

Valley community. He continued making shoes and boots for the pioneers and would walk miles to deliver his goods. He was a faithful and interested member of the Masonic Order for nearly sixty years, and was a charter member of the first Masonic Lodge organized in Red Willow County. He also was a charter member of the Boaz Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Danbury. His patriotism was unique and his flag was always hoisted whenever appropriate, coupled with his zeal for his fraternity and re-inforced by his devotion to his church and his God, made him a man to be remembered. He loved the game of Chess, and still played a strong game into his nineties. He passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Nellie Pollock, on Sunday, March 31, 1929, at Portland, Oregon. His remains were returned to his home, and was buried in the Danbury Cemetery with full Masonic Rites.

## Q

### EARL E. QUIGLEY

was born March 16, 1891, in a small sod house five miles north and west of Indianola, Nebraska, on land that was homesteaded by his father, Thomas K. Quigley, in 1872. Earl spent his entire life on the farm of 160 acres. He walked three miles with his seven brothers and three sisters to attend Red Willow School. At eight years of age, he drove four-head horse teams to the Narrows, shocked grain behind the binder all day in hot weather, dust and rattlesnakes. He cultivated, hoed and weeded corn, and finally husked it out before he could return to school in November of each year. There were the chores to do morning and evening, the horses to be fed, cows to milk, and many times, this was done by lantern light in extreme cold weather. Earl learned at a very early age in life to accept new situations, to make decisions of his own and develop a self discipline if he were to survive. He also discovered the inter-relation of the soil and weather and the animals in this relation to man. What he did not have, he would have to make for himself, earn the necessary money to buy commodities or if he did not have the money, they did without. The early years of Earl's life were trials and hardships. His family was often faced by drought, grasshoppers, ten-cent corn, and sometimes this was all followed by the banker taking the mortgaged team of horses or the family milk cow. None of these things were kept from the children. Earl said the gambles of life as a farmer and realized the size

of the stakes, he shared in the privation and worked very hard, but there was also fun for the family. During the threshing season, games were held for the young boys, and as a young man, he played baseball.

During the long winter months, there were many country dances. Earl played a fiddle in a band for community barn dances. Earl was seventeen when his father passed away, leaving the responsibilities of the farm and ranch to him and his mother. Several years later, his mother moved to the state of Colorado due to ill health. Earl remained on the homestead alone, taking over the mortgage. He batched for several years until he met and married Anna Tines of Bartley. Two children were born to this family. Money was very scarce for everyone, especially a man with many debts.

The Dirty Thirties was a tragic time for Earl due to the drought, no crops, and land taxes coming due. He helped make thousands of popcorn balls to sell for one penny each. Also, he produced and delivered the butter, the cream, the eggs, and dressed many chickens to be sold in the community.

As conditions improved, he began soil conservation practices, planning shelter belts, terracing his land, and developing irrigation. He believed very strongly that by using these conservation practices, his land would be left for many generations to use and, hopefully, enjoy for another 200 years.

Earl received the Knights of Ak Sar Ben of Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award for long and meritorious service to agriculture as exemplified by continued ownership within the family of the same Nebraska farm for over 100 years. He was one of only five recipients in Red Willow County of this award. By hard work and determination, this homestead of 160 acres has developed into over 2600 acres, which is still family owned and operated by family descendants.

His philosophy was: Farming, despite its hardships and disappointments, is the most honest and honorable way a man can spend his days on this earth; and by his toil, he is giving more to the world than he is taking from it, which is an honor that does not always come to all men. When he grew old and summed up his days, he was able to stand tall and he felt the pride in a good life that he had lived. He believed that farming makes all of this very possible.

He passed away in the McCook Hospital on October 13, 1970, and was buried in the St. Catherine Cemetery at Indianola, Nebraska on October 15, 1970.

## CHARLES WAYNE RAY

was born on a farm near Riley, Indiana in 1872. There he attended the grammar schools, and worked on his father's farm until 1893, when he entered the Garvin Commercial College of Terre Haute, Indiana, where he graduated in 1894. In the fall of 1894, he entered the Preparatory School of DePauw University, where he stayed and worked at all kinds of odd jobs and hard labor, in order to get an education, and graduated from the DePauw University in 1900. After graduation, Charles came west and entered the North-west Nebraska Church Conference and was assigned to Crawford, and has since filled the following pulpits in the state: Crawford, Valentine, Alliance, Norfolk, Columbus, Lyons, and McCook. Charles received the A. M. degree from Taylor University in 1902, and in 1905 the D. D. Degree from the Nebraska Wesleyan University, of which he was a trustee from 1903 to 1907. He was a great traveler and toured all of Europe, Palestine, and Egypt in 1907, also Europe in 1910 and 1913. He was a delegate to the World's Sunday School in Rome, Italy in 1907, and in Zurich, Switzerland in 1913; and at the World's Missionary Convention in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910, and was a foreign correspondent for the Norfolk Daily News in 1910. He was made Grand Chaplin of the Grand Lodge of the I.O.O.F. of the State of Nebraska in 1922. He was a writer of national prominence, having written the following books: "The Conditions of Life", "Bible Questions Answered", "The Radiant Life", "Heart Echoes", "Ray Tokens of Friendship", "The Bright Side of Living", and "The Tides of Fortune". He was married and had a son Robert, and a daughter Helen.

