

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

D, Fourth Regular Iowa Cavalry, for three years. He was discharged at Vicksburg, Mississippi and re-enlisted for the remainder of the war, receiving his discharge as sergeant of Company D., Fourth Iowa Cavalry on August 8, 1865 at Atlanta, Georgia. During his service he was engaged in sixty-two battles. After the war he located in western Iowa. In April 1886, he moved to Omaha, Nebraska. On December 25, 1867 he was married to Minnie Ireland, to which three children were born. He filed on a homestead in York County, Nebraska in 1872 and in 1888 moved to Box Elder and in 1915 to Indianola. He was married again to Sarah L. Blackmore, who died in 1901. In 1903 he married Mary A. Albertson, who died in August 1916. He was a member of the Methodist Church, the Masonic Order, the Odd Fellows, and of the G.A.R. Post. He was active in public affairs since he came to this county. He died at his home in Indianola on Thursday, January 16, 1921 and was buried in the Indianola Cemetery. He was survived by one son.

#### ISAAC NEWTON SHEPHERD

was born February 5, 1839 in Putnam County, Iowa. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company F, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry. He served for three years with the Union Army. He was married to Sarah M. and they were the parents of two daughters and five sons. In 1879 he, with his family, moved to southwestern Nebraska where he took a homestead on Spring Creek. About 1895 the Shepherds moved to McCook. He passed away at his home in McCook on Wednesday, July 29, 1925 and on Thursday, July 30, 1925 was buried in the Riverview Cemetery. Members of the American Legion acted as pallbearers with a small number of the local G.A.R. Post, which he was a member, in attendance.

#### WILLIAM CLINTON SHOCKLEY

was born October 14, 1837 in Indiana to Elijah Shockley and Martha Hood. When quite small, he moved with his parents to Keokuk County, Indiana. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company F., Fifth Iowa Infantry. He enlisted later in Company G., Fifth Iowa Cavalry. He came to Red Willow County in the early 1870's. He was married to Sarah A. Rouse on August of 1878 in Red Willow County. To this union one daughter-Hattie was born. After many months of illness, he quietly passed away on the Shockley farm, a few miles northwest of Marion on Saturday, November 16, 1918. He was buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery.

#### ALBERT SIGWING

was born March 7, 1890 in Rawlins County, Kansas to George Washington Sigwing and Nancy Ann Shaffer. When he was four, his parents moved to Red Willow County and he lived near and in McCook until recent years. Until 1917, he lived on a farm or ranch, and so felt himself fully qualified to understand the agriculturist. In 1917-after moving from the farm, he was connected with the Farmers Equity Exchange, in the capacity of manager. He was very active in all movements for the extension of the Equity program, assisting in the conducting meetings of the national body here and helping to get the farmers band together more closely. After working for the Equity, he moved to Benkelman, Nebraska. He was married on January 3, 1916 to Iva Mae Wagy, who was born on her father's homestead and lived all of her life in Red Willow County. They were the parents of two sons: Orval and Harold. He was a member of the A.O.U.W. and the Kiwanis Club. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. Albert died on Friday, February 29, 1980 at the Dundy County Hospital in Benkelman and was buried in the Benkelman Cemetery on Monday, March 3, 1980.

#### SOREN SIMONSEN

was born in Lemvig in the province of Jutland, Denmark, on April 29, 1855. He was educated in the schools of his native province, and was apprenticed as a wheelwright to his father, under whom he learned his trade. As a young man of twenty, he sailed for America. He located at Racine, Wisconsin, where he was employed for four years in a plant which later became part of the Fisher Body Corporation. He migrated to Nebraska in 1879 and settled on a homestead about two and one-half miles northeast of where Danbury now stands. On June 8, 1884 at Indianola, Nebraska, he was united in marriage to Antonette Hansen, and to this union five sons were born: Warren E., Alton P., Carl E., Ralph E. and Odell K. He had long been a faithful member of the Danbury Congregational Church. He was also one of the very early members of the local Masonic Lodge, and had served in various official lodge capacities at different times during a continuous membership of over fifty years. He, in the company with Judd Remington, and Charley Ryan were honored by the Grand Lodge and awarded a gold medal in recognition of fifty years of faithful, loyal service to Masonry. He had been in failing health for the last few years, and passed

away at his home in Danbury on Friday, November 29, 1940. Funeral services were held at the Danbury Congregational Church on Sunday, December 1, 1940.

