and below the large star is the word Pluto. Then soaring below the stars is a large mail plane, just over "Burdett, Kansas" in all capital letters, followed by the sentence "Home of Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered the planet Pluto, at 24 years of age."

A coincidence in connection with the celebration of Air Mail Week is that it falls within the anniversary of Clyde's graduation from Burdett High School, in 1925."

His discovery of Pluto brought him world wide fame, and he received recognition not only from American scientists and universities, but from rulers and astronomers of foreign countries. He was awarded a scholarship by Kansas University and took his degree from that institution. He was also tendered a scholarship by one of the leading universities of England.

**BURDETT FIRST AIRMAIL:** In 1938 Burdett's first direct air-mail occurred in May when Postmaster S.E. Notestine delivered a pouch of mail to the mail plane at the Matthews farm six miles west of Kinsley, the pilot was F. Swinson who flew a Stinson four passenger monoplane.

The mail consisted of 183 letters and one parcel.

Within a few days the Burdett Post Office will pass its sixty-first birthday. Browns Grove later called Burdett was established June 21st, 1876.

The Tombaugh cachet for air-mail week received state wide recognition in the r. ;, The Dodge City Daily Globe, Hutchinson Herald, and Topeka Daily Capital all gave it a nice write up and W.I.B.W. radio station a prominent place on the 7 o'clock news broadcast last Friday. K.V.G.B. of Great Bend gave it on their news broadcast for four consecutive days.

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In 1940 a school newspaper was published called the "Burdett Clipper." This is the first newspaper since 1928.

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January 1927: "Miles Webster drove to Hanston Wednesday night in response to a call from his brother Dewey whose garage was destroyed by fire. In crossing the Bindley bridge he killed his engine going up the hill and in backing down backed off of the bridge. After several hours of work the car was raised and with little damage. He was able to drive on to Hanston but arrived too late to be a fire fighter."

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Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Waterhouse

## Waterhouse

by Wanda Sieverling Eakin

Hazen M. WATERHOUSE, long time resident of Marena Township, in Hodgeman county, seven and one-half miles northwest of Burdett, was born March 9, 1857, West Amesbury, Massachusetts, son of Alvin M. and Mary Louisa (Sargent) Waterhouse. His ancestors were among the early settlers of Massachusetts, coming from England in the 1640's.

Hazen M. Waterhouse came to Pawnee county in 1876, and worked for a time in the Land Office in Larned. He married first, Laura Williamson on Sept. 28, 1878 at Larned. She died Oct. 1, 1882. He then married Gertrude R. Ward, daughter of Wm. Monroe and Laura (Newton) Ward, on March 4, 1885. She was born Nov. 28, 1870 in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. The Ward family came to Kansas in 1878 from New York state. A note written by Gertrude (Ward) Waterhouse, in an old book, states, "The last Indian raid through Kansas, Sept. 1878, mother and family on the train coming to Kinsley. Father living on claim that is part of Hanston now . . ."

H.M. Waterhouse drove mail from Larned to Weirs Store, which was located on the Pawnee Creek, one mile south of the Hodgeman-Ness county line, and six miles west of the Hodgeman Pawnee county line. He served as road overseer, and helped build a bridge over the Pawnee southeast of Weir's. He also served as Trustee and tax assessor of Merena township. He had some law schooling in Massachusetts before he came west, and was often visited by his neighbors for advise on homesteads, or other legal matters.

Hazen M. Waterhouse died October 21, 1939. Gertrude R. (Ward) Waterhouse died May 16, 1949. They were the parents of eight children, four girls and four boys.

Laura Louise Waterhouse, eldest daughter of Hazen M. and Gertrude (Ward) Waterhouse, married Jess Hamlin, and lived in Boulder, Colorado. She died in 1944.

Thomas Alvin Waterhouse, son of Hazen M. and Gertrude, married Della Fay Cornelison. He was a farmer near Burdett, and died in 1958. Mrs. Waterhouse lives in Burdett.

Hazel Waterhouse, daughter of Hazen M. and Gertrude, married Otto Sieverling, and lived near Burdett.

