

## RALPH A. HAGBERG

was born August 1, 1867 at DeKalb, Sweden. He came to this country with his parents from Gotherborg, Sweden while still in infancy. He lived in Illinois for several years, and then with his parents, moved to Arapahoe. He received his education and started to work for the Burlington railroad, first working as a station helper. Later that same year he became a section hand. In 1887, he became foreman, and was promoted to extra gang foreman in 1891. In 1895, he became roadmaster and held this position until his retirement in May 1930 which resulted from an injury he received in an automobile accident at Benkelman, Nebraska. He passed away in McCook, June 22, 1940, and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery, June 25, 1940. He was survived by his wife Alma Rosander.

## WILLIAM A. HALSEY

was born September 23, 1852 in Meigs County, Ohio. He moved with his family to Pomroy, Ohio, and from there he came to Red Willow County in 1873. He homesteaded near Lebanon. He was united in marriage to Alice Springer on March 27, 1880 at Lebanon, Nebraska. They were the parents of eleven children: Etta, Myrtle, Martha, Edna, Jennie, Addie, Nellie, Lizzie, John, Edgar, and Charles. He passed away on the site of his original homestead on Wednesday, October 13, 1937. His burial was held Sunday, October 17, 1937, at the Lebanon Cemetery.

## Wife of TIMOTHY HANNAN

## Mrs. ELSIE HANNAN

was born December 26, 1859 and was married to Timothy Mannan in Princeton, Illinois. They were the parents of four children. The family moved to Red Willow County in 1886, and to McCook in 1890. Her husband died in 1911. She passed away at her home Friday, April 23, 1926, and was buried on Saturday, April 24, 1926, in the Calvary Cemetery, at McCook.

## A. C. HARLAN

was born June 2, 1843 in Darke County, Ohio. He was the son of Valentine and Elizabeth Harlan, who were pioneers of Ohio. At his father's death in 1851, his mother moved to Iowa, bringing up a large family in a new and undeveloped country. He served in the Civil War until he was disabled. He studied medicine, and graduated from Keokuk Medical College. He was married to Carrie Rice of Michigan in 1873, and they

were the parents of one daughter, Ada. He settled in Frontier County and practiced his profession there until 1898. He moved to McCook and practiced for several more years. He died on October 23, 1910 at the residence of his niece, Mrs. Dora Huddleson, in Lee County, Iowa. His remains were returned to McCook and he was buried by the side of his wife and daughter in the Riverview Cemetery on October 25, 1910.

## WILLIAM H. HARMON

was born April 4, 1855 in Salem, Indiana, and was married there, April 23, 1874, to Polly A. Brown, and they were the parents of eight children: Andrew, Henry, Eva, James, William C., Gerney L., John M., and Eli M. In August 1878, the family moved to Nebraska, and located at Lincoln. Then on August 20, 1884 they moved to Red Willow County and homesteaded seven miles south of McCook and proved up on it. They then bought a small tract of land, part of which later became the Pastime Park south of town, where he was engaged in the ice business for a few years. Selling that, they moved into town where he ran a second-hand store and conducted one of the first moving picture shows, "The Pastime", in this city for several years. His wife died in May 1921, and in 1924 he married Mrs. Bengston. He passed away in McCook on Friday, August 24, 1928, and was buried in the Riverview Cemetery on Sunday, August 26, 1928.

## JOSEPH H. HARR

was born in Meringo, Iowa, May 19, 1861 and was an early pioneer to southern Nebraska. After working in ashelter in Leadville, Colorado for over a year, he came to Nebraska as a young man and homesteaded about twenty miles northwest of McCook. There he met and married Mary Schlick, whose father homesteaded next door. To this union six children were born, the first three in a two-room sod house and the others in the new rock house.

More often than not, he would take one of the children with him when he traveled by horse and buggy to McCook to deliver grain or hogs. Beginning at 5:00 in the morning, it would take four and a half or five hours to reach McCook. After delivering the produce, they would go to the livery stable to feed and rest the team of horses. Then followed the shopping for whatever was needed at home - coal, implements, repair parts for farm machinery, etc. They would return to the farm the same day arriving home about 10 at night. He always took the entire family by buggy to McCook whenever there was a carnival or circus.

Although his formal education ended with the sixth grade, Joseph was an avid reader. He subscribed to an Omaha daily (Democratic) and often engaged in give-and-take, political discussions with our neighbors, the Zimmers, who subscribed to a Republican newspaper.

For entertainment, there were barn dances. He was a pretty good violinist and often played for the dances.

The roads in the county were graded at no expense to government. By participating in the work, the farmer avoided paying poll tax.

Life was rugged for the early pioneers. To overcome frequent crop losses due to windstorm, hail, drought conditions, etc., most farmers supplemented their incomes by raising beef cattle on their pasture land. Eventually Joseph acquired adjoining lands as they became available, increasing his land holdings to 1120 acres.

In December 1882, to supplement his farm income, he became a part time agent for the then World Insurance Company, writing principally fire, lightning and hail insurance. He covered an area of approximately 20 miles.

In 1910, he purchased a home in McCook and became a full time agent, writing and adjusting insurance claims until his death in 1914. The agency he began still exists today. Upon the death of Joseph Harr, it was passed on to his son Ray W. Harr and upon Ray's death in 1946, to his sons Jim and Don.

His friends were legion over much of the territory he serviced extending over much of southwest Nebraska. This is attested to by the host of friends who came for many miles by horse and buggy to pay their last respects at his funeral.

#### REASON HOMER HARRISON

his wife, Martha Jane, and small daughter, Florida, left Effingham County, Illinois in 1884 at settle in Red Willow County, Nebraska. Their possessions, which included personal things, household goods, livestock, etc. came by immigrant car. The expense of \$100 for use of the railroad car was shared equally by Reason Harrison and his niece Priscilla and husband, George Younger, who also made the journey with their family.

Both families homesteaded in Box Elder Precinct, northwest of Indianola, Nebraska. At this time the railroad extended only as far as Indianola.

The Harrison's first home was a dug-out. Later

they built a two room sod house about a mile north of the dug-out. Their children John and Carrie were born here. About the time Carrie was old enough to start to school (ca. 1900) a frame home was built. During some of the early lean years of settlement, to help with the expenses, Reason worked in the mines near Denver, Colorado, and also helped build the Burlington Railroad on west from Indianola.

Reason Homer Harrison was born August 15, 1853 at Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio, and died April 10, 1928 at McCook, Nebraska. He was the son of George W. and Haldah (Scamp) Harrison and the grandson of Peter and Sarah (Bunting) Harrison, who had come from Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania about 1810 to settle in Ohio.

Martha Jane was born January 27, 1856 at Moccasin Effingham County, Illinois and died November 14, 1916 at McCook, Nebraska. She was the daughter of Ashby and Sarah Jane (Powell) Tipword. Her great-grandfather Griffin Soward Tipword was the first white man to come into that part of Illinois, settling among the Kickapoo Indians.

Both Martha and Reason were buried in the Box Elder Cemetery, northeast of McCook, as well as their daughter, Florida, who was born in 1877 and died in 1891 at the age of 14.

Their son, John Henry, was born September 6, 1888 and died September 29, 1922. He was married on December 14, 1914 to Frances Alice Nelson, daughter of Peter and Emaline (Reeves) Nelson. Frances Alice was born January 31, 1888, at Creston Union County, Iowa and died October 28, 1857. Both are buried at Memorial Park Cemetery, McCook, Nebraska. Two children were born to this union, Stephen Jacob and Thelma Eileen.

Their daughter Carrie May was born December 16, 1894, at Box Elder, and died September 12, 1979 at Otis, Colorado. She married on July 1, 1933 at Trenton, Nebraska, to Martin John Jones, who was born on December 7, 1879 at Morrison, Whiteside County, Illinois and died August 30, 1963 at Otis, Colorado. He was the son of William and Mary Jones. Both are buried at Otis, Colorado. They had no children.

#### MRS. KATHERINE HARSCH

was born February 13, 1862 at Odessa, Russia. She came to America in 1885, moving to her home south of Bartley, where she lived until her death. Her husband died in 1930. She passed away in her home, 8 miles south of Bartley on March 26, 1936. She was

buried in the Bartley Cemetery on Saturday, March 28, 1936. She was survived by five daughters and six sons.