#### CHARLES SKALLA

was born September 13, 1877 in the village of Wid-hostiz, near Potsdam, Sudetenland, now part of Czechoslovakia. He came to America with his parents and sister in June of 1889. He reached Indianola in September and had lived in Red Willow County since. He farmed in Bondville precinct until he was thirty. He first entered municipal work in 1907, when he was elected to the position of Red Willow County Clerk. He served four years in that office. Later he worked for the Burlington Railroad as a ticket clerk. In March of 1935, he was appointed McCook City Clerk, to fill the unexpired term of B. J. Lane. After that, he was re-elected seven consecutive times. He was never opposed for the office. In 1946, he was made president of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. In 1948 he was forced to resign as city clerk because of ill health. He was elected to the McCook City Council, and his last night on earth was spent attending a four and one-quarter hour city council meeting. He passed away on Wednesday, June 28, 1950 at his home in McCook. His funeral was held in the St. Patrick's Church and he was buried in the Calvary Cemetery at McCook on Friday, June 30, 1950.

#### LLOYD SLAUTER

was born July 27, 1891 at Terre Haute, Indiana, and grew to manhood at that place. In 1913, he was united in marriage to Emma B. Smith at North Platte, Nebraska, and they made their home at Shenandoah, Iowa. In 1917 they moved to McCook, where he was employed by the Fallick's Bakery. In 1919 he purchased the bakery from the senior Fallick and three years later sold the establishment to Stanley Fallick, a son of the original owner. Lloyd then established another bakery across Main Street, which he operated until his death. He was a member of the Elk's Lodge, the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club. He passed away in his home in McCook on Thursday, February 18, 1943 and was buried on February 20, 1943 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

#### HOWE SMITH

was born in Windsor, Boone County, New York on April 14, 1852. He went with his parents to Ohio, then in 1854 they took a boat at Cincinnati, and went down the Ohio River to Covington, Kentucky. In 1856 they

came up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Sioux City, Iowa. There on March 26, 1877 he was married to Susan Walker. In the late 1870's they went to the State of Kansas and to this part of Nebraska in the early 1880's. Here he engaged largely in the business of locating settlers. A monument to his work is the town of Imperial. When in the company of a party of landseekers, who wished to establish a county seat town, Mr. Smith located the present site of Imperial in 1885 and a year later the town was incorporated. He was also engaged in farming and carpenter work. In 1900 he accepted the position of janitor at the old frame school building that stood on the site of Central School. Before Mr. Smith became a janitor, he was a teacher. He taught for twenty years, beginning in Iowa when but sixteen. But finally making up his mind, when teaching in the Banksville School, that he wasn't doing a very good job, so he quit. He was a janitor for over thirty-seven years. On Tuesday, January 4, 1938 while working at the High School, he fell from a ladder and died the next day, Wednesday, January 5, 1938. He was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on Sunday, January 9, 1938. In his work he served under six superintendents; George H. Thomas, Charles W. Taylor, W. T. Davis, J. H. True, J. C. Mitchell and Jess Shedd. He had also seen some thirty-six classes graduate and was remembered by all former students.

#### Wife of HOWE SMITH

#### SUSAN ELIZABETH WALKER

was born in Clayton County, Iowa on August 15, 1844. She grew to womanhood in Clayton County and was married to Howe Smith on March 26, 1877. From Iowa, she moved with her husband to McCook, Nebraska in September 1884, where she made her home until death, with the exception of five years which were spent on a homestead twenty miles southwest of McCook. She was a member of the Methodist Church. Her death came on April 4, 1925 in McCook, and her body was laid to rest in the Longview Cemetery.