Eugene Waterhouse, son of Hazen M. and Gertrude, died young.

Robert M. Waterhouse, son of Hazen M. and Gertrude, married Grace Edna Jones. He is a farmer, and lives in Burdett.

Ruth Waterhouse, married (1) Jesse R. Crockett, married (2) Wm. Thell. She lives at Towner, Colorado.

Maude A. Waterhouse, daughter of Hazen M. and Gertrude, married (1) Jake Good, (2) Lynne Ball. They live on a farm northwest of Burdett.

Everett Waterhouse, son of Hazen M. and Gertrude, married Vivian Mills, and live in Jetmore.

## VanMeter History

By Anna Mildred VanMeter Payne

The John Flushing VanMeter family came to the Browns Grove—Burdett community in the late 1870's after leaving Illinois. They resided in Kansas City, Missouri a short time before coming on west. Mr. VanMeter and his wife Emeline had ten children with three sets of twins. Three children died in infancy. Three of the boys stayed in Kansas City and rest of the children came to Burdett with their parents, they were sons George W., David N., LaVere B., and a daughter, Julia Anna.

Mr. VanMeter was a blacksmith by trade and had his own shop. He built his own home in the 80's and it still stands on the original location now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Louis VanMeter. From all reports it was a show place in the community with beautiful flowers and many fruit trees. Mrs. VanMeter passed away in 1908 and Mr. VanMeter in 1911.

LaVere farmed for some time south of Burdett and later moved to Larned where he had a variety store which they called VanMeter's Racket Store.

David N. married Jennie Smith Goudy and lived in Burdett until 1920 when he, his wife Jennie, son Louis Burton and daughter Ruth Marion moved to National City, California.

George W. married Sarah Edith Bindley and lived here until his death in 1942. His family were sons, Vern, Keith, George and a daughter Anna Mildred.

Julia Anna never married and lived her entire life in the town of Burdett.

Louis (Burton) VanMeter returned to Burdett in 1938 and has been an active resident in the community. He and his wife (the former Ella Fagen) and their family reside in the original VanMeter home.

Anna Mildred VanMeter resided here until after graduation from Burdett High School. After being gone from the community for many years returned to her parents home place and resides there at the present time.

The four generations of the VanMeters played an active role in all the community affairs and have been proud of their heritage.

## Flying

After World War II, in 1946 much interest in flying was in evidence at Burdett. The first to sign up for lessons were Marion Fall, Irving Brownlee, Arlyn Shank, Enoch Thompson and Howard Thompson. During the following years many others from this vicinity took lessons.

Harold Kennedy and Les Houser instructors from Dodge City came each week and gave instruction at the Burdett airport.

The landing strip was one-half mile west of town located in the Rucker pasture. The Burdett community airport is still here and it has a N-S runway 2600 feet, NE-SW runway 2500 feet and a NW-SE strip 2700 feet. All runways are sod.

A flying club was organized in the 1940's and was for several years an active organization.

Howard Thompson owned an old Eaglerock plane in 1932 in partnership with a cousin at Minneola, Kansas. This was perhaps the first plane in the area used for private flying.

The north hangar at the airport was built in 1947 by Irving Brownlee, Enoch Thompson, Leon Ditus and Howard Thompson with room enough to hangar four planes.

At the present time (1974) four planes are in this hangar. Lynn Nelson has a Cessna Cardinal, Elmer Selfridge Cessna 150, Howard Thompson Mooney Mark 21, and the Rucker Brothers Cessna 172.

Raymond Buckman has a Cessna 170 which he hangs at his home northeast of Burdett. He maintains his private sod landing strip in his pasture close to his home.

The Rucker brothers (Bill and Ira) began aerial crop spraying here in 1948 and they built another hangar, a machine shop, and an up-to-date office building. The area serviced by them extends to a radius of 50 miles around Burdett. For several years the Rucker's held an annual pork barbecue for their customers and friends.

Bill is married to the former Darlene Danford and lives in Burdett but Ira lives in Wichita and comes to help when the spray season is in full swing. It is a common sight to see the yellow and blue spray planes in the air early and late.