One of the many poems that he wrote was a tribute to McCook entitled: "McCook Tribute"

Out on a broad western prairie  
Near a river and a brook  
Is a thriving growing city  
By the fair name of McCook

It is built like other cities  
Or like pictures in a book  
With fine homes and stores and parks  
In this modern new McCook

In this city there are people  
You will find from many a nook  
And they're full of live ambition

## As they labor in McCook

In this city you will never  
Feel you're looked on as a snook  
But you'll find big hearted boosters  
When you move into McCook

Say it not with the red roses  
Or with cookies from the cook  
But say it with the broadest smile  
You were welcome in McCook

So come west o're the prairies  
When you read this little book  
And you'll find one poet waiting  
To greet you in McCook.

## GEORGE RAY

was born at Indianapolis, Indiana on December 30, 1851. He moved with his parents to Missouri, and in 1871 came to Geneva, Nebraska, where his father homesteaded. In December 1874, he returned to Missouri, where he married Nancy Ann Jones, who died in 1920. In 1884, Mr. Ray homesteaded near Red Willow, and later moved to Lincoln, where a brother, James, resided. He passed away on Wednesday, December 11, 1929 at Danbury, and his funeral was held Friday, December 13, 1929. His remains were taken to Geneva, Nebraska for burial, near the grave of his wife, his only son, and his parents. He was survived by one daughter Belle.

## ROBERT TUNNIS RAY

was born January 20, 1927 at San Francisco, California to Clark Calvin Ray and Anna Webb. They were both born in Utah to pioneers of that state, and had moved to California about 1925. During his early childhood the family moved about living on both sides of the San Francisco Bay at various times. During the great depression he could remember how hard times were for his family. His father left in 1939, never to be seen again. When the Japanese struck on December 7th, he was in a movie (title unknown) a slide was flashed on the screen for all servicemen to report to their bases. He rushed home to find all had been informed as to what had happened. On November 2, 1944 he enlisted in the U. S. Marines, and fought against the Japanese on the Island of Okinawa. His outfit, took the last ridge without support from other units and was to suffer extreme casualties. After the war his unit, the First Marine

Division, was sent to China where he served until January of 1946, when he was transferred to the U.S.S. Wilkes-Barre, a light cruiser. After serving on this ship for eighteen months he was transferred to Camp Pendleton where he was discharged, on April 1, 1947. Only forty-five days later, he re-enlisted in the U. S. Army, serving in Europe almost the whole three years, with the 701st. Ordnance Company. He was released from active duty, and when the Korean War started, he was recalled for active duty. He served with the 213th. Armoured Field Artillery, a Utah National Guard unit. He served with this unit through three battles, and was released from active service. He worked for various outfits, learning the carpenter trade and other trades. During the early 1950's he worked on a combine crew, cutting wheat in Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota. In 1956 he enlisted in the U. S. Air Force, and during his training at Lowry Air Force Base, he met his future bride, Avis Eldora Nelson, from McCook, Nebraska. After completing his training he was assigned to the 50th. Tac Fighter Wing in France. Here his bride came and they were married in Zurich, Switzerland on June 6, 1957. Robert was transferred to Nellis Air Force Base, at Las Vegas, Nevada, where his only child Robert T. Ray Jr. was born on August 13, 1959. After serving there for four years, he was transferred to Japan, where he served for five years. During this period of time, he worked on the F-105 aircraft, which was in his opinion, one of the best aircraft that the services ever had. In 1968, he was assigned to George Air Force Base, California, where he retired on October 31, 1969. He came to McCook, Nebraska to make his home.

During the following years, he worked as a carpenter for his father-in-law, Guy L. Nelson, for the Ranchers Supply and at the end, for himself as a contractor. In 1977 he was offered the job of being the curator of the Senator George William Norris's home. He has grown to admire Senator Norris and all that he stood for and thinks that he was the greatest Senator this country ever had. He is active in his Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). Having over the years, held various positions. He is active in social life. He is a member in the American Legion, Elk's Club, Southwest Nebraska Genealogical Society (having held various positions), the Nebraska State Genealogical Society, High Plains Historical Society and served for two years with one of the local Boy Scouts units. At the present time, 1981, he is a professional Genealogical Researcher.

Robert has run for City Councilor and feels that it is the duty of all its citizens to have a greater interest in its duly elected officials. His interest in genealogy and history is one of the main reasons for his writing this book.

#### ROBERT T. RAY

was the second secretary of the McCook Chamber of Commerce, replacing E. C. Kelso, who died June 1926 starting his duties on July 1, 1926. He resigned this position on December 1, 1929 and shortly later departed McCook.

