

#### AARON DUTCHER

was born in South Amenia, New York on July 7, 1845. He enlisted in Company A, One Hundred-fiftyth, New York Volunteers, at the age of seventeen, and was to serve with that unit for three years. He marched with General Sherman's March to the Sea. He was in the Grand Review in Washington, and was discharged on June 8, 1863. He first married, Julia Horkey, and they were early pioneers in Red Willow County in 1879. He suffered a stroke on Monday, February 28, 1916 and passed away on Saturday, March 4, 1916. He was buried in the Cedar Grove Cemetery, Indianola, Nebraska.

#### Wife of AARON DUTCHER JULIA HORKEY

was born in Czechoslovakia on February 14, 1854. She was married to Aaron Dutcher, a G.A.R. veteran. They were pioneers of Red Willow County in 1879. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Agnes Case James, at Geneva, Nebraska on October 12, 1934. Her body was brought to Indianola and interment was made on Monday, October 15, 1934.

#### CHARLES K. DUTCHER

was born May 21, 1870 at Charles City, Iowa. He came with his parents to Red Willow County, settling on a homestead near Indianola in 1882. He was married to Lille M. Miller on May 29, 1898 in Red Willow County. To this union two daughters were born: Ruth and Mable. He was interested in politics and was elected to the position of County Clerk in 1911, and was re-elected in 1914, serving five years. In 1922 he was elected to the State Legislature and re-elected in 1924. He was a member of the Odd Fellow Lodge. In 1931, he and his wife went on a trip to visit Oklahoma and other states. He had gone to Oklahoma during the land rush for the Cherokee strip in 1893 and wanted to see some of the history forming places. He hadn't filed on any of the land during the rush but had returned to Nebraska shortly after this event. On Saturday, May 18, 1934, while plowing a field, he was stricken with a stroke. He was taken to his home, but nothing could be done to prolong his life. He died at his home, and was buried on Monday, May 21, 1934 in the Cedar Grove Cemetery, Indianola.

#### WILLARD G. DUTTON Jr.

was born October 1, 1903 on a farm southwest of McCook to Willard G. and Kate J. Dutton. He attended

the school in that district, and later graduated from the McCook High School in 1921. After graduating from high school, he went to the University of Nebraska and graduated from the College of Pharmacy in June 1925. He worked as a pharmacist in a drug store at Gordon, Nebraska for two years. He then went to California, spending almost two years behind prescription counters in the Los Angeles area. While there he was married to Mayne Suich on February 7, 1928 in Los Angeles, California. Then in November 1928, he and his wife returned to McCook and opened the "Dutton Pharmacy." By his energetic and aggressive business management, his business was very successful. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Chamber of Commerce, and during his university career he became a member of Delta Sigma Phi and Phi Delta Chi. He also was a Vice-President of the Nebraska Pharmacy Association. He took up aviation and after less than three hours of instruction, he was able to take a solo flight. On Tuesday April 11, 1933, he and Glenn Hughes went for a flight to gain the necessary hours for a private license. A wing was torn from their ship and it fell from an altitude of three thousand feet and both men were killed. Business houses of the city of McCook were closed on the day of the funeral on April 18, 1933. He was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

#### E

#### ELMER RALPH EARLE

was born in Charleston, South Carolina on February 5, 1848. He was first married in Syracuse, New York. His wife dying in Omaha, he came to McCook from Sidney in 1902. He was the rector for the Episcopal Church and missionary in charge in southwestern Nebraska. He was married to Ella M. Davis at Arapahoe on October 18, 1905. At an early age he served in the Civil War near the close in the volunteer as a Drummer Boy. Afterwards he served in the regular army, part of the time under General George A. Custer. Rev. Earle was an earnest, untiring worker, wholly imbued with his chosen calling, and was respected for his consistent life by all who knew him. He performed his duty as he saw it, and has passed to his reward, leaving his family and friends the rich legacy of a life devoted to his Master's work. He complained about feeling ill the night of June 14, 1910, and was found dead on his bed the next day. His burial on June 17, 1910 from the Episcopal Chap-

el, was attended by many of his friends. The business houses of the city were closed during the services and so many citizens attended that it was impossible for all to get inside the Chapel. The G.A. R. attended in a body and the body of Elmer R. Earle was interred in the Longview Cemetery at McCook.