October 1952: "Bill left for Bogato, Columbia, South America by plane. He is flying a Rowden T-1 trainer there for the Colombian government. The plane is made at the Rowden Aviation Co. in Wichita.

Bill and his brother Ira do aerial spraying with their headquarters at the Burdett airport.

March 1966: An airport was established two and one half miles north of Burdett with three hangars being built by individual flyers.

Floyd Bruntzel was the first president of this club and Lynn Nelson, secretary. The group had parachute jumping instruction and Dwight Shank of our community made jumps and also Ronald Bryant of Rozel. This field was abandoned in 1973.

The Elmer Selfridge family west of Burdett are truly a flying family. Mr. and Mrs. Selfridge both have their private licenses and Mrs. Selfridge is the first woman in our community to have a private license. Their son Brad received his private permit on September 8, 1974 the day Evil Knievel did not succeed in jumping the Snake River canyon in his rocket propelled motorcycle. Three other Selfridge sons have not yet been bitten by the flying bug.

Of interest the following item is printed. "First Aviation Meet In Kansas," to be held at Topeka, June 7, 8 and 9. Curtiss Machines to Compete.

June 1910: Arrangements have been made for an aviation meeting which will be held in this city the 7,8, and 9th of June when for the first time heavier-than-air machines will soar over Kansas soil.

Flights will be made each day by J.C. Mars and Charles F. Willard in Curtiss biplanes, the aviators having learned their profession under Glenn H. Curtiss who two years ago first traversed the atmosphere in a heavier-than-air machine.

As befits pupils of the most famous air navigator of the age each of these men has individual records and medals for themselves as daring and skillful operators of Curtiss biplanes. The aircrafts which will be used at Topeka have each won honor time after time for their maker and operators.

The machine in which Charles F. Willard will make his flights the second week in June is the one which he used at the International meeting held in Los Angeles last January. It is a big eight cylinder affair one of the largest and most powerful now successfully operated and capable of plowing through the air at a speed in excess of that of the fastest automobile or express train.

The smaller machine which also competed in the International meet is a four cylinder which is considered the standard size for ordinary purposes but does not lack in speed and is more easily controlled.

The event will not consist of straight-away flying, where in a few seconds the machines are liable to dart out of sight beyond a hill or below the spectators viewpoint.

The planes will maneuver around the course gliding earthward turning skyward just in the nick of time to prevent a collision and then racing madly for a competitive point at a distant end of the course.

The airfield joins North Topeka on the north and it is one of the finest in the country, level as a floor with not a hill nor a clump of trees to mar its perfectness.

Bleachers to accomodate 10,000 will be erected. The event being held during Topeka's "Merchant Week" a gala occasion which last year brought between three to four thousand merchants to the city. It is sponsored by the Kansas Sate Fair Association.





# World War I

War is a catastrophe to any nation but when it comes it must be dealt with. President Woodrow Wilson campaigned for his second term on the slogan that he would keep the United States out of the conflict, but soon after his election we found ourselves embroiled in a European War.

Along with all the many other communities over the United States the people of Burdett sent their sons to war and those left on the home front banded themselves together to support them.

By December 1918 much had been accomplished and we find this report given by Mrs. Mary A. Bindley, chairman of the "Burdett Red Cross Knitting." The ladies had already knitted 382 garments: 98 sweaters, 27 helmets, 220 pairs of socks, 18 pairs wristlets, 2 mufflers, and 17 wash rags.

The "Burdett Red Cross Notes" for February 1918 had this report to give: "No work was done on Friday afternoon because of the stormy weather. In fairness to our chairman and cutter, Mrs. Jim Summers, it was decided to discontinue the Monday afternoon meetings until a more complete working program can be planned. D.A. Delp has donated the use of an oil stove and Mrs. L.H. Allen has given a set of irons to use. Now whenever pressing is necessary we find it very convenient. While Mrs. J.M. McCaffery has not been able to come to the rooms and help with the sewing she has done her bit. She has given the use of her sewing machine and has done much pressing and folding of bandages. An urgent call for helmets came to Mrs. M.A. Bindley, knitting chairman. The Chapter at Larned wants to send out one hundred finished helmets next Saturday—we are planning on sending at least ten.