#### Wife of JOSEPH SMITH

#### SARAH JANE KENT

was born February 12, 1848 at Keen, Ohio. She was married to Joseph Smith on April 9, 1868 at Coshocton, Ohio. She was the mother of four children. Her husband died on April 29, 1912. Since 1916 she resided with her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Moss, in McCook, where she died on Monday May 16, 1921. Her funeral was

held in McCook on Tuesday, May 17, 1921 and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

#### THOMAS JAMES SMITH

was born July 27, 1846 in east Hamburg, Erie County, New York. His parents moved to Bellevue, Nebraska when he was a child and he grew to manhood in what was then a thriving little river-front village. At the age of fifteen, he became a member of an exploring party which pushed across the dry, dusty plains of Nebraska and eastern Colorado, to near the foot of the Rockies, only fifteen miles from where Denver stands. The party turned back, after some of the members became sick and discouraged. When the Civil War broke out, he left home with two young companions to enlist in the army at Davenport, Iowa. At the age of sixteen, he enlisted as a drummer in the Fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Later he served with Company F of the Thirteenth United States Infantry, at which time was under the command of Colonel William T. Sherman, who later became famous for his March to the Sea. Another man in this regiment who was to become famous was Phil Sheridan, then a ranking Captain in the First Battalion. When the War ended, he was ordered to the detachment, which took Georgia's Governor Brown to Washington, D. C. as a federal prisoner. After being mustered out he learned the printing trade. He was working for the Chicago Tribune at the time of the 1871 fire, he was one of the compositors who set by hand, the news account of the "Chicago Fire". He also worked on the Chicago Journal and Evening Post. After working for various newspapers in Iowa, he came to Nebraska in 1878. He first located in Knox County where he founded the Knox County News. He disposed of his interests in the paper in 1879 and moved to O'Neil, where he established the first newspaper in Holt County, The Holt County Record. In 1882 they moved to the end of the Elkhorn Valley Railroad at Long Pine, Nebraska, where Mr. Smith founded the Long Pine News. As the road advanced he moved his paper ten miles west, locating at what is now Ainsworth, known then as Bone Creek. There he became interested in the organization of Brown County, which now comprises Polk, Keya Paha and Brown Counties. He started the first paper in Keya Paha County and subsequently founded the first paper in Sioux County, at Harrison. He later returned to Ainsworth and founded the Ainsworth Star, later consolidating it with the Journal. He owned and operated the paper until 1894. They moved to Cripple

Creek, Colorado, then a colorful center of mining activities, and of approximately 150 lurid gambling dens, and joined the search for gold. After an attack of Mountain Fever, he founded one of the three daily newspapers in the busy town, conducting it until his plant was destroyed by the second great Cripple Creek fires, in 1896. They came to McCook in 1897 and ran a short order house on lower Main Street for many years. He was an active member of the J. K. Barnes Post G.A.R. and was Commander of the Post for several years. In 1928 he served as the State Adjutant and on May 1929 was elected as Department Commander of the Nebraska G.A.R. He also was an aide to the National Commander, L. F. Arensberg. He died in Lincoln, Nebraska on Sunday morning, April 23, 1933, after a brief illness. His body was returned to McCook for burial. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, with military honors given him by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was laid to rest by the side of his first wife in Memorial Park. He was survived by his second wife and three daughters: Mrs. F. A. Pennell, Mrs. Jeannette Petty, and Mrs. H. H. Miller.

#### WILLIAM HENRY SMITH

was born June 2, 1838 at Mentor, Lake County, Ohio, the son of Horatio Nelson Smith and Adelia Claugh. His parents and older brother were born in the State of New York. The Smith family settled in St. Joseph County, Michigan, where 5 more children were born to them.

William enrolled in the Civil War on August 24, 1861 serving three years in Company C., 11th Michigan Infantry and was discharged on September 30, 1864 at Sturgis, Michigan as a corporal.