Wife of HORACE HUSTON EASTERDAY  
EMMA MENHARDT

was born February 16, 1862 in the southeastern part of Nebraska. She moved to Chicago, where she studied and obtained a Doctorate from the Hannenann School of Medicine. She was married to Horace Huston Easterday, while residing in Chicago. She came to McCook with her husband who was an original homesteader. She practiced medicine here in McCook, being one of the first lady doctors, until April 1937, when illness forced her to quit. Her husband died in 1900 and she retained his interests in the firm of Real and Easterday. After an illness lasting for several months, she passed away at her home in McCook on Monday, August 9, 1937. She was buried on Wednesday, August 11, 1937 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

ALBERT EBERT

was born July 12, 1859 in the province of Pommern at Brink Hoff's, Germany, and came to America in 1880. He was married to Amelia Zabel in 1888 at Holdrege, Nebraska. At that time he was employed by the Burlington Railroad. To this union twelve children were born: Louisea, Pearle, Anna, Lucy, Bessie, Mertie, Esther, Ruth, Emil, Walter, Otto and Carl. The family came to Red Willow County, settling on a homestead eight miles south of McCook. In 1895, he joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church and was an active worker in the church until his health failed him. Mr. Ebert was a carpenter and cabinet maker. During the time he was farming and rearing his family, he experienced many drouths and crop failures so he moved with his family into McCook and took up his profession as a carpenter and interior finisher. He helped to build many of McCook's beautiful homes. In 1915, he took up railroading again for four years. He worked with his son, Emil, who was a contractor, for five years, but because of sickness was forced to quit. He passed away in McCook on April 22, 1933 and was buried in the Riverview Cemetery on April 24, 1933.

CHARLES E. ELDRED

was born June 30, 1870 at Argyle, Wisconsin. He lived there until he was eighteen, obtaining his preparatory education, and then he decided to leave the Badger state and seek success elsewhere. Like most young men of those days, he decided that the west was the place to go. Settling in Phillipsburg, Kansas, he took a position in a law office. Besides carrying out his regular assignments, the young man indulged his yearning for knowledge of law by poring long hours over the thick and musty volumes available to him. Application to study brought its reward, when in 1890 the young man from Wisconsin was admitted to the Kansas Bar. After working a short time as assistant postmaster he moved to Orleans, Nebraska. His short residence there was terminated when he moved to McCook. Following several years in the law office of W. S. Morlan, he tacked up his own shingle. In 1901 his fellow citizens accorded him recognition by electing him Mayor. He was re-elected twice for Mayor in 1902 and 1903. Appointed to serve as County Judge to replace Judge Bishop in 1901 and 1902 the Judge became a candidate for County Attorney and filled that post for two successive terms. From 1904 to 1910 he was associated in the practice of law with C. H. Boyle and later he became a member of the firm of Eldred, Cordeal and McCarl. In December 1919 he was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of Judge E. P. Perry when that jurist resigned to return to practice. He assumed the District bench in January 1920 and was re-elected for that position many times. His position as Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District embraces the nine counties in southwestern Nebraska. He handled approximately seven hundred cases a year. He died when the car in which he was riding overturned on a slippery, snow covered road south of Arapahoe. He was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of the Masonic Lodge on December 19, 1945. He was survived by his wife, Jessie Ann Pratt, whom he married at Phillipsburg, Kansas in 1892, and three sons: William C., Charles P., and John E.