Wife of STERLING PERRY HART  
ROSA V. CUNNINGHAM

was born 1849 in Virginia. She was the daughter of a Virginia doctor and the granddaughter of a Virginia planter and slave owner. She was married to Sterling Perry Hart in Monmouth, Illinois in 1869. They came to Red Willow County in 1884. Mr. Hart, who passed away in 1922, was a successful dry land farmer, introducing what was known as the "Campbell System" of farming to this locality. He started a successful dry land orchard on acreage east of the city which produced fruit in a plentiful quantity for many years. He also was receiver for the federal land office here for many years. Rosa suffered a stroke in California in January of 1932 and had been in delicate health since. She passed away in McCook on Monday, February 6, 1933, and was buried February 9, 1933 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

Dr. J. E. HATHORN

was born in Maine in 1845 and entered the Union forces under the Maine Artillery on July 2, 1863. He was mustered out on September 11, 1865.

No other records show what he did between that date and we must presume he studied medicine and came to Bartley. We do know that he had an ad in the Bartley Inter-ocean in 1888 stating his office hours and location. A similar ad in 1895 announces that he would be in Indianola from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each Thursday.

He must have had a good practice for he built one of the nicest houses in Bartley. This house had a bathtub made out of sheet metal. Today this house is still in use, but the owners have removed the top floor and made a smaller house out of it.

Dr. J. E. Hathorn must have been a respected citizen. 1894 was a terrible drouth year and many people just did not have money. People back east sent out used clothing and some drug companies like Davis of Detroit and Phumer of Chicago gave five hundred dollars of drugs to help out. The doctor was very careful to inventory everything and keep a record of who received these things as relief. He listed 11 barrels of clothes, numerous boxes of things and a record of where each went.

The older citizens of present day Bartley recall

that the doctor delivered many of the babies and that usually he charged one dollar for an office call. He often kept a high school boy to do the wood chopping, care for the horse and other chores. One of these boys eventually went on to become a doctor too. After automobiles started to come in, the doctor purchased a new Reo. He would go to the school and give the boys and girls a short ride so that they could say they had a ride in an auto.

It is ironic that this man who had one of the first autos and who served on the school board for many years should be killed by an auto while walking to a school board meeting, but that is what happened on Mary 13, 1920.

During the years of 1899 through 1901, Dr. Hathorn served in the Nebraska legislature. He was also president of the Bartley State Bank starting in 1899. However, his major interest seemed to be education. He served on the school board for many years.

Upon his death, it was learned that his will provided that a sum of money he left was to be put out at interest and when it reached \$50,000 a new school was to be built. A new building was finished in 1923 and a plaque still is on the front entrance expressing the public's appreciation of this gift.

This is a modern school building in excellent condition today. It did have one fault, the gymnasium was too small and the seating inadequate. In 1952 a new gym was built on the east side and the old gym made into classrooms. The doctor had left a house and some insurance stock and some money was left over so his bequest made back in 1920 still helped pay for nearly half of the new gymnasium 32 years later.

TIMOTHY C. HEGEMAN

was born in Brooklyn, New York on August 6, 1844. He lived in Brooklyn until he was eight and then moved to a farm near Brooklyn. When he was eighteen he enlisted as a Private with Company A of the Fortieth New York Volunteer Infantry in 1862. He entered the Civil War as a mechanic and served three years, being discharged as a sergeant. After leaving the service, he went to Illinois and settled at Ocone, Illinois. He was married to Hattie Kirkbride on April 22, 1866 at Ocone. They were the parents of two daughters and three sons, Mrs. Lulu Kellogg, Mrs. James Woolard, Stacey R. Charles H. and F. M. In April 1886 the family moved westward and settled on a farm at Stratton, Nebraska. In 1906 they moved to McCook. He and his wife lived with their daughter,

Mrs. Lulu Kellogg. His wife died on September 4, 1922 and he died on August 6, 1920. They are buried in McCook.

Wife of TIMOTHY C. HEGEMAN  
HATTIE KIRKBRIDE

was born November 24, 1840 at Morristown, New Jersey. At the age of sixteen, she moved with her parents to Illinois. There she was united in marriage to Timothy C. Hegeman on April 25, 1866. They moved to Nebraska where they became homesteaders. Later they moved to McCook. They were the parents of five children: two daughters and three sons. She died September 4, 1922 in McCook and was buried in the Longview Cemetery on Wednesday, September 6, 1922.

Wife of JOHN H. HEINLEIN  
MARGARET FREDRICH

was born March 7, 1849 in Germany. She was married to John H. Heinlein and they came to Red Willow County from Indiana about 1885, homesteading on a farm four miles north of McCook. They lived in this home until the death of her husband. She moved to Benkelman, Nebraska and resided with her daughter, Mrs. William Roach. She passed away on Tuesday, May 28, 1929, in Benkelman her body was returned to McCook, and buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on Thursday May 30, 1929.

JOHN F. HELM

was born August 15, 1846 in Germany. He came to America while still a young man. During the Civil War, he first enlisted in the 131st. Indiana Volunteers. He then re-enlisted in Company E, Sixtieth Indiana Mounted Infantry, then later he re-enlisted in Company C, Thirteenth United States Cavalry. He was discharged after the war was over honorably. He and his wife, Elizabeth, came to Red Willow County in 1879 and homesteaded near Indianola. He passed away at his home on Saturday, August 24, 1926, after an illness lasting for over five years. His funeral was held in McCook on Tuesday, August 27, 1926 with members of the G.A.R. Post as honor guard. He was buried in the Longview Cemetery.

CHARLES R. HERRICK

was born August 17, 1882 at Walnut, Illinois to Lyman and Fidelia Herrick. He was still a boy when the family moved to Campbell, Nebraska.

In 1909 he was married to Nola Ritchey. They

became the parents of three boys and one girl. At the time of his death, November 22, 1975, Mr. Herrick had 12 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Life was saddened along the way by the death of one son, Richard, and the daughter, Marian Roberts. Then in 1963, his wife also died.

Mr. Herrick taught school in this area at Indianola, Bartley, and "The Willows". He was elected from Frontier County to the Nebraska Legislature, serving in the last bicameral and the first unicameral legislatures.

One summer in eastern Colorado Charles did some of the farming on land in that state.

As a school teacher, Charles demanded and got the respect of his students. He told of his basketball teams, winning ones too, and the ways he promoted good citizenship on the out-of-town trips. He never backed down once he had decided on a form of discipline for any offenders of the rules of the trips or the games.

He was something of a hand-writing specialist, and only in recent years would he tell his professional secrets. For example, one day a boy had written a vulgar note which was circulating about the room. The classroom teacher got the paper but couldn't find out who wrote it. She turned it over to the principal, Mr. Herrick, who took it to his office. A few minutes later he returned to walk down a row of seats and called out the offending boy for a whipping. The surprised boy returned to his seat, saying to his friends, "But how did he know?" The "how" was that in those days, penmanship was taught and on the first day of school, each pupil was requested to write a statement, "This is a sample of my handwriting," date it and sign his name. Hopefully, his writing would improve during the year.

During the Great Depression, on a teacher's salary of less than \$100 a month, Charles saved a little money every month at the bank. At the end of one of those bleak years in Indianola he asked the school board for a raise which was refused. The board wanted him to continue but he resigned. He then went to the bank and borrowed money to buy a hardware store that was for sale. The bank lent the money on the strength of his habits of thrift in saving money regularly. During the years of operating the store the family lived on one dollar a day and the garden they raised. Later the sale of the store made possible the purchase of land and ultimate financial security. When members of the family needed help Charles was the only one they turned to.

WILLIAM HIERSEKORN JR.

was born near Berlin, Germany and came to this country at a very early age in 1859. His father served in the Civil War. The family lived in Ohio before coming to Red Willow County in 1879. William Jr. married Minnie Knosp in March 1879 and they were the parents of three sons and six daughters. He had a homestead near Lebanon on which he resided till the day of his death on January 22, 1924. He was buried in the Lebanon Cemetery.

EUSTACHE E. HIGH

was born in Muncie, Pennsylvania on December 4, 1866 the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. High.

Eustache came to Nebraska with his parents and one sister when he was small. They homesteaded near Lebanon around 1870, being among some of the first to settle there. They traveled part of the way by covered wagon. E. E. as he was known by his friends all of his life, had started what turned out to be a long and eventful life. He was to spend the rest of his life in the general area.