After the War, he met and married 16 year old Emma Severance on March 12, 1867 in Cass County, Michigan. Two of their daughters were born to them while living in Michigan, Cora on April 28, 1868 and Minnie on April 4, 1871.

In 1873 he and his new family, with his wife's parents, and other family members moved to Iowa, living for a time both in Benton County and Buena Vista County. While there another daughter, Vida, made her appearance on May 7, 1875.

The families left Iowa for the newly opened State of Nebraska. After a short stop-over at Beatrice and Barnston, where some of the group settled, William and his family along with his wife's parents, Betsy and John Kiler, moved on farther west to stake home-

stead claims.

They moved as far as Culbertson which had been established as a county seat of Hitchcock County. John Kiler had one of his favorite horses stolen while there. Not finding anything to their liking and wanting to be nearer the railroad, they pulled back about 12 miles, staking claims on the north bank of the Republican River, just east of where a postoffice, named Fairview was soon to be established. The Kilers sold their claim and moved back to Barnston, Nebraska.

William granted a Right of Way Deed through his land to the Republican Valley Railroad Company on December 15, 1880. In May of 1882 he sold 80 acres of his claim to the Lincoln Land Company and the balance in January 1885. The race track was later located on his original homestead.

After selling his first claim he homesteaded land south of McCook under the Pre-Emption Act, where he raised his family. Three new members had been added since their arrival in Red Willow County, a daughter Iva, on March 13, 1882, a son Clare, on April 22, 1884 and a daughter Bessie, on September 29, 1888.

His only son Clare, a bright young lad of a little over four summers died on October 28, 1888 of typhoid fever, with a brain complication.

His daughter Cora married Charles H. Angell on March 27, 1889, Minnie married William W. Miller on September 17, 1894, Iva married Ernest F. Markwad on March 8, 1904, Vida married Roy Lafferty on January 1, 1908 and their youngest, Bessie, married Charles Markwad.

He and his wife Emma, retired to a small acreage north of McCook, where Bill, as he was called, loved to visit with his G.A.R. friends hashing over war stories. His favorite being "The Battle of Chichamuga".

Bill and his wife were members of the Baptist Church.

William Henry Smith passed away September 27, 1912 at the age of 74, at the home of his daughter, Bessie Markwad.

Wife of WILLIAM H. SMITH  
EMMA SEVERANCE

was born April 4, 1871 at Prairie De Chun, Wisconsin, the daughter of Benjamin Franklin Severance and Betsy Britton Severance.

Her father died on the way home from the Civil War of "lung fever". Her mother Betsy, was born on January 7, 1825 at Steubenville, Ohio, the daughter

of Alexander Britton. After the death of her husband, Betsy remarried John Kiler. The Kilers, after selling their claim in Red Willow County, spent the rest of their days at Barnston, Nebraska where they are buried.

Emma was the mother of six children. She passed away, after an illness of several weeks, on Saturday, May 18, 1929 at the age of 78 years, at the home of her daughter Cora Angell. Her funeral was held on Sunday, May 19, 1929 and she was buried in the River-view Cemetery, beside the remains of her husband.

WILLIAM HENRY SMITH

was born in Switzerland County, Indiana on June 18, 1842. At the age of twelve, his family moved to Missouri, where he grew to manhood. When nineteen years of age, he enlisted in the Union Army, and served his Country faithfully and well until the end of the Civil War, almost five years. He was commissioned a lieutenant in Company E., Twenty-first Missouri Volunteer Infantry. After his honorable discharge he attended business college in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1870, he was united in marriage to Sarah Jane Kerr at Bible Grove, Missouri. To this union six children were born; three girls and three boys. In 1880, the family moved to Nebraska, settling on a homestead south of Indianola, where they lived for over thirty years. He served as postmaster of Indianola for four years, and was also in the furniture business. He was a member of the Methodist Church and was active in the Church. He also was a member of the local G.A.R. Post. He died on Sunday, April 24, 1921 at Indianola, and was buried in the Cedar Grove Cemetery at Indianola, Nebraska on Wednesday, April 27, 1921. He was survived by his daughters: Mrs. I. S. Walker, Mrs. B. T. Hutcheson and Mrs. V. H. McCarrick, and sons; Robert E., Benjamin H., and Arthur W.; a sister, Mrs. Simeon Skinner and a brother, Isaac M. Smith.