MARTIN ADOLPH ELLINGSON

was born April 11, 1873 at Willmar, Minnesota. He attended college at Minneapolis and when he was fourteen years old, was lured by wild west stories and headed west. He had heard that Senator Clark was paying five dollars per day to workers in Great Falls and he hired himself to Montana. The "golden bubble" burst, they were only paying a dollar a day. In

disgust, he obtained a hunting knife and gun and headed for the mountains to pursue game. This he continued for three years before returning home. He stated that there were five blocks of roulette and faro banks in Great Falls. There was at least one killing a night and they were usually found justifiable. One time a man stole three geese and they hung him for the crime. It was hard for a tenderfoot to figure out such ethics of human behavior. Of all the sights and thrills in Montana, the greatest was the night a great faro dealer was "busted". He watched the drama played out to the final wager and could still picture in his memory, the grim set faces of the spectators and the gamblers as the battle for gaming supremacy was being fought out to a conclusion. He later moved to Denver, Colorado where he teamed with his two brothers who were in the studio business and turned out copies and enlargements for the entire Rocky Mountain region. In 1894, he moved to Nebraska after the stock crash. He had managed to salvage a horse and delivery wagon. He had hired a photographer to teach him that side of the business and, undaunted when this turned out to be a "dud", kept on his wandering. Picturing, as he travelled, he one day drove his horse and buggy into Cambridge. Florence Harrington, a Denver girl, was visiting there. He met her, courted her and romance progressed to marriage. Folks went to the Ellingson studio at Cambridge for wedding and graduation pictures and just to be captured on pasteboard and the business prospered. He enlarged his business until it grew to include nine studios in towns of this region. The string of businesses extended into McCook, where he had purchased the Hill and Knipel Studio, which stood in back of the old Franklin Hotel. In 1925, after building a fine new building to house his home studio, he closed out the galleries in surrounding towns and concentrated his attention here. The picture of which he was proudest was "The Wedding in Dog Town". It was taken of the pups who are lined up for all the world like an altar party, in the old smokehouse.

#### SAMUEL ELLIS

was born November 23, 1843 in York County, Pennsylvania. His parents were born in the old country, his father in England and mother in Scotland. He spent his youth in that vicinity and learned the cooper's and leather trade. On August 15, 1861 he enlisted in Company B, Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, 2nd. Division, commanded by General Jordon. His company took part in forty-three engagements in the Civil

War and in some of them, he with a handful of comrades would be the only survivors of his company that went into battle. After the Battle of the Wilderness, he was among the troops who were loaded aboard transports and sent down the coast to make a union with Sherman's March to the Sea. He was honorably discharged in August, 1865. On June 27, 1867 in Decatur, Illinois he was married to Mary Ellen March. In 1874, they moved to Adams County, Nebraska, where they lived on a homestead twelve miles south of Hastings, on the Blue River. He erected a soddy, planted wheat, corn, and vegetables. The grasshoppers came and stripped their fields of every growing thing. Their discouraged neighbors "pulled up stakes" and went home. The Ellis's remained through a bitter winter with little in their larder and no kerosene to burn. They remained because Mary Ellen had said, "Sam, if you stay I'll stay." Crops came in the following years and with them modest prosperity. In 1884 a man wanted to buy the place. They moved to Red Willow County, settling on a tree claim south of McCook and he lived on it many years, prospering in land and cattle. When they retired from the farm they moved into McCook. He passed away on Sunday, at his home in McCook on January 6, 1935. He was buried in the Pleasant Prairie Cemetery on January 8-1935. On his passing there remained only a memory of McCook's one time strong G.A.R. Organization, The J. K. Barnes Post. It was organized in McCook's early days with Justin A. Wilcox as first Commander.

#### WILLIAM PERRY ELMER

was born November 3, 1846 at Spring Prairie, Walworth County, Wisconsin. On February 26, 1864, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Infantry. He received his honorable discharge on July 12, 1865. On January 13, 1875, at Lyndon, Wisconsin, he was married to Luella H. Bond, who passed away October 5, 1893. To this union four children were born: Natalie, Lewis, Nellie and Harold who died in infancy. Later in life he was married to Mrs. Harriet Howard, who passed away in November 1919. Mr. Elmer came to Red Willow County in October 1884, locating on a homestead southwest of Indianola. In 1893 he moved into Indianola. He was an outstanding figure for many years in community affairs, both civic and fraternal. He was a member of the Old Soldiers' Relief Committee of Red Willow County for several years. He died at his home in Indianola on Monday, December 12, 1932, and was buried in the Indianola Cemetery.