As a young 10 year old boy he was using a team of horses on a mowing machine for his father when a little rabbit jumped up in front of his mower. E. E. stopped the mower to give chase. The horses became startled and ran. In the course of events the young boy was hit with the sickle of the mower. This led to the loss of a foot and many months of recuperation. Then he had to learn to walk on a peg leg.

While living in a dugout one time he and his sister crawled thru the tall grass to watch an old Indian skin a buffalo which he had just killed. They didn't think they would be seen, but when they would get to close, the Indian would reach down and squirt the milk from the buffalo cow at them. A few years later he went as a helper to eastern Colorado, with a group of cowboys and ranchers to bring back some livestock. His job was to take care of the horses and help with the herding. On their way home they were told to lay over one day as some Indians were on the warpath. As a result they reached Massacre Canyon, east of Trenton, Nebraska, only a short time after the massacre had happened. He was able to pick up an Indian pony at this time.

E. E. met Buffalo Bill Cody on several occasions while riding on his many trips across country.

He was married to Theodosia Korb on Christmas Day in 1906. They lived on their claim, 14½ miles south-east of McCook, for a good many years. He retired and

moved to McCook in 1938. They raised two sons and three daughters.

Mrs. Floyd (Dorothy) Gillen, who passed away in 1953.

Roy Platt High passed away in 1949.

Mrs. Gerald (Agnes) Shorey is living in Denver, Colorado.

Boyd G. High married and is living in Culbertson Nebraska.

Mrs. Jake (Leila) Fries is also living in Culbertson, Nebraska.

His wife, Theodosia, died in 1932. They have many grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as some great, great-grandchildren.

E. E. passed away on November 19, 1956 after having spent a full life. He loved to tell his grandchildren of his adventures with the Indians. He is buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery beside his wife.

EDGAR STRONG HILL

was born January 23, 1834 at Wakeman, Ohio during Andrew Jackson's second administration. Ohio at that time was a wilderness of forest and was sparsely settled. In 1856 he moved west to the then new state of Iowa, being one of the many "Yankees" from the western reserve. During the next three years, which saw the beginning of what is now the great state of Iowa, he was to endure the privations of pioneer life. During this period John Brown of Harper's Ferry fame was then busy in that part of Iowa, organizing his forces for his Kansas operations. It was a time of excitement and violence far shadowing the great Civil War. Edgar Hill knew John Brown well and took an active part in these stirring scenes. He enjoyed John Brown's confidence and he was offered a commission as an officer in John Brown's army and was presented with a revolver as a special mark of Brown's favor. While a strong anti-slavery man, and sympathizing with Brown's desire to break the slave power, he did not approve of Brown's lawless methods and refused to take part in his insane attempt to overthrow organized government.

In 1859, the Pike's Peak gold excitement was at its height and the California gold rush was still sweeping the country. With several friends, including a brother, Mr. Hill started west for the gold country. While on the way, the company that Edgar was traveling with, received word that the Pike's Peak boom had collapsed, the party disbanded, he alone continued to California. Arriving in Sacramento Valley, he found work on a farm. He spent the next cou-

ple of years in California and Nevada in various occupations ranging from farm work to clerking in stores, mining, quartz milling, etc. With the Civil War breaking out soon after his arrival, he enlisted in the Fourth California Infantry. While working in Virginia City, Nevada, then a booming minning camp, he met Samuel L. Clemens, who later became known as America's renowned humorist "Mark Twain". After eight years of adventure and hardship Mr. Hill turned his face towards his old home in Iowa, making the trip back by way of the Isthmus of Panama and to New York. He met and married Delia S. Jones on November 28, 1867 at Tabor, Iowa. After a few years the old spirit of adventure and pioneering returned and he and his wife departed to the wilderness of southwestern Nebraska. They arrived at the present site of Indianola on April 30, 1872. The exploring party that they were members of was headed by Royal Buck, with G. A. Hunter, William Weygint, Lewis B. Korn as fellow pioneers. After selecting land near Coon Creek and the Red Willow they claimed this land as their homesteads. Since he had his wife with him, he was left to guard the land while the rest returned to Iowa to get their families. During this interval, he was appointed by Governor Robert W. Furnas as one of three special commissioners to call and conduct an election for the location and the election of officers. The election was held with much bitterness between Coon Creekers and Red Willowites and resulted in the selection of the Coon Creek location. In this election he was chosen for the office of Probate Judge. Judge Hill officiated at the first marriage ceremony uniting William S. Fitch, a homesteader merchant with a store on the driftwood, and Stella Nettletown, daughter of G. B. Nettletown.

Besides upholding the majesty of the law and holding down a claim, he was the handy man of the community in the building of claim shacks and later the more pretentious houses and business buildings that were demanded. On him devolved the duty of contriving the occasional coffin that was required. The first demand in that line was for the burial of the Indian squaw wounded in the battle of Massacre Canyon in Hitchcock County in August 1873. She was buried with due regard for the proprieties of such an occasion. So far as known, this was the first burial made by white men in Red Willow County.

Edgar and his wife were charter members of the Congregational Church in Indianola and remained active members of this church. The public schools received his untiring support and services as an offic-

er for many years.

During the early days of Red Willow County, there were times of hardship and actual danger from Indians. One time, Mr. Hill appealed to Governor Furnas for arms and he sent a company of soldiers from Ft. McPherson for the needed protection. Edgar lived for over 93 years and died at his home in Indianola on August 5, 1929 and was buried August 8, 1929 in the Indianola Cemetery.

He and his wife were the parents of Lena, George C. and Frank, who died in infancy.

#### Wife of EDGAR STRONG HILL

##### DELIA S. JONES

was born April 9, 1845 at Dover, Vermont. She was married to Edgar Strong Hill at Tabor, Iowa on November 28, 1867, a Civil War veteran. They moved from Iowa with four others in covered wagons and arrived at the present site of Indianola, Nebraska on April 30, 1872. She therefore was the first white woman to establish her home in Red Willow County. She was a charter member of the First Congregational Church of Indianola, and was an active member till the day of her death. Mrs. Hill departed this life on January 7, 1928 at Indianola, and was buried on January 9, 1928 at the Indianola Cemetery.

#### GEORGE CLAYTON HILL

was born on November 25, 1869 at Tabor, Iowa. He was the son of Edgar Strong Hill and Delia S. Jones. George came to Red Willow County with his parents as a child of three, in April 1872. He didn't realize on what an adventure his parents were embarking, when they packed their belongings at Tabor and set out in the movement which resulted in the conquest of the last American frontier. Like many others, the emigration from their homes by the Hill's was caused by adverse business circumstances. The elder Hill, a depot agent at Hillsdale, Iowa, the now non-existent village named after him, also operated the local store and postoffice. The railroad re-routed it's course leaving Hillsdale off the map and the Hill enterprise was wiped out, causing the head of the household to lend an attentive ear to the stories that free farming land could be had out west in Nebraska, "out thar in the Pawnee huntin country on the Republican." As a boy, he remembered many a time, when pioneer men and women of Red Willow County wore anxious expressions and studied the horizons with more than the ordinary intentness. Roving bands of Pawnees, who wandered into the Republican valley

from their reservation farther east, were still sufficiently savage to kill and steal and burn, if provoked. You couldn't always tell when the fierce, hard-riding Sioux would swoop across the borders of their domain and wreck destruction. The year of the Pawnee-Sioux clash near Trenton, in which the Pawnee encampment was nearly wiped out, was one of apprehension for the occupants of the scattered farmsteads which extended up and down the valley. George Hill remembers the time his father and others wrote to Governor Furnas, asking for protection, and the answering soldiers, who camped on the Red Willow to be handy in the event the half-subdued Indians should once more wage war with a race which had never failed to gain supremacy in a major conflict with them. When he was eight, young Hill, enrolled in school at Indianola, the first organized in the county. Graduating when he was fourteen, he later attended business college in Omaha. He first went to work for Frees and Hockell Lumber Company, and remained with the firm for the next 29 years. He worked for the firm at Cripple Creek, Colorado and from there he went to Arriba, Colorado. There he operated the Fees-Hill general store, with his partner, Capt. Benjamin Fees. Poor health caused him to return to Indianola. There he managed the Farmers' elevator, and later joined a commission firm, leaving it when he became interested in life insurance. He was married to Ella Maude Beardlee on June 12, 1894 in Red Willow County, they were the parents of one daughter, Dorothy, who died in infancy. His wife Ella, died in March 1923.