He was born in central Kansas in 1888 and was married and had two daughters. He departed this life at his daughter's home, Mrs. W. J. Howard, in Kansas City, Missouri and was buried at the Kansas City, Missouri Cemetery on June 22, 1932.

#### FRANK REAL

was the son of John J. Real and was born March 3, 1869, twenty miles north of Peoria, Illinois. At the age of six they moved to Princeville, Illinois. In 1886, after four days and three nights in an immigrant train which was made up mostly of boxcars, they reached McCook, Nebraska. He came out here as a boy of eighteen to break the prairie sod on a farm his father had purchased near Perry. Later his father and other relatives came to this county to homestead the land. The family built their new home north of Perry and prospered on the land. In 1892 he left the farm and served as bookkeeper for the E. E. McCann Grain Company at Perry. In 1897 he purchased the company and became its manager. Late in 1898, he sold his interests to the H. H. Easterday Company. In 1899 he returned to the Easterday interests and became manager. He was married to Margaret Smith on October 4, 1899 and to this union four children were born. His wife died on February 25, 1907. He purchased elevators at Kenesaw, Nebraska and Traer, Kansas in 1905 and the following year became a partner in the Easterday firm with elevators at McCook and Perry. The firm later owned elevators at Trenton and Heartwell. On April 27, 1910 he was married to Eloise Laugeman and to this union four daughters were born. In 1942, he retired from active business, disposing of his interests to the Gale Grain and Fuel Company. For more than fifty years, Frank Real was one of the outstanding citizens of McCook, especially active in civic and social circles. He was a charter member of the Chamber of Commerce, which he served as a member of the Board

of Directors for many years, as chairman of the irrigation committee, and of the Good Roads Committee. As chairman of the Chamber's Good Roads Committee, during the infancy of the automobile, his work was largely responsible for the development of Highway 6 and other primary roads throughout northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska. As chairman of the Chamber's Irrigation Committee, he was active in early irrigation projects throughout this territory and served as a director of the Tri-County Project during the early development stages. Mr. Real served twice as a councilman and three terms as Mayor, his last term ending in 1924. It was during his administration that McCook's first paving was launched. He served as State Treasurer of the Nebraska Elk's Association for eleven years, and was one of the original committee which sponsored the Elk's Crippled Children's Program, later serving as a Director of the State Association. He was a charter member of the local Elk's Club and had served it as an Exalted Ruler. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic Church. He also was a former member of the McCook Rotary Club. After a long and useful life, he passed away at his home in McCook on Sunday, August 6, 1944 and was buried in the Calvary Cemetery on Wednesday, August 9, 1944.

Wife of FRANK REAL  
MARGARET SMITH

was born August 18, 1874 in Iowa. Her parents moved to Trenton in 1886 and to McCook in 1893. She taught school successfully for nine years in Red Willow and Hitchcock Counties. She was married to Frank Real on October 4, 1899, and was the mother of four children. After an illness of four months, she passed away at her home in McCook on Monday, February 25, 1907. She was buried in the Calvary Cemetery at McCook on Thursday, February 28, 1907.

WILLIAM RELPH

was born in Center County, Pennsylvania on July 19, 1839. He was married to Rebecca Jane Adams, June 1, 1861 at West Plains, Tippecanoe County, Indiana. They were the proud parents of ten children; six daughters and four sons: John, Joe, Tom, Jim, Louisa, Myrtle, Rebecca, Annie, Minnie, and Adeline. The children were all married in Red Willow County. William served in the Union Army and was wounded at the Battle of Chattanooga. He and two of his sons, John and Joe, came to Red Willow County in the fall of 1879. They brought some household supplies, furniture,

seeds, and implements. They came by rail in an immigrant car to Kirwin, Kansas. The remainder of the trip was made by team and wagon. He came from Lafayette, Indiana which was a damp, swampy and often flooded area. Because of so much sickness in that climate, he selected land upon the divide away from wet damp areas. William soon found that only bachelors, or men who had come without their families were living near, most of them in dugouts along the canyons. He got help and proceeded to erect a sod house to have shelter for his family of a wife and six children. His wife stayed in Lafayette with her mother, Rebecca Adams, until her husband had the home ready. Because of a scarlet fever epidemic in Lafayette, she decided to leave there before her children were exposed. She posted a letter to Mr. Relph, telling him when she would arrive in Kirwin, Kansas, this being the nearest railroad at that time. She had no idea of how long it would take a letter to reach her husband. When she arrived in Kirwin the wind was blowing so hard one could hardly stand up and the air was filled with dust. The little pioneer town was full of people, families moving west, but no Mr. Relph. She took her children and went to the only hotel, which was crowded, and there were many sick children. As this brave little mother heard wild tales of Indian raids and cowboys and wondered if her husband would come for them. It was nearly a week before he arrived with the team and wagon. They soon started on the long journey to their new home. They were amazed at the endless sea of grass that met the sky, as far as they could see, not a house or tree in sight. Because they had always lived where there were big beautiful trees, the endless prairie looked desolate and barren. No roads, only buffalo trails that zig zagged through the grass, bleached buffalo bones, prairie dogs, long-eared jack rabbits, and an occasional antelope herd were the only signs of life for miles. They traveled about twenty miles a day and saw very few people. The spent a few nights with settlers. These people welcomed them, shared what they had with them, for it was like a visit from home-folks. They arrived in Cedar Bluffs, Kansas on April 1, 1880, and the next day went to their new home, about seven miles northwest of Cedar Bluffs, in what is now Gerver Precinct. The small sod house with dirt floor had no doors or windows. They hung muslin over window openings and a blanket over the doorway, unloaded their belongings and did what they could to make it liveable.