Mrs. D.P. Wright is knitting for us again. Mrs. Wright at one time lived in Burdett, but now is living in a Santa Fe car up and down the Jetmore branch, so whatever town she happens to be in gets the benefit of her work.

We were unable to get either muslin or grey outing flannel of suitable quality in Burdett, so our supplies for February came from the chapter room in Larned.

Mrs. Summers does all the cutting out of garments for our branch and she spent all of Monday afternoon at this work and cut out twelve complete garments. Our work for this month will be making convalescent robes. The following ladies met Monday afternoon and spent the time sewing and knitting: Mrs. John Notestine, Mrs. Jim Summers, Mrs. M.A. Bindley, Mrs. G.K. Lee, Mrs. J.A. Sealey, Mrs. E.A. Griffith, Mrs. S.E. Notestine, Mrs. Philip Bauer, Mrs. G.W. Bindley, Mrs. Elmer Mather, Mrs. D.P. Wright, and Mrs. G.W. Van Meter."

June 1918: A new set of food rules has been sent out by the Federal Food Administration this week to the county. The rules restrict the amount of sugar and flour that may be purchased and governs the use of meat by eating houses.

Sugar and flour may be bought for threshing crews in quantities sufficient to last fifteen days, where satisfactory representations are made that the food will be used for those purposes. The amount of either must also be determined by the actual needs in each case and with each purchase of wheat flour an equal quantity by weight of flour substitutes must be bought.

Because of the serious situation the following rules are effective immediately: Town and city customers are limited to two pounds of sugar at a time. Customers signing certificates for the purchase of sugar for canning are limited strictly to a twenty-five pound basis. Days on which eating houses may serve beef: Roast beef may be served at one meal on Monday, boiled beef may be served at one meal on Tuesday, and one meal on Thursday. Beef steak may be served at one meal on Saturday. Pork, poultry and other meats may be served on any day. The restriction of beef is necessary so that we may meet the requirements of the armies of the Allies and our own armies overseas. Beef should be served no oftener than four times a week. No householder should buy more than one and one-half pounds of beef including the bone, or more than one and one-quarter pounds of clear beef per person per week.

The following letter to the Red Cross workers of the county was received in June 1918 from Vance M. Rucker and Chelsie T. Turner who enlisted in the Navy and left for service May 21st. Both boys are from Burdett and the kits were from the Burdett Branch.

The Larned Chapter of the Red Cross:

Dear Friends: We want to thank you for the Red Cross Kits which you presented to us upon our departure for the Navy. It is something which is very important to the comfort of every sailor or soldier as the case may be. We expect you would like to know something of our life here at Camp Dewey, 1st. Regiment, Co. C. Great Lakes, Ill. We are in bed at nine and up at five, put in a full day but we like it. We are still in our second camp now, although still in detention; but this is a training station where we still drill about eight hours a day.

They are sure taking a large number of recruits every day. About 23,000 men were taken in during the month and still the call is for more.

We two are still together although we have not seen Calvin Delp since we came in.

Thanking you again for the kits, we remain

Yours for a speedy victory,

Vance M. Rucker and Chelsie A. Turner

January 1919: There are seventy-three new cases of influenza in Pawnee county.

March 1919: "W.E. Robbins Back From France" W.E. Robbins received his discharge from Camp Funston and arrived home Saturday. Mr. Robbins was with the 27th engineers, army corps, enlisting the 16th of April and sailing for France the first of July. He wears an overseas service stripe on one arm and a wound stripe on the

other. He was gassed and received a shell shock in the second battle of the Marne at Chateau Thierry, and has been in a hospital nearly all of the time since the 10th of August.

March 1919: Mr. Hillard Jackson returned home Thursday evening after having seen ten months active service in the U.S.N. having enlisted in May. The eats were surely of the right kind as he has gained forty pounds.