George was active in both civic and social concerns. He was a member of the Congregational Church since his youth, and was a deacon in the local church at the time of his death. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club, and one time served as district Lieutenant Governor, and as president of the Kiwanis Club. He was a member of the McCook Y.M.C.A. board since 1926, and in July 1930 was appointed acting County Judge to fill the office during the period County Judge A. L. Zink was confined to his home account of illness. On Thursday, April 9, 1936, after being confined to his home for a heart infirmity, passed away at his home in McCook. His funeral was held on Saturday, April 11, 1936 in McCook and he was buried in the family plot in the Indianola Cemetery.

#### WILLIAM HAYS HILL

was born on September 27, 1869 at Chicago, Illinois, and when he was still a youngster, his parents moved to Denver, Colorado. He received his education and

spent his early morning hours carrying "The Best Paper Route in Denver," on the Carrier staff of the old Denver Republican. When his high school days ended, he got his first job with a laundry, driving a laundry wagon. In 1905 he bought a laundry of his own, a plant which later consolidated with another and in 1919, after selling out his interests in the Denver plant, he came to McCook. He purchased a small plant here and Mr. E. F. Petersen, with whom he had first contact as an employee in his Denver plant, came about a year later to assume his share of the burden and responsibility of the new enterprise. Over the years, the Ideal Laundry and Cleaning establishment grew and prospered. Mr. Hill, served two terms on the McCook City Council. He was a member of the National Laundry Association, the National Association of Dyers and Cleaners, and of the McCook Chamber of Commerce. He was an active member of the Elk's and had served as treasurer of the local lodge. In his younger days, he was a lover of football, back in the days when they sometimes played half a game before they discovered they didn't have a ball at all. He played with an Athletic Club team, on which there were salaried players. About once a year he and his wife, locked up the house, piled into their car and took to the open road. Sometimes it was for only a jaunt of only a few hundred miles, but sometimes their speedometer would register "thousands" before they returned home. Their travels together have taken them into every state in the union except the three in the extreme southeastern tip of the continent. Their last jaunt took them as far as Cuba and Honduras.

He passed away on Friday, January 1, 1943, at his home here in McCook and was buried on Monday, January 4, 1943 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

#### CHARLES BASSETT HOAG

was born October 8, 1850 at Oskaloosa, Iowa. He was the son of Quaker parents, Jonathan Hoag and Rachael Darlington. At an early age, he became a member of the Society of Friends and continued in that faith all of his life. When he was fourteen years of age, his parents moved to the Indian Territory, (now Oklahoma), his father being the U. S. Agent in charge of the Pawnee Reservation, where they lived five years, after which they returned to Oskaloosa, Iowa. Charles then attended Penn College there for four years. He came to Indianola, Nebraska in the company with Robert H. Thomas and Verdon J. Glandon, arriving on October 26, 1878. He married Shiloh Mayhall at Indian-

nola on January 4, 1883, and to this union was born a daughter, Flora Lee. They resided on his homestead five miles northeast of Indianola. He ran a stage and carried mail from Indianola to Culbertson, until the railroad was built, then from Indianola north to Curtis. He moved into Indianola after proving up on his homestead claim. He ran a livery and feed stable until the automobile displaced horses as a means of transportation. He then operated a taxi business until his health forced him to quit. His wife, Shiloh, died October 5, 1887. He married Mrs. Adelia Lee at McCook on October 25, 1893. He passed away at his home in Indianola on Thursday, April 11, 1929. Funeral services were held on Sunday, from his home, and he was buried in the Indianola Cemetery. The services were held under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge, of which he was a member.

#### GEORGE HOCKNELL Jr.

was born on June 23, 1847 in New York City, New York. He was the son of George Hocknell and Mary McCleinstock. He received his education in the public schools. While still a young man he came west, returning to the east and then he came to Nebraska in 1881, settling in Red Willow County. He was married to Mrs. Frankie Minard - Liggett in Indianola on January 19, 1882 and they were the parents of four children. He was in partnership in the lumber business with Mr. D. M. Frees. George was one of the organizers of the First National Bank and it's president for twenty years. In pursuit of health and a wider field of activity he moved to California and was there but a short time before his physical and mental troubles unsettled his mind. Much of his time was spent in hospitals in a vain endeavor to recover his health. After years of almost unbearable suffering, he died at the hospital in Sacramento, California on October 30, 1907. His remains were brought to McCook and he was buried in the Longview Cemetery on November 5, 1907, beside the bodies of his three children.

#### JOSEPH HORACEK

was born July 26, 1877 in Czechoslovakia. While still quite young, he got the urge to travel and started out for Germany. He lived there for twelve years, working in tailor shops, stores and dry cleaning establishments in Vienna, Dresden, Berlin, Hamburg and other large cities. While working in Hamburg, Germany, young Joseph became quite enamored with the charms of a young fraulein of that city. His suit was successful and on November 21, 1908 he was marr-

ied to Clara Gertaude Todtenhaupt. They were the parents of two sons, Hans and Joseph Jr. In 1912 the family came to the United States. They first lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. While living in Iowa Joseph attended night school learning the English language and getting an education. After five years of schooling, he passed his citizenship examination. After living in Iowa for seven years the family moved to Red Willow County, Nebraska, first living in Indianola where he first tried farming. He however, gave that up and returned to his former trades, tailoring and dry cleaning. He later moved to McCook where he established his shop in the Keystone Hotel. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, belonged to the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. He was a member of the Westside Congregational Church.

Joseph departed this life at his cleaning shop in the Keystone Hotel at McCook, Nebraska on August 1, 1932 and was buried on August 3, 1932 in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

#### HAMPTON HARDING HORTON

the son of James N. Horton and Elizabeth Ikerd, was born at Nauvoo, Illinois on April 29, 1853. His youth and early manhood was spent in the historic city of his birth, where he received his education and continued to reside there until after the death of his father. In the spring of 1883 he left Nauvoo and came west, stopping for a short time in Iowa, but coming on into Nebraska on June 15, 1883. He settled in Red Willow County about three miles north of the present town of Lebanon, where in the company of his brother, James M. and his sister Susan, he took a homestead and began the long and trying experience of wresting a home from the wild prairies. He continued to reside on his homestead and actively engaged in farming until September of 1919, when he retired and moved into Lebanon. Not many men are privileged to see such a transformation as he witnessed. Others of less faith and endurance gave up the gruelling contest against unending hardships, difficulties and privations. But he came from sturdy pioneer stock and steadfastly refused to be dismayed or unduly discouraged and lived to feel the thrill of success. To enjoy the fruits of his industry and thrift and the lasting respect and esteem of his neighbors. He was a charter member of the I.O.O.F. and was also a member of the Rebekah Lodge. On Thursday, May 2, 1935, while out with members of his family for a drive, they were in a car accident. They all were



taken to the McCook Hospital for treatment. On Sunday he was stricken with paralysis and died on Monday, May 6, 1935. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, May 8, 1935 from the Lebanon Presbyterian Church. The body was tenderly laid to rest in the Lebanon Cemetery with the impressive rites with Lebanon Lodge No. 240 I.O.O.F. in charge.

#### JAMES MONROE HORTON

was the seventh son of James N. Horton and Elizabeth Ikerd, born on May 13, 1851 at Nauvoo, Illinois. He spent his youth and early manhood in his native city, famed in history for many stirring events and it's historic sites where these dramatic events had been enacted, became well known to him through daily association during his boyhood days. In the spring of 1883, in company with his brother Hampton, he left Nauvoo and came west, stopping for a short time in Iowa, but coming on into Nebraska on June 15th. They settled in Red Willow County and took homesteads about three miles north of Lebanon. Shortly afterward their sister, Susan, joined them and together faced the future and battled against the numerous difficulties and hardships that constantly beset them as they endeavored to conquer the wild prairies and make a comfortable home for themselves. The struggle was not an easy one, but through industry, thrift and triumphant faith, he not only achieved the goal he sought, but earned and held the lasting respect and esteem of his friends and neighbors. Uncle Jim, as he was lovingly called by everyone, was a charter member of the Lebanon Lodge No. 240 I.O.O.F. and was also a member of the local chapter of the Rebekah Lodge. He passed away on Wednesday, September 25, 1935 at his home in Lebanon. Funeral services were held on Friday, September 27, 1935 and he was buried in the Lebanon Cemetery near his brothers Emmett and Hampton. He was the last of a family of 12 children: nine brothers and three sisters.