It was a cold, wet spring and the sod house leaked and to make matters worse, one by one the six children came down with measles, having been exposed in Kirwin. A neighbor rode horseback to Oberlin, Kansas for a doctor. The doctor arrived on horseback but was so drunk that after he had prepared the medication, Mr. Relph gave him black coffee, put him on his horse and then threw the powders into the stove. He told his wife that the doctor would not know what he put in those powders, and they would do their own doctoring.

The summer had been hot and dry, and food supplies were scarce. William's pension of twelve dollars a month was the only cash available. They picked up buffalo bones and sold them in Indianola. Mr. Relph, Mills Gregory, Mr. Ellsworth and another decided to go on a buffalo hunt. They took two wagons with two teams of horses, provisions for themselves, and salt to cure the meat and hides. They were gone about three weeks, traveling north and west towards the Colorado line. The home-folks were very worried when they were gone so long as there were roaming bands of Indians to the west. They had lost one of their horses and it was a long, slow trip home. They arrived in the middle of the night and soon the family was awake. Mrs. Relph prepared a meal for them. They had brought home a nice lot of meat and hides.

There were no families near them and many stories of Indian raids. There was one Indian scare which created so much fear, that all the families went to a sod fort near Cedar Bluffs for protection. The small band of Indians did not come down the Beaver Creek. They crossed the Beaver Valley near Herndon and went into Kansas. They were curious and demanded food but were not dangerous. Because of the many tales people had heard, women and children were afraid and the men-folk were ever watchful. The Indians would take horses and the men all prized their riding horses.

The sod house was crumbling and leaning dangerously as it had not been built right, so William decided to move his family back to Cedar Bluffs that fall. The children could go to school a few months that winter too. On Christmas Eve a box of clothing arrived from a grandmother in Indiana. A new baby sister, Minnie, arrived that same night. It has always been a family story, how Becca only five years old, thought the new baby arrived in the box from Indiana.

Mr. Relph and the older boys put up a new sod house, plastered the walls with lime found in a canyon bank, floors were laid in the two main rooms, doors and windows of glass were installed, and muslin was tacked on the ceiling. It was much more comfortable than the first home. They also dug a well, expecting to strike water at forty feet, but had to go down one hundred and twenty-five feet. The oldest son, John, eighteen dug most of the well. Later he was to dig many wells over southwest Nebraska.

In the summer of 1881 other families arrived. The Relph's always welcomed the new families, shared their home and did everything they could to help them get settled. The precinct, when surveyed, was named after Mr. William Gerver. He and his two sons were living nearby when the Relph's arrived and William suggested the new precinct bear his name. Mrs. Relph had her own saddle horse, which she rode side-saddle. She had been taught to care for the sick, and had many home remedies. She rode many miles helped to deliver babies, usually without a doctor. When young Dr. DeMay came into the neighborhood she assisted him many times. He was highly respected by those pioneer people where his service was badly needed. Dr. DeMay later moved into Danbury where he practiced for many years.

A sod schoolhouse was built, and the first teacher was Joe Relph. He had gone for about three months training and was just past sixteen years old. He had ten pupils. The children brought books and slates from home for that first term of a few months.

There was a land office, post office, and a store at Stoughton, near Marion, and a post office at Banksville to the west. The Benjamin family lived there and was the postmaster. There was another post office several miles north called Valetton. The nearest trading post was at Indianola, the county seat. Mr. Relph and two of his sons, John and Joe, all worked on the railroad when it was being built.

They attended church in a sod house and a United Brethren preacher, Father Kennedy, and a traveling minister would come and stay in the homes and conduct services. Men carried guns and would stack them outside the door of the sod church.

Several families settled in the area in 1881 and 1882. They would gather for picnics. The boys enjoyed horse racing contests and there was dancing in some of the homes. A mouth harp, violins and sometimes a reed organ owned by Billy Allen, provided music. Children were put to bed, usually on the floor. The

parents danced and visited until dawn, getting home just in time to do morning chores.

William's oldest daughter married Ruben Gerver about a year after they came to Nebraska. They were living on their own homestead near her parent's home, when she died in childbirth in 1882. Her father and neighbors mapped out a cemetery in the northeast corner of the Gerver land. The neighbors made a crude coffin, using what they had, this being the first grave in this pioneer cemetery which was named Pleasant Prairie Cemetery.