Wife of SAMUEL ELLIS  
MARY ELLEN MARCH

was born in Sullivan County, Indiana on December 10, 1848. At the age of two years she moved with her parents to Decatur, Illinois. While living there, she attended the Christian Church and answered the still voice of Jesus. She showed by her home life, her truth and faithfulness to her companion, her great love for the flowers, the handiwork of God, that she was living close to the Saviour. On June 27, 1867, in Decatur County, Illinois she became the bride of Samuel Ellis, a G.A.R. veteran. To this union three boys and three girls were born. In the year of 1874, they moved to Adams County, Nebraska and lived there until April 26, 1884 when they moved to McCook and their neat little home which was surrounded by beautiful flowers. Their happy welcome to their many friends and neighbors have made them long to be remembered. She died in McCook in March 1923 and was buried in the Pleasant Prairie Cemetery.

WILLIAM PERRY ELMER

was born November 23, 1845 at Spring Prairie, Walworth County, Wisconsin. His father died when he was a small boy leaving his mother a widow with five little children. He was apprenticed to a Methodist minister to help with farm chores. One evening, he struck an unruly cow that had been continually kicking him and spilling the milk. For this he received a severe whipping, and that same night, he ran away. He was only 13 years old, but from that time on, he made his own way in the world.

These were the years just prior to the Civil War, when everyone was caught up in the turmoil and tension of the times, and Will was no exception. Feeling that the Union should be preserved at any cost, he tried several times to enlist in the army, but was always rejected because of his age. He was still only 15 years of age when a recruiting officer finally accepted him because he was able to reach the required mark for height and standing on tiptoe. On February 26, 1864 he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Infantry with a group of volunteers. He said later that he celebrated his 18th birthday three years in a row to make up for the age discrepancy. He traveled on a troop train to New York City and then sailed down the coast to Virginia. The only training he received was in actual battle. He fought in the battles of Shiloh and Vicksburg. His whole company was ordered to occupy a certain hill, but Jonny Reb was already there, and only three an-

swered roll call the next morning. He received his honorable discharge on July 12, 1865.

On returning home he learned the stone cutter's trade, and worked as foreman for a contractor building railroad bridges. This was before the days of Portland Cement, and stones had to be cut to form the arches, etc. He was in charge of building the bridges for the Great Northern Railroad through North Dakota and Montana. Later he did similar work in Missouri and when returning home to his family in Burlington, Iowa, the train was held up and robbed by the James boys. They were shooting through the cars to get the passengers down on the floor, when a Mr. Wadsworth was killed and fell from the platform car at the back of the train. Will hired a hand pump car at the next stop, went back after the body, and returned it home for burial. For many years he received Christmas presents from the widow whom his children called Aunt Hattie Wadsworth.

While Will was living in Burlington, he was able to fulfil a desire which had grown on him in the service. He joined the Masonic Lodge, and masonry was an inspiration and joy to him for the rest of his life. At this time, too, he realized that he must settle down in one place long enough to properly educate the children. He had married Luella H. Bond, born on January 13, 1875 at Lyndon, Wisconsin, the daughter of Robert Bond for whom Bondville Precinct in Red Willow County was named, so he chose Red Willow County and took a homestead southwest of Indianola in 1884. Later he moved to town where his three children, Natalie, Nellie and Lewis Bond attended school. Both of his daughters became school teachers and married Longnecker brothers, Jake and Louis.

The following years might have seemed uneventful but not to Will Elmer, for he was always following his first love--building and trying new ideas. He owned the first cement mixer in the area and built the first sidewalks of Portland Cement. He also manufactured cement blocks and bricks and helped to build many of the buildings in Indianola, including the Masonic Temple. He built and promoted the first swimming pool and the first ice business. He and Fred Mann were loading his ice wagon for delivery when the terrible train wreck of 1912 occurred a short distance from his ice pond. They were the first two on the scene to aid the injured passengers. Even though Will owned a coal business, he spent many winter days chopping wood.

He always had time for his grandchildren and was constantly challenging them such as having a contest

to see who would finish some Bible readings first, or for fun, who could take the biggest bite of pie. Four grandchildren still reside in the area: Mitchell Longnecker, Greta Page and Willard Elmer of Indianola, and Luella Sargent of Bertrand. Two great-grandchildren, Owen Elmer and Mrs. Robert (Mary Jo) Emrich, still reside in Indianola.