#### JEFFERSON J. HORTON

was born January 27, 1836 at Bedford, Indiana. During the Civil War he first enlisted in Company E, 118th. Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He later enlisted in Company G, Fourth Wisconsin Infantry. After the Civil War he moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, where on October 15, 1868, he was united in marriage to Margaret Elizabeth Ikerd. They were the parents of seven sons: John M., Jefferson C., James H., Marion W., Sherman E., Elmer E., and Franklin H. The family moved to Menlo, Iowa and in 1897 came to Nebraska

where he homesteaded in Red Willow County. He died on Sunday, April 17, 1932 at his home in Lebanon as the result of an attack of the flu. He was buried Wednesday, April 20, 1932 near the side of his wife, in the Lebanon Cemetery.

#### Wife of JEFFERSON J. HORTON

##### MARGARET ELIZABETH IKERD

was born on January 19, 1840 near Bedford, Indiana. She, with her parents, moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. On October 15, 1868 she was married to Jefferson J. Horton. She was the mother of seven sons. She died at her home in Lebanon on December 6, 1913 and was buried in the Lebanon Cemetery.

#### CHARLES AUGUST HOTZE

was born near Marysville, Kentucky on March 7, 1843 and lived on his parents farm until he joined the Fifty-fourth Kentucky Mounted Infantry. At the close of the war he returned to his parents home and resided there until his marriage to Louise Brozee on February 1, 1871 at Marysville. For the next two years they were content to reside on a farm near that place. Charles felt the call of the west and with his wife and baby son, they started for the land of promise. They arrived at Nebraska City after days of travel and there bought a team of oxen with which to continue their journey westward. It was behind the plodding animals that they arrived in the vicinity of Indianola on April 3, 1873. They took up a homestead and endured all the hardships that have been often related by others of the early settlers. Charles just completed the erection of a one room log cabin and moved his family safely in just the day before the historic blizzard of April 13th. For a time after he established his residence he made use of his oxen by freighting supplies into this territory from Plum Creek (now Lexington) and North Platte. This he continued until the railroad came into the county several years later. He erected the first frame building on the Indianola townsite. The building was a business house that later was moved to the west part of town and made into a dwelling. He also claimed to have been the first man to use barb wire fence in Red Willow County. He also helped to build and organize the Congregational Church and both he and his wife were members. The homestead on Coon Creek became a garden spot. There was an orchard and groves of forest trees. He delighted in raising vegetables, with which he supplied folks in both Indianola and McCook. He was also engaged in farming and

stock raising. He donated trees from his farm for the streets and city park of Indianola. He and his wife moved to Indianola from their farm in 1912 and lived there until his wife's death in 1930. He then made his home with his son, Charles Elba. He departed this life at Indianola on September 25, 1937, and was buried on September 29, 1937 in the Cedar Grove Cemetery at Indianola. His two sons Charles Elba and William H. and two daughters Sarah and May survived him. He also had a brother William living in Carson, Iowa.

Wife of CHARLES AUGUST HOTZE

LOUISE B. BROSEE

was born at Georgetown, Ohio on April 24, 1841 to Jacob Brosee and Rachel Phipps. Her parents settled in Georgetown after moving from Stuttgart, Germany. Her grandfather was General Edward Brosee of Alsace. He served on the staff of Napoleon till after the Russian campaign. He also moved to Georgetown where he was buried at the age of 92. She was the third in a family of nine children; three boys and six girls. Louise was married to Charles A. Hotze at Marysville, Kentucky on February 1, 1871, where she was employed as a dressmaker. They moved to Nebraska in February of 1873, where they resided in Nebraska City till the latter part of March. They then proceeded to the western part of the state with an ox team and covered wagon which carried a cook stove, household goods and a twelve months supply of provisions. On the rear was a coop of chickens and leading behind was a milk cow to supply the wants of their boy. They camped near the present site of Indianola on the evening of April 7, 1873 and took a homestead three quarters of a mile north, where they lived continuously till they moved to their home in Indianola. When they established their home in the midst of the unbroken prairie, there were two other families living in Red Willow County, the William Reddick's and the John Longnecker's. The Hotze family first established their home in a log cabin to which was added a hewn log addition. To this home a stranger was always made welcome and where those who were in need could find comfort and help. Besides being a charter member of the First Congregational Church. She was also active in the Ladies Aid Society, and the Women's Relief Corps. She was the mother of four children: Sara M., May, Clarence E., and William H. After suffering for several months, death came to her on March 29, 1930 at her home in

Indianola. She was buried on April 2, 1930 in the Cedar Grove Cemetery at Indianola, Nebraska.

CLARENCE ELBA HOTZE

was born February 18, 1897 at Indianola, Red Willow County, Nebraska, to Charles August Hotze and Louise Brosee. He spent his youth and young manhood there and married Ethel Cora Silvernail on June 6, 1912 in Indianola. They were to be the parents of two sons: Charles, who died June 13, 1973 and Clarence E. His wife died September 7, 1973 and Clarence died at the Long Term Care Center at Cambridge, Nebraska. He was buried at the Indianola Cemetery.

WILLIAM H. HOTZE

(This is a copy of the article written by William H. Hotze and published in the McCook Daily Gazette on November 1, 1933)

Sixty years have passed since the first group of settlers came to make their homes in that part of the Republican valley, later organized as Red Willow County. This year Indianola and the county celebrate their sixtieth anniversary, for in May, 1873 the townsite was laid out, the first building erected and the county organized.

After three or four years effort in clearing the region of persistent native tribes, the government sent surveyors to subdivide the land for immigration. The region of the upper Red Willow was known as "The heart of the buffalo country" and the Indians had long claimed it for their hunting ground.

Following the surveyors came two groups of explorers. A party of nine from Nebraska City, under supervision of Royal S. Buck, reached the Red Willow November 22, 1871, after a twelve day trip in two ox wagons. Choosing a townsite they returned to organize a colony. Mr. Longnecker was the first explorer to return. Arriving the following year too late to construct a house the family passed the first winter in a tent.

In June 1872 Edgar S. Hill, William Reddick, George Hunter, William Forstrand and William Weygant came from Iowa. They camped near the mouth of Coon Creek, selected claims in the vicinity and returned within a few days. Of these, Mr. Reddick moved out with his family that fall and erected a log house south of the river. Russel F. Loomis also brought his family out the same season and settled on the Red Willow.

Besides these was George Berger fifteen miles south on the Beaver, and John S. Kling an eccentric

old buffalo hunter who built his cabin near the east line of the county in the fall of 1871. The three families and two bachelors were the original settlers.

#### Soldiers Put On Guard

Fearing that resentful Indians might harass incoming whites, the government stationed two companies of troops near the mouth of the Red Willow for the year 1872. With danger apparently removed, the soldiers withdrew in the fall.

Father, mother and I arrived by ox-team covered wagon and camped at sundown April 7, 1873, where Indianola now stands. With us were my uncle Fred Hotze and William Byfield. We selected a homestead half a mile up Coon Creek. The men had barely enclosed our cabin and made a shelter for our cow and oxen when the memorable 'Easter blizzard' of that year descended and lashed the whole northwest for eighty-four hours. The entire region south of the Platte had been stripped of vegetation by a sweeping prairie fire the previous August, set by soldiers to drive out the Indians, or by Indians to discourage white hunters and trappers. As aweapon of warfare it proved most effective, being first employed by Captain Weaver of Fort McPherson in the fall of 1865, to clear the country south of annoying Redskins. Nothing remained but fringing trees and occasional patches of grass along the streams, and travellers had to carry feed for their animals. There was no precipitation after the fire till April 16, following. The ground lay black, barren and dusty. No snow fell during the blizzard which hurled impenetrable clouds of sooty dust and sand through the air.

Practically all game excepting the burrowers and beaver along the streams, had been driven out or perished. Spring rains soon changed the landscape to a luxuriant green interspersed with gardens of vari-colored prairie flowers. The feathered and the hairy covered people returned.

I was fifteen months old and we were the first family to arrive that spring. We came prepared to stay, but mother soon realized that we were a long way from "our old Kentucky home." Others followed till there were a total of thirty-two families who passed the winter of 1873 and 1874 in Red Willow County.

The first structure erected at Indianola was a small one story frame, one half block south of the corner where the Mack Lord building stands. It was built by D. N. Smith of the Republican Valley Land association, who presented it to the county for a courthouse. My father, Charles A. Hotze, assisted

Edgar S. Hill in its construction. Built of pine material hauled from Plum Creek Station (now Lexington) it served as courthouse, postoffice, law office, church and school house for nine years. Cottonwood slab benches were the only seats and the place was lighted by candles supplemented by an occasional lantern. As soon as the courthouse was completed, the land association erected a two story hotel just north and a store across the street. Mr. and Mrs. Stewig managed the hotel while Allison & Wood conducted the store.