March 1919: "Set Clocks Ahead" Daylight saving time went into effect at two o'clock. That is the time governing the running of trains, schools, government offices and most of the towns. The farmers declare the nature of their business is such that no artificial time schedule is applicable. Larned will adopt the new schedule as it did a year ago.

The farmers oppose the daylight saving plan so far as they are concerned, and many of them did not adopt it last year and very few will be governed by it this year. The rising of the sun and the going down thereof, the falling of the dews of heaven, the going to roost of the fowls of the air, and the coming home of the cows, the ripening of the grain, etc., know nothing of the rulings of the "I.W.W." and care less.

Everything with which the farmer has to deal, except the town man and the railroads is governed by the schedule which nature established at the time the morning stars sang together, and from the petitions sent to their congressmen asking that the new law be repealed, and from the protests from the farm journals and rural press, they have no intention of attempting to make any change in the eternal plans of the universe.

To the town worker and the factory and office worker the daylight-saving schedule proved quite generally satisfactory. Statistics have been compiled showing the great saving that was effected in fuel and artificial light, also the number of accidents was less, because of people working more by daylight. Of course the practical man asks, "Why don't they leave the clock alone and just set the general schedule ahead an hour, instead of changing the clock and "kidding" themselves they are getting up at the old time"?

April 1919: "Time Was Changed" Beginning last Sunday morning at two o'clock, clocks all over the country, including the local clocks were set ahead an hour in accordance with the daylight saving program of the government.

The children at the grade school also helped in the war effort in a unique way. All of the outing scraps from the Red Cross sewing room were gathered together and brought to the school where the children spent long hours snipping them into tiny fragments to be used for making pillows.

World War I came to an end with the signing of the Armistice November 11, 1918. The word was brought immediately to the schools which were dismissed at once. It was a day of great rejoicing in Burdett.

In January 1919 the order went out that no more yarn for knitting would be given out by the Red Cross, and any yarn out should be knitted into garments and turned in as soon as possible.

Following is the roll of Veterans who lie at rest in Brown's Grove Cemetery at Burdett, Kansas.

### SPANISH AMERICAN WAR 1898

Henry Webster

### CIVIL WAR 1861

Lucius Barker  
Henry Bartlett  
Dr. T.C. Bowie  
Dexter Camp  
Dr. A.J. Cole  
Frederick Ditus  
W.H. Foreman  
Freeborn Garrison  
Absalom Hickerson  
J.W. Griffith  
George W. Ludingston  
John Maur  
Clemen Magee  
Richard Rucker  
J.W. Robinson  
Amos Sleath  
Ludwig Selig  
Albert Phillips  
John Temple  
Ovid Webster  
Adam Williams

### KOREAN WAR

John M. Chaffee  
Roland A. Danford

### WORLD WAR II 1941

Frederick A. Browne  
Glenn Bowie  
Elmer Horyna  
George VanMeter  
Wilbur Rodebaugh  
Delmar Steffen  
Virgil S. Olsen  
James C. Latas  
Floyd Klein  
Paul Cure

### WORLD WAR I 1918

Silas Daughenbaugh  
John Ehret  
William Engleskircher  
Clyde Notestine  
Vance Rucker  
Roy Friend  
Oliver W. Lynam  
Ralph Schraeder  
Louis Horchner  
Dudley Matteson  
James V. Marlett  
Dr. W.E. Hasting  
Frank A. Thompson  
Robert Crockett  
Claude Notestine  
Calvin E. Delp  
William Nuckolls

April 1940: Mrs. Fred Hubbell, eighteen miles west of Burdett donated a quilt to the Red Cross drive and it was sold six times. This sale was held at the sales pavilion and Ed Lippoldt paid \$60.00 for the quilt. Mrs. S.E. Notestine is the Red Cross chairman.

September 1943: A bond rally was held Saturday evening the eighteenth. Five jeeps came from Kinsley and a ride in a jeep was given to every bond purchaser. The Norris State Bank remained open that evening. A program was given at 8 o'clock on the city streets. The three townships participated and a speaker was present from the Great Bend Air Base. Twenty-seven men pledged to buy bonds amounting to \$6600.00. A squadron of planes from Garden City flew over town and dipped their wings.