Will Elmer was a charter member and instrumental in the organization of Endeavor Lodge No. 262 and held the Jordan Medal. He helped organize and was a charter member of Roberta Chapter No. 302, Order of Eastern Star and served several times as Worthy Patron. He must have sowed his seed well because his children and now his grandchildren and great-grandchildren are carrying on the work of these organizations. He helped many young men from the surrounding area to learn Masonic work up until the time of his death on December 12, 1932, at the age of 86, at his home in Indianola. He was buried in the Indianola Cemetery. He was preceded in death by one son, Harold. He was the soul and spirit of the G.A.R. Post and kept it alive for years by paying the dues of many elderly members out of his own pocket in order to retain their charter. On Memorial Day he placed flags on the graves of all the old soldiers and for many years he rode his white horse "Old Silver" in the Memorial Day parade and carried the flag.

#### CHARLES E. EMERSON

was born December 6, 1860 at St. Louis, Missouri. At sixteen, he quit school to help his mother and seven younger brothers and sisters. Search of a job took him to Lincoln in the fall of 1888, and the company took him on in the car department. On June 11, 1889, he came to McCook to work on the Burlington as wrecking master. It was his boast that not a man working under him was ever injured. He fell from a boarding car at Republican City, and fell 26 feet below a bridge and received injuries which hastened his retirement in 1932. As a member of the McCook City Council, he served his town with pride. He was survived by his wife, Madge, and one son, Ralph, who was a Corporal in the army. On his death, January 25, 1943, he was buried in the Riverview Cemetery at McCook, Nebraska.

#### ELMER E. ERVIN

was born in a sod house in Missouri Ridge Precinct, Red Willow County, Nebraska, on November 13, 1880 to

John and Elizabeth Ervin, and grew to manhood in this county. His parents were pioneers in the Danbury area. He was the oldest of eight children. For many years he was a dryland farmer raising corn, wheat, barley and livestock. He farmed in Buffalo County, Nebraska, where he met and married Clara Chingren on June 5, 1907 at Pleasanton, Nebraska. To this union were born two daughters: Verda and Lois, and four sons: Ernest, Willis, Lloyd and Carl. Shortly after marriage they moved to Red Willow County. In 1918 the family moved to the Spring Creek area in Frontier County. In 1948 he and his wife moved to a small farm west of McCook, where he farmed until the death of his wife on November 29, 1958. He moved to California to live with his daughters. He died July 19, 1980 at the Sutter Memorial Hospital, Sacramento, California and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook on July 23, 1980.

#### Wife of C. F. EVANS

#### CORA FRANCH

was married to C. F. Evans. In early August, 1898, C. I. Hall opened the McCook Telephone Exchange, as manager, and Cora became the first telephone operator. At first there were only about sixty telephones on exchange. At first she worked a twenty-four hour shift. She had a cot near the switchboard, since she was required to handle emergency calls at all hours of the night. This kept her from getting much sleep. The exchange grew rapidly, and soon she was required to handle 360 subscribers, nine and one-half hours a day. If a day was ever missed she would have to work nights to catch up. During the four years she spent on the switchboard, she never had a vacation. A night operator was hired a few months after she started, and finally the exchange grew to the point where more than one operator had to be employed during the day. During this period, operators worked nine and a half hours a day, six days a week, and worked alternate Sundays for the princely sum of three dollars a week. For a while Sunday shifts were without extra pay, but then, when the ladies objected to this, fifty cents was paid extra to them who worked on Sunday. Mrs. Evans was the first person in McCook to learn of the assassination of President McKinley. In many cases, Mrs. Evans not only was required to do day and night work, but acted as her own "Trouble Shooter" as well, and in the absence of "Old Bill Brown", the first lineman, she would even make her own repairs. But line troubles were only a

small portion of the real troubles of being a telephone operator. The cranks who made mean remarks over the phone, remarks they would never think of making in person, were the bane of life. What with the terrible grind of sitting hour after hour, day after day, without proper rest, wore her down until Mrs. Cora Evans was glad to leave the post. One of the operators that Mrs. Evans helped train was Miss Naomi Wootton, who later became treasurer of Red Willow County.