#### The Sioux-Pawnee Massacre

This year also marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Sioux-Pawnee massacre in a canyon near the Frenchman forty miles west of Indianola, August 9, 1873. A Pawnee hunting party was surprised at daybreak by a superior force of young Sioux warriors. Over sixty Pawnee were slain on the spot and during the running fight that led many miles east.

At sunrise the remnant of fear stricken Pawnee came scurrying over the hills north of the river on the way to their reservation, rousing the settlers with wails and lamentations.

Some paused at our door for food and told the sad story: "Heap Sioux kill heap Pawnee, squaw, papoose." "Old warriors shook their heads and cried as if their hearts would break, the blood streaming from their wounds:" as I have often heard my mother repeat. It was the last battle, Indian against Indian, and the last buffalo hunt for the Pawnee.

Three days later, a wounded squaw was picked up by a roving hunter and left at the door of Louis B. Korns just west of town. Although receiving the best treatment the community could provide, she died within a few days. From a pine box and a wagon end-gate Mr. Hill made a coffin in which she was buried on the bluff above the trees overlooking the village at the edge of an old Indian camping ground. Here rests the young squaw, the first of her race to receive Christian burial in that country and the last one interred there. The original marker and picket fence fell victim of weather and prairie fire, but thoughtful citizens have replaced them with more permanent.

#### Tradition

A story goes that John King and another buffalo hunter lost two ponies from their camp on the Red Willow one night late in the season of 1872. Following the tracks, they found the ponies in possession of two young Sioux bucks. After a heated argument King and his companion fired, killing the thieves. Marking the dead to indicate that the deed was com-

mitted by Pawnee, they hastily departed.

In revenge for this, a hot headed band of Sioux broke from their reservation north of the Platte and one thousand strong, descended upon the small Pawnee camp in charge of Agent Williamson. Had they known the facts, they would have slain the white settlers instead.

It was said that King's companion later confessed the deed when in a jovial mood at Fort Riley.

"They laid her there far from tepees,

"On bluff high up above the trees,

"They died for us, those poor Pawnees."

Courage

My older sister was born two weeks following the massacre, mother unattended except by Mrs. Stewig. The nearest physician, Dr. Bancroft at Plum Creek station sixty miles away, could not respond to distant calls.

#### Early Development

The country developed slowly. Early sod corn and gardens yielded fair returns the first season, but the year 1873 was almost a complete failure due to drouth and clouds of invading "locusts." Little was raised in 1875 and the two following seasons produced small results.

Many returned to their 'wife's folks,' With increased population and large acreage, there was a fair crop in 1876.

Wild plums, choke cherries, currants and buffalo berries were picked from thickets along the streams and the surplus canned for winter use. "Jerked" buffalo meat cut in strips and dried in the sun, kept the year round. There were water power grist mills at Red Willow and Cambridge where grain was ground, or you could grind it at home in your coffee mill.

Early settlers soon found that agricultural methods must be modified and new ones devised to meet the conditions of the semi-arid climate. With no department at Washington to assist they proceeded upon their own initiative by experiment and observation. The result was a system that transformed a grazing region into a productive farming section. It is an historical fact that the outcome of the experiments instituted in southwestern Nebraska, has become the recognized system of semi-arid farming now employed throughout the world.

#### Indian Scares

Besides the drouth and grasshopper invasions, there were menacing Indian raids. While the Sioux-Pawnee massacre of 1873 was the result of tribe

crowding upon tribe, the encroachment of whites made the Indians resentful.

There were soldiers at the forts and posts at strategic points to guard the Union Pacific and Overland trail, but their sphere of influence was limited. Seometimes they were hard pressed defending themselves. It was difficult to confine the tribes to their reservations. Restless warriors would break through, outdistance the troops and commit depredations. It was the western front with "nothing but buffalo and Indians beyond."

Though no Indians appeared near the settlement, there were indications of his presence. Stalks of "squaw corn" were found on the Red Willow, and nearby was an Indian burial place. I remember seeing the bodies wrapped in blankets, raised on frames about six feet and supported by poles set in the ground. Some appeared to be made within a year, others in various stages of dilapidation. One winter some stacks of hay east of town were burned up by stealthy invaders, but none were seen.

In June, 1876, came the startling news of the Custer massacre at the hands of the Sioux on the little Big Horn. Then followed the Sappa raid just south in Kansas, when a treacherous band swept in by circuitous route. Pillaging, burning houses and machinery, running off livestock and killing every man and boy above fifteen years of age. The stricken families returned east or moved to nearby settlements. Mrs. Stenner and Mrs. Toogood came to Indianola.

#### The Indians Are Coming

One morning in the summer of 1878, word came that a band of warriors was seen the previous evening on the upper Red Willow, headed in our direction. A rider suddenly appeared at our door, Paul Revere fashion. "Better get things together! Come in and help fortify the town!" Then on up the creek to warn John King and others, swinging east to Dry Creek informing families there on his return. The news spread rapidly in all directions and everyone responded but John King. "No," he said, "never was afraid of Indians. The Lord will take care of me."

Captain William H. Corbin who served the government during the war and on the plains, took command. Wagons were arranged around the central building, tongues pointing in, trenches and earthworks hastily prepared on the outside. Every weapon available was brought out. Men went about pants in boots with guns of every description, revolvers or pistols in belts and swords at side. Parts of blue uniform lent color

to the scene.

I remember one swarthy sixfooter with a brace of "colts" tucked in belt and heavy sword dangling at his legs. His rough voice and fierce visage struck terror as he strode. "No. I didn't carry this sword in the Union army, nor get these scars fighting the south, and I'm not answering any more questions."

By sundown livestock and everybody was within the enclosure. Everyone but John King. As he was living just north of us, father went to make a last appeal. The veteran hunter was sitting on his door step, his Sharps rifle leaning against the wall within, his dog lying without, while his supper was preparing on the stove.

"Better come in with us, John."

"Na, Charley. I'll hide the ponies down under the creek bank, Bruno will watch, and I'll turn in after dark with plenty of shells handy. If I'm not around in the morning, you'll find some 'red devils' scattered about, too."

The women and children spent the night in the Stewig hotel, while the men rolled in blankets under the wagons, taking turn at guard. Only the occasional chorus of barking prairie wolf broke the stillness of the summer night. Yet it might be Indian calls in simulation. Fortunately, no Red Skins appeared.

#### A Scout Goes Out

Next morning Mr. Doyle, a rancher living on the upper Red Willow, decided to venture home. He agreed to scout the country north and send word back by night. He led away a mare, leaving her sucking colt. About 4 o'clock the mare returned with the message attached: "No Indians in sight." With the tension relieved, everybody went home. There were one or two minor scares, but the settlement escaped attack.

#### The Government Issues Arms

In response to appeal, the authorities at Washington issued 100 army rifles with 100 rounds of ammunition each to settlers in that part of the state for defense. They were of fifty-two caliber, "needle gun" type with bayonet. Father gave the required bond and drew his, hanging it over the door on ash forks. We felt a little safer with it there, but it wasn't much help. It 'kicked like a mule' and tore small game all to pieces. Father used his mostly to kill skunks that threatened the henroost, because it would carry farther than the old musket. That was the only government relief we ever got.

The Congregational Church was organized July 11, 1875. With Amos Dresser pastor: the Methodist, in August 1876. The Catholic Church was organized in

1880. The present brick edifice was completed in 1926, it was the generous gift of James W. Dolan who organized the first bank in the county in 1880. The first Christmas celebration took place in the Stewig hotel in 1875 on the initiative of Martin Anderson. Developing local talent he put a variety musical program enjoyed by the assembled populace from the whole southwest, the event concluding with a dance.

There were thirst emporiums too. Occassionally a saloonkeeper would pay the license and run for a time, but eventually succumbed to the keen competition of drug stores and livery barns.

#### Soil State's Future

The primitive Indian understood this land of rolling hills and charming valleys and the pioneer learned to understand it too. As the wild horses of the plain was tamed to the tasks of man, so the raw turned sod is made to yield the fruitful harvest. The future of Nebraska rests upon her enduring soil, her peerless climate and the sterling worth of her loyal citizens. "Stand up for Nebraska;" was the slogan of her pioneers. "On Nebraska, On Nebraska" is the song of her youth today. That spirit is bound to win.