One summer the family had a siege of typhoid fever, and some of the children were very ill. Three of the children, Jim 14, Becca 12, and Annie 10 spent that summer on the pre-emption about a mile from home herding cattle. The country was all free range. Jim would drive his horse into the herds to break up bull fights, using his whip and dogs. The children also milked cows, cooled the milk, skimmed the cream and churned butter which was salted down and kept in the cave until marketed. The three children spent three months alone. Their father came every few days bringing food and clean clothes. Very little was known at that time about typhoid fever and they thought it best to keep the children away from those who were sick at home.

After an illness of almost five years, suffering from severe strokes of paralysis during that time, William Relph died at his home in Cedar Bluffs, Kansas on Saturday, September 19, 1908 and was buried in the Pleasant Prairie Cemetery on Monday, September 21, 1908.

#### WILLIAM REMINGTON

was born June 24, 1819 in Oswego County, New York. He was united in marriage to Lavina Couttrayman on August 3, 1846 in Oswego County, New York. They were the proud parents of nine children: Martin, Judson, Martha, James, William Jr., John R., Mandal, Jerome and Mary J. He moved to Illinois and then to Benton County, Iowa. He enlisted July 38, 1862 in Company A, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry and was discharged on July 31, 1865. The family moved to Bates County, Missouri, to Saline County, Nebraska and then in 1874 they moved to Red Willow County.

William died July 3, 1911, north of Danbury and his burial was in the Hamburg Cemetery on July 4, 1911. His wife Lavina had died in 1867 at Bates County, Missouri.

#### Wife of EDWARD RICHMOND

#### SADIE CUMMING

was born near Keithsburg, Illinois. She came with her parents to Nebraska in 1875 and settled on a homestead near Lebanon. She was truly a child of the frontier, living most of her life in Red Willow County. In 1892, she was married to Edward Richmond and to this union one son, Everett, and two daughters Edith and Daisy, were born. She had the misfortune to lose her helpmate in 1900 when Mr. Richmond contracted a lung infection. In 1905 she was married to J. W. Adkins, and to this union three daughters, Minnie, Rosa and Lela, and one son, Bruce, were born. For over eleven years she was in very poor health and had been in a sanitorium most of this time. She passed away August 5, 1935 in Hastings, Nebraska. Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 7, 1935 and she was buried near the side of her first husband, Edward Richmond, in the Tyrone Cemetery.

#### EARL HOMER RIDNOUR

was born March 1, 1880 at Boone, Iowa to John W. and Clara Ridnour. At the age of two, his parents moved to Berkley, Iowa. Then in 1887, the family moved to Trenton, Nebraska and from there, in 1891 the moved to Palisade, Nebraska. Earl graduated from the Palisade schools and later attended the University of Nebraska for two years. He had a flare for athletics and went out for track. He was regarded as one of the Cornhusker dashers and quarter milers. After leaving college he was associated with his father in the mercantile business at Palisade until 1907, when he struck out on his own as the proprietor of a piano and music store in that town. In 1920 he came to McCook with the same sort of business, broadening his original lines to include radios and other home furnishings. He was married to Anitta Sweney at Shenandoah, Iowa in December 1904, and they were the parents of three daughters: Vivian, Virginia and Pauline. He was a member of the Elk's Lodge and the A.O.U.W. and the Congregational Church. He suffered a heart attack, Tuesday, January 2, 1934 which caused his death, and his funeral was held Thursday, January 4, 1934 here in McCook.

#### ADOLF FRED RIESCHICK

was born February 22, 1842 in Kemberg, Saxony, Germany. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church when a youth. He with a brother and sister left Germany on June 10, 1857 and arrived in Buffalo-

New York on September 26, 1857. He came to Richardson County, Nebraska in June 1858. Adolf worked for the surveyors, carrying chain and flag, to plat the town of Arago. He enlisted in 1861 in the Home Guard in Missouri and was mustered into active service on February 27, 1862. He re-enlisted in Company B, 4th. Missouri Calvary for three years. After he was mustered out at the end of the War, he took an eighty acre farm. On October 18, 1868 he was united in marriage to Louise Hoppe and to this union six children were born. His wife died in 1879, and with his two daughters, he came to Red Willow County in September 1879. He filed on a homestead and pre-emption on land a few miles west of McCook and lived there until March 1, 1920. He sold his land and the family moved to McCook. He passed away on Saturday, October 26, 1929 at his home in McCook and was buried Monday, October 28, 1929 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