Wife of I. W. SPAULDING

HARRIET ELMIRA McCLELLAN

was born in 1856 near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. She came west with her parents in her youth and they settled at Brush Creek, Iowa. She was married there to I. W. Spaulding. Mr. Spaulding came to this county, and filed on a homestead in Box Elder precinct. Mrs. Spaulding and her little son, James, joined him in 1879, coming to Plum Creek on the railroad and from there overland via Arapahoe to the homestead. Her husband passed away in 1924. Harriet passed away at

the home of her daughter, Mrs. Madge Stephens, in McCook on Sunday, December 4, 1932, and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on Tuesday, December 6, 1932. She was survived by her sons: Claude and James I., and her daughter, Maude.

#### FRANK H. SPEARMAN

was born in 1859 at Buffalo, New York. He moved to Appleton, Wisconsin and attended Lawrence College. In 1885, he was married to Eugenia Loneragan, a member of a prominent Chicago family. He was an early settler in McCook, coming here in 1887, and was engaged in the banking business until he left in 1894. He and members of the family, were heavily interested in McCook real estate. After leaving McCook he resided for several years in Chicago, but eventually moved to Hollywood, California. He was a noted author. Among the more than twenty novels he wrote was "Carmen", his last and the one he was most famous for was "Whispering Smith". He stated that the characters in much of his earlier literary works were taken from McCook and the vicinity. Several of his books were filmed and have been presented all over the English speaking world. He held honorary Doctor of Law Degrees from Notre Dame and Santa Clara Universities. He also was awarded the Laetere Medal from Notre Dame. He passed away from a stomach ailment in Los Angeles, California in December of 1937.

#### WILLIAM GEORGE SPRINGER

was born December 24, 1869 in Pilot township, Iowa County, Iowa to John C. and Maggie E. Springer. He received his early education in the county of his birth. He completed the course at the high school in Marengo, Iowa. He later attended a business school at Des Moines, Iowa, and did his collegiate work at Drake University. His vocation was banking. His first employment in that business was in Williamsburg, Iowa in 1893. In 1894 he became connected with a small bank in Oxford, Nebraska, which his efforts built into one of the strongest financial institutions in Furnas County. In 1920, he was elected as cashier of the First National Bank of McCook, a position that he held at the time of his death. He was married to A. Belle Harrod at Des Moines, Iowa on January 10, 1894, and they were the parents of four children. He was a member of the Disciples of Christ, the Masonic Lodge A.F.&A.M., charter member of the Rotary Club and at one time it's president, served on the Y.M.C.A. Board and on the McCook School Board, and also was active in the Chamber of Commerce,

and the Junior College. He passed away at the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota on June 22, 1932, while undergoing treatments. His remains were returned to McCook, and his funeral was held on June 25, 1932 at the Congregational Church, and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and one son, Merlin L. and one daughter Willa Belle.

#### FRANCIS M. STEELE

was born in Stanton, Illinois on September 14, 1866. He began his career as a photographer in 1880 under G. T. Atkinson of Kansas City, Missouri. In 1891 he located in Dodge City, Kansas and from then until 1897 he traveled over the panhandle country taking pictures of round-up day herds, trail outfits, and old ranches. At one time, he made a picture of the X.I.T. herd of 15,000 cattle. In 1901, Mr. Steele covered the registration and drawing of the opening of the Kiowa and Comanche country in Oklahoma, photographing the events leading up to the opening and the actual taking of land by the settlers. Eight years later, he made a great many photos for the Sugar Beet Company of Holly, Colorado. During the year of 1910, the Kansas-Colorado Electric Power Company asked him to make a number of photographs, and the job of taking pictures for the Sante Fe Railway of the Arkansas Valley in Colorado fell to Steele. The latter pictures were used in the National Irrigation Congress held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Pueblo flood was recorded in 1920, pictures showing the devastation and conditions of the town following the flood of the Arkansas River. In 1917, he enlisted for photographic work in the Army for the period of the World War I, and served for several years in that capacity, making a number of pictures for the government during his time of enlistment. In 1927, he moved to McCook, where he set up his studio. Outside of his studio work, he has taken few pictures, and his entire stock of pictures were on hand and he was working to organize them for display in 1931.