#### But Few Remain

Of those who came to Red Willow County during the period of organization, but few remain. Mrs. Martin Anderson, the first school teacher, Mrs. John Welborn and her daughter, Mrs. W. J. Mackechnie, William E. Windhurt, Charles A. Hotze, George C. Hill and Charles Fitsch. Others still living are Leonard S. Goddard, judge advocate general of the hilppines, George Berger and Frank Welborn of California.

Most of these who have passed beyond the sunset hills, together with my mother, lie in the cemetery at Indianola on the corner of our original homestead; the site of an old Pawnee camping ground. The whole scene lies close to my heart, for I remember how they struggled through those anxious years "blazing the way in the wilderness."

#### C. EDWARD HOYT

was born June 3, 1900 in a sodhouse on his father's homestead southwest of McCook. He was the youngest of eight children. After attending a oneroom rural school for a short time he furthered his education in the McCook schools, being an outstanding student and earning the coveted "M" while playing on one of the champion football teams that McCook turned out.

He graduated from the University of Nebraska in

1921, majoring in business administration and played guard and tackle on the Cornhusker football team. He was also a member of the wrestling team during all four years in college and captain of the team winning highest possible honors in the sport in his senior year. He was inter-collegiate champion of the heavy weight division of the Western Conference of Colleges and Universities comprising nineteen states.

His mother portrayed the indomitable spirit of those hardy pioneers who would not give up and sacrificed much to obtain higher education privileges for her children.

Ed worked on his farm until offered a job as athletic coach and history teacher at McCook High School. It was under his leadership that the McCook schools initiated and developed physical education throughout the entire system. He then resigned to become a partner in a local hardware business; found time for eighteen years on the McCook School Board; president of the McCook Chamber of Commerce; president of McCook Rotary Club; Exalted Ruler of McCook Elks Club; Master of McCook Lodge No. 135 A.F. and A.M.; member of Tehama Shrine of Hastings; Worthy Patron of Eureka Chapter No. 86, Order of Eastern Star and was a public spirited citizen active in many community affairs.

Being much more than a successful farmer, rancher, educator and businessman, Ed served his community in the Nebraska Legislature from 1943 to 1951 - two of those years as Speaker of the Legislature. His fellow senators claimed Senator Ed Hoyt was one of the most popular speakers in the history of Nebraska's one house legislature. He had an authoritative voice in debate and many important measures, and in two terms had a unique legislative record of having never missed a committee hearing nor a vote on a bill up for final reading. He called those years among the most rewarding of his career.

His role in recodifying the Nebraska State School Laws for the 1949 legislature was called his most important work as a dedicated senator. He devoted eight months work on the two hundred page finished product which took the clerk seven hours to read in the legislature.

Resigning as senator in 1952, Ed was appointed assistant state director of agriculture, and then soon worked to the top agricultural post as "Director". He was honored by being elected a member of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement; a member of the Dean of Agriculture and Home Economics Advisory Council and served as president of the North Cen-

tral Association of Directors of Agriculture consisting of fourteen states in 1957.

The next high point of his active career was becoming assistant to the Director of Bureau of Land Management "BLM" in Washington, D. C. In a few years, recognizing his contributions to rural living, soil conservation and excellent land management, Ed was transferred to Denver to provide top leadership from the Office of Director Edward Woosley in a continuing program to improve and make more efficient the sixteen "BLM" land offices in our eleven western states.

With a background of practical farm experience, he was an able spokesman in support of wise use of public resources serving in this capacity until his retirement. He received an honor award plaque along with a commendable service medal for more than thirteen years of highly satisfactory federal service with the Bureau of Land Management from "BLM" director Burt Silcock at his retirement ceremony.

Ed Hoyt was married to Helen Edgecombe of Geneva in September of 1924. They had two children - John of McCook and Joan of Omaha. Ed was injured in a fall from a saddle horse while herding cattle on his ranch and died November 22, 1972. He was laid to rest in Memorial Park Cemetery, with a Knight Templar Guard of Honor, less than a year after his retirement from his Denver office. Having won the respect and admiration of all who knew him.

#### Wife of FRANK HOYT

#### HAZEL T. THOMPSON

was born to Arthur Thompson and Mary Ellen Sidles on May 14, 1892 at Palmyra, Nebraska. She attended and graduated from the public schools District #8 in Otoe County, Nebraska. She joined and attended the Presbyterian Church during her childhood days.

Hazel's father passed away when she was only one and a half years of age and it became necessary for her mother to work away from home. Mrs. Hoyt then stayed with an aunt during her early school days. At this time, she cared for an orphan girl and later at age 15 while working in Lincoln, for Miller and Payne Clothing, she spent her evenings caring for a semi-invalid child. While working at this department store, she became acquainted with her future husband, Frank, through a cousin of hers.

Marriage to Frank Hoyt took place June 28, 1911 and then they came to McCook to make their home. Frank worked at the railroad while Hazel took care of her brother-in-laws, Ed and Dean, during the scho-

ol year. At one time, a little boy whose mother had died and whose father was working strayed in their home. Her home was always open to anyone who needed help.

The family of five then moved to a farm on the Driftwood Creek. These were times of much canning, board washing, as well as the many other duties of early farm life. She was not only mother of three of her own children but also to three little girls whose mother had died. Again she helped them with their clothes, mending and other duties while their father worked. Not only were there mouths of hungry children to feed but those of hired men, particularly during harvest times. One could truly say that her everlasting desire was in helping others.

The Frank Hoyts then moved to their present home in McCook so that their children, James, Cloyd and Carol might have better schooling. They really had to pinch pennies to keep both farm and town homes going. Her home again was opened to several boys and girls who stayed with them while attending school. And all those boys and girls are today good and reliable citizens of Red Willow County. Hazel had always wanted to be a nurse, thus her interest in caring for others. Her children slept many times on the couch for Hazel had them give up their own beds for company and for people in need. Her daughter, Carol, described their home in town as "Grand Central Station for the Hoyt family."

On the farm, Mrs. Hoyt was the first president of the Merry Circle Club which she organized in 1918, participated in the Eastern Star and joined the Gloom-chasers Home Extension Club serving on the entertainment committee. She has been and still is a faithful worker of the Methodist Church which she presently attends.

During the 11 years Frank was county commissioner for Red Willow County District 3 (1947-1959), Hazel had a big part in helping by answering telephone calls and in "coordinating" Frank's activities. Her time was never idle.

Her life is still busy knitting and crocheting for her ten great-grandchildren. She would babysit for her nine grandchildren and now babysits for her great-grandchildren.

Hazel is characterized by humility, unselfishness, compassion and live for so many people. She sees the very best in people and in most every telephone conversation she says, "How much we have to be thankful for." If you ask her what she attributes to her long

and fruitful life, she says, "The Lord has watched over me."

#### JAMES LEWELLYN HOYT

was born March 10, 1846 at Syracuse, New York. He was the son of Aaron and Sarah Hoyt. During the Civil War he served in the Second New York Heavy Artillery. He was married to Priscilla Bofinmyer on August 19, 1879 and they were the parents of eight children; one daughter Vira M. and seven sons; J. Frank, J. Homer, Dean W., C. Edward, Aura Edward, David and Lynn B.

James was an early settler in the Driftwood Precinct, Red Willow County, Nebraska. He died in the Cambridge Hospital on Friday, June 11, 1920 following an operation that was hoped would cure him of chronic troubles. He was buried in the Culbertson Cemetery on Sunday, June 13, 1920.

#### JOSEPH A. W. HUDSON

was born August 15, 1857 in Blackfoot County, Indiana. He came with his parents, Theaphalus and Mary Hudson, and two brothers, Noah and him, to Red Willow County in September 1873. The Massacre Canyon Battle near Trenton had occurred a few days before their arrival. Joseph was a young lad of 16, his brother Noah 18, and Jim was 12.

Noah was a natural born hunter but Joseph liked to trap. The following spring of 1874 the two brothers obtained some beaver traps and managed to catch just enough beaver to get the trapping fever. In the fall their father bought lumber to make a fine skiff, which is a light canoe. By using this in the setting of their traps, they caught eighteen beaver. From the sale of furs, the brothers bought their first sets of store made suits.