#### CHARLES DAVID RITCHIE

was born August 24, 1879 at North Bend, Nebraska. In his boyhood days around North Bend he was the town "herd boy" for a long time. A number of North Bend residents kept cows for the family milk supply and it was his duty to round them up from various back yards each morning and drive them back to pasture, returning them to their stalls in the evening. He also clerked for a time in a general store. He graduated from the North Bend High School, attended the Fremont Normal (now Midland College) for a year and studied another year at Monmouth College at Monmouth, Illinois. He received his B.A. Degree from the University of Nebraska in 1903 and his L.L.B. in 1905, coming to McCook the same year to go to work in the law office of W. S. Morlan. Later he became a partner in the law firm of Morlan, Richie and Wolff. Still later, the firm included only Mr. Ritchie and F. L. Wolff, who became eventually a member of the State Supreme Court Commission. From 1918 on he maintained his own office. He was married to Lila Legore on June 10, 1908 and they were the parents of one son, Robert. Mr. Ritchie was City Attorney for two years and County Attorney for three terms starting in 1911. One of his most famous cases was the conviction of Bert M. Davis for the murder of his wife. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club and served as its president, the McCook Chamber of Commerce, and the Methodist Church. During his university career he was identified with Alpha Theta Chi, Phi Delta Phi, Theta Kappa Nu, and Phi Beta Kappa. He also was

a charter member of the Innocents, Senior Society. Charles passed away at Columbus, Nebraska on December 8, 1940 and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on December 11, 1940.

#### JOSIAH B. ROSHONG

served during the Civil War with Company D, One Hundred Forty-second Ohio Infantry.

On Monday, January 26, 1903, while crossing the repair track near the round house, he was run over by the cars and switch engine which was pushing a string of box cars. Mr. Roshong, who was quite deaf, stepped on the track in front of the cars and before they could be stopped, he was run over, two cars passing over him. He was taken to the freight room of the Depot and made as comfortable as possible. After medical assistance was given, he was moved to the home of J. E. Tirrill where he died on Tuesday, January 27, 1903. His funeral was Thursday, January 29, 1903, under the auspices of the G.A.R. and he was buried in the Riverview Cemetery.

#### JOHN W. ROWLAND

was born August 22, 1833 in Jefferson County, Ohio. On December 27, 1857 he was united in marriage to Amanda Johnson in Washington County, Ohio, where they lived until 1885. He enlisted in Company E, Fifty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry on November 3, 1861 and served until November 17, 1864 when he was discharged. The family moved to Red Willow County in the early days and have resided here since. He died at his home in east McCook on Tuesday, November 25, 1913 and was buried Friday, November 28, 1913 in the Riverview Cemetery. Of the four children that were born to this family, two sons and one daughter were survivors.

#### CHARLES H. RUSSELL

was born August 13, 1848 at Woodstock, Illinois. At the age of twenty-one, he was united in marriage to Jennie C. Given and to this union were born four children, three daughters and one son. He spent his early days in active service for the McCormick Harvester Company, now known as the International Harvester Company. He came to Nebraska in 1879 and located on the Beaver Valley, and made that his home for several years. In 1886, he moved to Indianola where he was engaged in the implement business, and was actively engaged in the implement and the automobile business until his death. He was a member of

the Masonic Lodge, the Woodmen and the Workman Lodges. Surviving him were two children, Cora A., and Leon A. He passed away in his home in Indianola on Sunday, August 1, 1926. His funeral was held on Wednesday, August 4, 1926 and he was buried in the Indianola Cemetery with the Masonic Lodge in charge of the burial.

#### WILLIAM OSCAR RUSSELL

was born in Webster City, Iowa on September 7, 1858 to John Cole Russell and Mary Angelina Prime. He came with his parents to Edison, Nebraska in 1873, the year of the Indian Massacre at Trenton.

He and his mother cared for a wounded Indian squaw on her return home. They were frightened but made friends iwth the Indians.

In 1873, at the age of 15, he carried the mail from Edison to Culbertson by horseback and later with a spring wagon.

While on this route he encountered a bad storm between Edison and Indianola and was afraid he wouldn't make it to Bucks at the Willow, but although it took longer, he made it safely to this point. At times he carried passengers also.

In 1888, William was elected sheriff of Red Willow County, during the turbulent times of horse thieves and cattle rustlers. At one time he had to travel to Hitchcock County to capture a horse thief. After arresting the convict he had to keep him in the home, since there were no jails in Red Willow County at that time. To quell the fears of the family, he handcuffed and shackled him to the bed for the night, and the following day took him to Lincoln.

The CB&Q Railroad had a strike while Russell was in office and he was supposed to not let any trains move. The engineer was on the engine ready to pull out of the station when Sheriff Russell said "Billy, don't you move that train." The train did not move. These were considered critical times.

He had the first livery barn in McCook and transported many Germans and Bohemians over to Herndon, Kansas. At one time a man from Herndon came to McCook and indulged in too much drink, so Sheriff Russell took care of his horses and put him in the office of the barn for the night. The man did not know to turn off the light so he put it in a drawer and closed the drawer.

Another time a fellow got too much liquor and made John Exstedt, from Sweden, get out of bed and dance while he shot at his feet. John was frightened until Russell walked in and stopped him.