#### WILLIAM JOSEPH EVANS

was born March 15, 1839 in Adams County, Illinois to Jesse Evans and his wife. He was the second son of a family of thirteen children. His parents were both born in Kentucky. During the 1850's he went west with a party of gold seekers, staking a claim near the present site of Denver, Colorado. He relinquished his claim and returned to his old home. When the Civil War started, he enlisted on July 1861 in the 50th Illinois Volunteers. He distinguished himself at the Battle of Shiloh and was promoted to Sergeant. On November 7, 1862 he was commissioned as a Captain in this regiment. On April 11, 1865 he was commissioned Major of the 118th Illinois Volunteers by Governor Oglesby. He resigned from the service on October 1, 1865, returning to Adams County, Illinois. On March 8, 1866 at Kingston, Adams County, Illinois he was united in marriage to Melessa MacLaskey. They resided in that county until 1867, when they moved to Macon County and lived there until 1885. In August 1885 they moved to Red Willow County, Nebraska, settling on the Hatfield ranch, southeast of McCook. They moved to McCook in December 1897 and resided there but three months. In the spring of 1898 they moved to a farm south of McCook. They made their home there until 1905 when they moved back to McCook. The Evans had eleven children: George Abraham (who died in infancy), Ira M. (who died June 13, 1919), R. B., J. Emmett, Claude A., Inna M., Mrs. W. E., Maude, Sarah B., Charles F., and William W.

William Joseph Evans died January 20, 1921 at McCook, Nebraska and was buried at the Longview Cemetery at McCook on January 24, 1921.

#### Wife of WILLIAM JOSEPH EVANS MELISSA MacLASKEY

was born February 15, 1844 in Pike County, Illinois to the George MacLaskey's. She was the third of 8 children. Both her parents were born in New York state. In 1856 the family moved to Adams County,

Illinois, where she grew to womanhood. She was united in marriage to William Joseph Evans on the 8th of March 1866 at Kingston, Adams County, Illinois. They moved to Nebraska in 1885 and lived in McCook after 1905. She died at her home in McCook on March 28, 1915 and was buried February 3, 1915 at the Longview Cemetery in Mc Cook. Her brother, James MacLaskey from Gridley, Kansas was present at the funeral.

#### F

#### JOHANNAS AND BARBARA (FRITZ) FIECHTNER

The fiechtner family arrived in America in the spring of 1893, settling first in the Bartley area. A year or so later they moved to southeast of McCook in the Ash Creek community. At the time of arrival, the family consisted of John and his wife, Barbara, a baby daughter Caroline, and Barbara's two children from a former marriage, Katherine (8) and Jacob (7) Degele.

The family began their journey from Hoffnungstal, Odessa, South Russia, by going down to the Black Sea. Here they took a boat to the seaport of Constantinople (now Istanbul) but were refused permission by the Turkish government to go through the canal. Disappointed they returned to Hoffnungstal, raised some more passage money and this time they went up to a port on the Baltic Sea, possibly Hamburg and on down through the North Sea to the English Channel. Here they were stopped by the English who in going through their personal things, kept what they wanted and destroyed others, leaving them very little to take on to America. Everyone suffered untold hardships on this ocean voyage. There were many burials at sea, especially children. It took them ten weeks or 2½ months to reach New York Harbor. As baby Caroline had the measles, they were quarantined for a time on Ellis Island.

In due time they began their journey by train to Indianola, Nebraska, arriving in the month of May 1893. After the liveryman had been paid to take them to the Leonard Harsch home, Johannas had exactly 50¢ left in his pocket. Relatives had long been waiting for their arrival, had a home ready for them, a garden planted etc. Mrs. Harsch was a sister to Barbara Fiechtner. Barbara also had brothers, Adam and Fred Fritz, living in the area. These families had left Russia in 1884 to establish homes in the United States.

On November 13, 1905 John Fiechtner became a citizen of the United States. Four more daughters,