In the spring of 1875, they plowed and planted corn, but when the corn was in tassel a hot wind came up and left them with very little crop. They had also planted some garden, but the food consisted mostly of bread, buffalo meat and gravy.

After the crops had been put in Joseph and Noah hooked up the team and started out on their first buffalo hunt. They drove up the Republican River for about 3 miles, west of where the city of McCook now stands. Their guns were ill fitted for killing buffalo, but they soon sighted a small herd on the south side of the river. They drove around some cottonwoods and tied their team, took their guns and started to stalk them. They took off their shoes

and waded across the river which was shallow. They kept out of sight to within gunshot of them. They only wanted one buffalo as the weather was too warm to keep meat any length of time. Both brothers took aim at the same buffalo, but their guns being inadequate, they only wounded their target. At the report of the guns the buffalo jumped and ran. The wounded buffalo took off by itself. They followed the cripple nearly all day and finally spied him laying down near the head of the canyon. By creeping up real close they finished the kill.

While skinning the kill they were both intent on their job and failed to notice an old buffalo cow some 20 or 30 steps from them until they heard her snort. She stood there long enough to get a good look and then loped off down the canyon. Their guns were between the cow and them in case they would have been needed.

The next time they needed meat they had to go farther. As it was fall the buffalo invariably worked back out of the canyons onto the flat country and by the time snow flies they were usually all gone. The brothers wanted to lay in a good supply of meat as it was the biggest part of their living. The antelope was plentiful, but were hard to kill with their type of gun. The Hudson family managed to get along pretty good the winter of 1875-76 until towards spring when they found themselves out of meat. They had heard that there was a man living near the headwaters of the Republican, some 160 or 170 miles from where they lived and that he ran a store for the buffalo hunters and would trade buffalo meat for corn. He traded this on the pound for pound basis. Joseph and his brother Noah loaded their wagon box full of corn, hitched up their team of Norman horses and started out. This was sometime around January or February as there was still snow on the ground. Their horses were poor as they had only the prairie grass for their winter feed. The two brothers with very little experience started out through country where there were absolutely no settlers after leaving Culbertson. They also faced the danger of hostile Indians and their guns were very little use to them. They could not travel more than 15 or 20 miles a day, since the days were short and they had no good road to follow but the trail left by buffalo hunters. The creeks and canyons had to be crossed without bridges or fords, as no kind of road work had ever been done. The streams were frozen over and their horses being unshod found it hard to walk. From lack of exper-

ience they had failed to take shovels so they used their hats to sand the ice to keep their horses from slipping. They were 4 or 5 days getting to where Benkelman now stands or some 65 miles on their way. One night they found a trapper dug-out to use and even without a door it was much warmer than sleeping out in the open. They traveled day after day and finally arrived at the store of "Honest John". The store was made of buffalo hides and was heated by a little stove. The day after their arrival a big hide hunting party pulled in for a supply of ammunition and provisions. The leader called "Soretoc Joe" was a real buffalo hunter. His gun was a big 50 caliber, shot 120 grains of powder and was fitted with telescope sights. It was an old reliable Sharps and cost about \$125 to \$150.

Honest John had hind quarters of buffalo meat stacked up 50 yards long. They traded their corn for buffalo meat and left for home the next day. The weather had warmed up so they managed very well. When they arrived home opposite their parents house, they had to ford the river again. The river was muddy and full of quick sand and looked dangerous. A man living by the crossing loaned them his boat so they ferried their loads across to the other side.

On January 22, 1882, Joseph Hudson married Frances Dudek at McCook, Nebraska.

In October, 1884 Joseph and Noah made another trip to hunt deer up the head waters of the South Birdwood, near North Platte. They had heard deer was plentiful. By this time they were living eight miles below Wauneta Falls on the Frenchman River. On this trip they were better equipped having four good horses, a good wagon, tent and stove. Best of all each had 40-90 Sharps rifles. These rifles weighed a trifle less than 30 pounds, had octagon 30 inch barrels and set triggers. The leaves were turning yellow. It took them only five days this time. The first night they camped on the Stinking water, and one night on the divide between the head of the north fork of the Stinking water and Ogallala. The third night found them camped on the south side of North Platte by Paxton's horse ranch. On the 5th day they pulled across to the head of South Birdwood, their hunting grounds. As they pulled in to the head spring it was almost dusk, but they saw two deer a shot distance away. Noah wasn't gone long before Joseph heard two shots and his brother came back with two hearts and livers, giving them a good supper plus breakfast the next morning. The next a.m. they began looking



around, coming to a bend in the creek it seemed to be full of white-tailed deer. They had taken their traps along and set some. Their first kill was a black-tailed deer. They later sold their traps to a man who intended to stay there for quite some time. On this trip they stayed two weeks and killed 21 deer. They took them back through North Platte to McCook where they sold all except what they wanted for their own families for their meat supply.

Joseph caught a buffalo calf in Southwest Nebraska, raised it with his own cattle, and later he sold it to his brother, Noah. Around 1900, they showed this buffalo, along with other half-breed cattle at the Denver Stock Show. The buffalo was then sold to the Denver Zoo, and at his death he was mounted and put in the Denver Museum.

After several droughts, Joseph, his wife, and six children left Nebraska, moving their possessions with them. They moved in two covered wagons and drove their team over the Old Oregon Trail. While enroute their seventh child and youngest daughter was born. A trunk top was used for a cradle. They traveled over the Overland Trail in Wyoming and arrived in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in the fall of 1894. After spending the winter there they started south and east settling 30 miles west of Wheatland on August 20, 1895.

Here three more sons were born, the youngest dying in infancy. In 1910, they moved to the Wheatland Flats where they continued to make their home for the remaining years of their lives.

Joseph, his wife, and several sons continued for many years to return to Red Willow County, during the winter months to trap up and down the Republican River. They made their headquarters part of the time at the home of Mrs. Hudson's sister's, Mary Degele and family.

In 1932, Joseph and Frances attended the Golden Jubilee in McCook and were honored along with others as being one of the couples who had been married 50 years before in McCook. Joseph lead the parade each morning, riding the pony of his brother-in-law, Jake Degele, and dressed in his tan buckskin suit. He had tanned the buckskin himself from deer hides and his wife had made them into a suit.

Joseph died June 12, 1943, his wife on August 17-1936. Both are buried at Wheatland, Wyoming. His parents, Theapelus and Mary Hudson, are buried somewhere on the upper Willow Creek north of McCook. At one time Joseph's parents ran a livery stable at Culbertson.

#### ROBERT WILSON HUME

was born July 3, 1843 at Blandinville, Illinois, and he was to spend his early life in this vicinity. He was married to Juliet Archer, and they were the parents of four children: Charles A., Paul H., Ralph W., and Leila. The family came to Nebraska in 1882 and settled in Red Willow County. They had a farm 3 miles north of Indianola. During the Civil War he cast his lot with the fortunes of the northern forces and enlisted as a member of Company I, Illinois Cavalry in 1862, and served with honor until the close of hostilities in 1865. He was a member of Indianola Post #152 G.A.R., The Odd Fellows, and the Masonic Lodge. He died Tuesday, July 31, 1912 at his home north of Indianola, caused by a stroke of apoplexy, and was buried in the Indianola Cemetery.

#### I

#### WILLIAM MERRILL IRWIN

was born August 21, 1847 at Mercer, Pennsylvania. At the age of fifteen, he enlisted in the One Hundred Ninety-seventh, Ohio Volunteers. In 1864 he came west and married Ella Morland at Afton, Iowa in 1873. Seven children were born to this union. He came to McCook in 1882 and the family a year later. He was the foreman of the carpenter shop for the Burlington Railroad in McCook for seventeen years. He died Monday, October 30, 1899 at his home in McCook and was buried in the Riverview Cemetery.

#### J

#### Wife of JAMES S. JACKSON PATSY BUFORD

was the daughter of Charles Buford and Henrietta Adair, was born June 11, 1824 at Frankfort, Kentucky in the Governor's mansion, her grandfather, John Adair, being Governor of the state at that time. She was married in 1846 to James S. Jackson in Georgetown, Kentucky. They moved to Greensburg and after two years to Hoptkinsville. Seven children were born to them, three of whom died in infancy, one daughter, Mrs. Juliet Walker died about 1915. Mrs. Jackson's great-grandfather, McDowell, was a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, preceeding and during the Revolutionary War. He was a personal and intimate friend of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and closely associated with them during our country's struggle for liberty. Her grandfather,