Those were the Good Old Days.

William married Louise McCorkle on November 28, 1883 at Culbertson, Nebraska and they were the parents of ten children. He passed away at his home in McCook on April 8, 1925 and was buried April 10, 1925.

#### ERNEST ARTHUR RUTLEDGE

was born October 4, 1924 to Ernest Karl Rutledge and Edna Mae Graves of Brighton, Colorado. He graduated from West High School in Denver in 1942 and enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps. After an accident that rendered him a medical discharge, he worked for a time at Hill Field at Ogden, Utah, repairing air craft.

January 2, 1953 he married Lois Elaine Watson at Denver. On June 28, 1954 Cheryl Lynne Ford Rutledge passed away. She was first buried at Brighton, Colorado but since has been brought back to the Memorial Park Cemetery in McCook. Two daughters, Merrilee Dawn and Gloria Ann were born to them in Denver and a son, Ernest Craig was born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Rutledge's moved to McCook in November of 1956, after Ernest had been injured. Since that time he has been accountant for the Kugler Oil Company in Culbertson, the first business manager for the McCook City Schools and is now the Regional Director for 17 counties, for the mentally handicapped.

Ernest is a graduate of Oklahoma University with a Master of Arts Degree in Human Relations.

He is a member of, and has served as head of, all the Masonic bodies in McCook, Tehama Shrine of Hastings and the Order of the Eastern Star, where he has been Worthy Patron and is presently organist. He was Rainbow Dad for the McCook Assembly #11 Order of Rainbow for Girls and was instrumental in organizing and was the first chairman of the board for DeMolay for Boys. He is also a member of the Elk's Lodge, National Rehabilitation Association, Council for Administrators of Special Education Programs, American Management Association, and has been listed in the Biographical listings of Personalities of the West and Mid-West Community Leaders of America and the Dictionary of International Biography. He was appointed by Governor Exon, to the Governor's Committee on Retardation. Is on two national committees of the National Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, a consultant on the Westman Project at Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, and a member of the United Methodist Church where he worked for many years with the youth.

Wife of ERNEST A. RUTLEDGE

LOIS ELAINE WATSON

was born August 10, 1933 to Harold Kenneth Watson and Edna Mae Whitten at the Whitten homestead in Saunders County, Nebraska.

Lois grew up in Cambridge where her parents operated a hatchery for 18 years. She graduated from the McCook High School in 1952 and furthered her education at Parks School of Business in Denver, Colorado.

Lois married Fred Ford who was in the Korean War. They were the parents of one daughter, Cheryl Lynne, who died in Denver, Colorado on June 28, 1954. She was buried in the Brighton Cemetery and later brought to the Memorial Park Cemetery in McCook.

Lois married Ernest Arthur Rutledge on January 2, 1953 in Denver, Colorado. Two daughters, Merrilee Dawn and Gloria Ann were born there. After Mr. Rutledge had been transferred to Salt Lake City, Utah, a son, Ernest Craig, was born.

Following an accident which rendered Mr. Rutledge unable to work for several months, they moved to McCook which is still their home.

Their son Craig, was killed in an auto accident in 1972 and is buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

Merrilee married Stephen LeRoy Sissel on November 30, 1974, at McCook, after attending the Nebraska University for two years. They are living in Lincoln, where Steve is an engineer for the City of Lincoln. They are the parents of a son, Eric LeRoy.

Gloria moved to Lansing, Michigan after a year at Nebraska University, where she worked as a Certified Dental Assistant for a time and then married Clifford Jerome Thelen, in Lansing on March 3, 1979. They have a dairy farm at Fowler, Michigan. Gloria and Cliff are the parents of one son, Brett Jerome.

Lois returned to the employment world in 1960 first as Clerk of the County Court. In the 16 years of her employment she worked as secretary and bookkeeper in several places of business in McCook.

She has been an active person both in civic organizations and the Methodist Church. In the Church she has been a Sunday School teacher, superintendent of the Primary Sunday School Department and has sung in the choir. She has served as president of the local Business and Professional Women's Club, an officer in the Does, is a Past Matron of Eastern Star and still holds an office, is an officer in the local Daughters of the Nile Club and is an officer in the Naamah Temple #108, Daughters of the Nile in Hastings.

Lois is interested in genealogy and is editor and publisher of the local Genealogical Society's newsletter, "Ancestors Unlimited". Her interest in this line is what has prompted her present assistance in the publication of this book.

She has been known for her sewing arts in both clothes for her family and in the crafts, as she makes many things for her home, family and especially her grandchildren as well as the things she makes to support the Shriners Crippled Children's Hospitals.

McDONALD RYAN

was born near Danbury, Nebraska on March 8, 1891, the son of Charles Ryan and Isa M. Bennett. He attended the Danbury school taking the grades offered at that time. Because he wanted more education than the Danbury public school offered, he also attended the Wilsonville and Beaver City schools.