#### JACOB STEINMETZ

was born in New York City, New York on November 5, 1840. During the Civil War he served in one of the Ohio regiments. In 1872 he came to Nebraska and settled in Sutton. He was married to Minnie Flack in 1878 at Sutton, Nebraska. They were the parents of five girls and one boy. The family came to McCook in 1888, where he had been appointed receiver in the Land Office. After being in failing health for some

time, he died on Thursday morning, October 3, 1912. He was buried in the Riverview Cemetery on October 5, 1912, under the auspices of the G.A.R. Post.

#### JOSEPH HENRY STEPHENS

was born January 26, 1850 at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was united in marriage in 1872 at Vinton, Iowa to Anna Churchill Kimball, and they were the parents of six daughters and one son. In 1884, they came to Nebraska, and homesteaded ten miles north of Bartley. In 1890 they moved to Bartley, where he was engaged in the insurance business for two years. In 1892, he moved to McCook and entered business there. At one time he was the manager of the Palmer Hotel, later called the Congress Hotel, when it was the leading hotel in town. He also operated a restaurant. He was Mayor of McCook for two terms, 1908 & 1909. In 1923 he retired from business. After being sick for several months, he passed away in McCook on Wednesday, December 14, 1933.

#### JAMES STEPHENSON

was born in 1842 in Missouri, and with his parents came to Nebraska at the age of seven. During the Civil War, he fought at the battles of Gettysburg and Chickamauga. Following the Civil War, he was a surveyor for the government, and was said to have been one of the men to survey the site of the town of McCook. He passed away in Denver, Colorado on Friday, April 13, 1928, following an operation for appendicitis. Burial was held in McCook, following the funeral services by the G.A.R. Post in Denver. He was survived by one daughter, Mrs. M. S. Jimmer-son.

#### ISSAC WHEELER STEVENS

was born on March 15, 1840 at Montreal, Canada. He enlisted in the Civil War on December 18, 1861 and was mustered out of service in August of 1864. He was married on May 5, 1866 to Margaret J. Briggs at Galesburg, Illinois. They were the parents of six children: two daughters, Nellie and Carrie; and four sons, Frank S., J. F., Bert, and Arthur. The family moved to Nebraska and first settled in Arapahoe, later they moved to Bartley. He passed away Friday, March 2, 1923 at his home in Bartley. His funeral was held on Sunday, March 4, 1923 and he was buried in the Bartley Cemetery.

#### WADE STEVENS

was born July 10, 1896 at the home of his grandparents, John and Susan Wade, on a farm 5 miles southwest of Beaver City, Nebraska. Wade's father, John Stevens, Jr., was engaged in the practice of law in Arapahoe at the time, having come with his parents to Nebraska in 1878.

Many of Wade's summers as a child were spent on the farm of his grandfather Stevens, north of Edison, Nebraska.

In 1908 the family moved to Beaver City. The family consisted of Wade, Wayne, Constance, Blanche and Verna.

Wade graduated from High School in May of 1914. Following graduation his uncle, Will Anderson, who was General Passenger Agent for the Pacific Electric Railway in Long Beach, California, offered him a job. During the summer the Jitneys came into being. There were no regulations at that time and they delivered passengers anywhere in the city for five cents. This made a situation whereby it was impossible for the streetcars to compete. Consequently, Wade's job was terminated and he returned to Beaver City. He took a job teaching school in Gosper County, Nebraska, some 25 miles from his home. He rode a bicycle home on the weekends. He was getting \$50 a month which included teaching 9th grade. During Christmas vacation the Furnas County Superintendent told him that he badly needed a teacher for a school south of Holbrook. His inducement was an increase in salary to \$55 per month. That was the highest salary paid a rural teacher in the county. What he had neglected to tell Wade was that the former teacher had been "run out" by some rather large boys. But the pupils and Wade got along well and it was several weeks before he heard of the trouble. He continued in that school another year and was raised to a salary of \$60. He purchased a used Harley-Davidson one cylinder belt drive motorcycle, which enabled him to get back and forth under more satisfactory conditions. At the end of the term he was offered a teaching position in the Beaver City school which he accepted.