He graduated from the Beaver City School in 1910 and then entered upon a career of teaching at Sunflower School near Wilsonville. After teaching there a year, he decided to still further his education and attended Cotner University at Lincoln. He went on from there to medical school at the Chicago School of Medicine and Surgery.

After securing his Nebraska license to practice medicine and surgery in this state, he returned to his hometown of Danbury to practice. He soon built up an extensive and successful clientele demonstrating that it is possible for a young doctor to make good in a small town community.

Throughout his school life he not only made excellent marks in his studies but demonstrated his superior skill in athletic contests. Dr. Ryan later became very popular in the hearts and affections of his associates and patients and young and old alike in the territory lovingly referred to him as "Our Doctor".

Dr. Ryan offered his services to his country during World War I and was commissioned a first lieutenant and later promoted to captain in the medical corps. He was attached to the Air Force.

After the war he returned to his family and practice in Danbury. After a severe case of pneumonia in the winter, and being a patient in the McCook Hospital, had returned home and resumed his practice. But evidently had not recovered sufficiently from the disease, and as a result of the strain, his practice caused on his body, died of heart trouble on

Sunday, April 12, 1931. Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 15, 1931. The high school auditorium was used for the services and it was taxed to overflowing by his many friends coming to pay their last tributes. Delegates from the local American Legion Post and Masonic Lodge attended the funeral. He was buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery.

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### WILBER FISH SAUNDER

was born in Knox County, Missouri in 1840. He served in the Southern Forces in the Civil War. Wilber married Mary A. Weekly on April 21, 1868 and they were the parents of one daughter, Mrs. William Schaaf, and two sons Charles W. and Thomas M. After the death of his first wife he was married to Isabel Mason who died on December 22, 1899. They were the parents of one daughter, Mrs. John H. Rush. He died near Pilger, Nebraska on Sunday, September 5, 1920 and was buried at Valley, Nebraska.

### PERLEE W. SCOTT

was born near Kirksville, Iowa on July 14, 1860. Leaving the farm of his father when he was 13 years old, Mr. Scott taught in Iowa and Missouri rural schools for three years. He took his slim earnings and entered Parsons College, in Fairfield, Iowa to study law. In 1885, he moved to Minden, Nebraska and there read law in the office of J. L. McPheely, and passed the bar examinations under the well known Judge Gaslin in 1886. In 1887 he moved to Imperial, Nebraska, where he opened his own office. He practiced law continuously till the time of his death. He was County Attorney of Chase County for twenty years, a member of the Imperial school board for fifteen years, and served as chairman of the Village Board (Mayor) at Imperial for twelve years. He served in the State Legislature from 1925-1932. State Senator Scott's tireless efforts in behalf of Junior College legislation was rewarded in 1931, when his bill passed both houses. The pen with which Governor Charles W. Bryan signed this bill, was presented to the McCook Junior College at the opening convocation by Senator Scott. He came to McCook with his son, Roland, in July 1920 to open a law office. On Wednesday, February 8, 1933 he suffered a stroke which caused his death at the home of his son. Funeral services were held in the McCook Methodist Church and he was buried in the Imperial Cemetery, beside the remains of his wife who had died in 1917. He was survived by

his sons: Roland and Judd, and a daughter Coryl. besides being a prominent member of the Southwestern Nebraska Bar Association, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Odd Fellow Lodge, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

### ROLAND SCOTT

was born October 3, 1893 to Perlee W. Scott at Imperial, Chase County, Nebraska. After attending Imperial High School for two years, he completed his preparatory work at the Hastings Academy and then attended Hastings College graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1916. He graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1920, after a year of delay because of his service in the Army. Serving overseas during the war, he was one of the three hundred or so officers and noncoms who met in a theater in Paris and drafted the original plans for an organization of former soldiers to endure in peacetime and become a mighty factor in America. Mr. Scott was sent to that meeting as a delegate from his unit then in officers' training at Langres, France. His term of service abroad was served as a member of Company C, 339th Machine Gun Battalion, which was in support behind the infantry at St. Mihiel and moved later to the Lorraine sector. Upon his return to the States, he served as a member of the temporary national committee for the permanent organization of the American Legion. On July 1920, he was united in marriage to Octavia E. Pickett, a former Hastings girl, at Manila, Phillipines. Her father was engaged in hemp processing in the Phillipines. The Scott's were the parents of three children: John, Mary and Charlotte.

Roland was very active in both social and civic affairs. He served as Mayor of McCook during the 1924-26 term. He was a member of the local Masonic Lodge, the Methodist Church, once served as district trustee of the Kiwanis Club, and was Commander of the Chris Hansen Post of the American Legion in 1922. During his university career, he was a member of the Delta Chi Fraternity. He suffered a stroke, Monday October 22, 1934, which caused his death here in McCook. Funeral services were held in the Methodist Church on Wednesday, October 24, 1934, and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

### ENOCH A. SEXSON

was born in Burlington, Iowa on November 2, 1841. He enlisted on September 25, 1861 and served in Company