In April, 1917, the United States entered World War I and he decided to join the Air Force and upon inquiry was informed the requirement was three years of college or its equivalent. He suggested the three years teaching experience as a substitute for college, was accepted, and he enlisted in the Army Signal Corps, which later became the Air Service, at Fort Omaha, Nebraska on June 20, 1917. He was transferred to the University of Illinois at Champaign where

he took his ground school training. Then on to Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, for flight training. Wade was one of the first 47 cadets to enter training at Kelly Field. After completing training and receiving his commission, he was one of the first three instructors assigned to Brooks Field, San Antonio, which had been under construction while he was training at Kelly.

After completing the tour of duty at Brooks Field, he was given a 30 day leave before going overseas. During this time he met Dr. Frank A. Brewster, who said he wanted to buy a plane and wanted Wade to do the flying.

Upon returning to Brooks Field he went to France on the Steamship Cedric and docked at Brest. He was sent to the Third Aviation Instruction Center at Issoudun, France, which is about 150 miles south of Paris. He was assigned to Field Five and his duties consisted of grading American pilots who were taking single seater flight instruction.

After the Armistice was signed, he was given the choice of going home or to Germany with the Army of occupation. Wade was anxious to get home having among other things, Dr. Brewster in mind, so after he arrived in New York City, he obtained his discharge from the Air Service at Garden City, Long Island, on February 7, 1919. He visited the office of the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corp. in New York and learned an airplane would be available for Dr. Brewster at a cost of \$8,000. A short time later the plane was ordered and the order confirmed on April 2, 1919 with a delivery date of about two weeks. The Doctor selected a landing field site, the first in Nebraska, and built a hangar. In due time the plane arrived on a flat car in two large boxes. These boxes were hauled to the landing field just east of Beaver City on a horse drawn dray. He had received some good training in the assembly of airplanes at Kelly Field, and with the help of a local mechanic, Jeff Bonser, who had never seen a plane, they dismantled the boxes and carefully assembled the plane. On the bright, quiet evening of May 19, 1919, the first test flight was made. On May 23, 1919, he made the first professional flight to Herndon, Kansas, where the doctor had been called to attend a man who was suffering from a skull fracture which he had received while working on an oil rig.

During the summer, flights were made to several towns in the state and many passengers were taken for rides. Not long after these first flights Dr. Brewster showed Wade a telegram from the Curtiss

Aeroplane and Motor Corporation stating that his airplane was the first plane in the world purchased and used for professional purposes. It might be mentioned that the flights they were making were eight years before Lindbergh made his trans-Atlantic flight and were only 16 years after the Wright Brothers first flight.

Being anxious to get some further education, in September, 1919, Wade asked Dr. Brewster to obtain another pilot to relieve him, which he did. In fact, the doctor obtained two pilots whose names were Warren P. Kite and J. Hodgens Smith.

He decided to take a course in law at the University of Nebraska Law School in September, 1919. He registered as an adult special student. In order to obtain a degree, it was necessary to complete four years, except that by registering as an adult special, with credit for military service, the fourth year could be obtained by doing extra work, in three years thus enabling him to obtain a degree of LLB in the law school and graduate in three years, which he did.

Wade and Flora Warner were married on December 29, 1920. She then accompanied him to Lincoln where they lived from then on until his graduation in June of 1922. Their first child was born October 9, 1921, while he was attending the University, and as a baby, John Warner Stevens attended his father's graduation in June, 1922. Two daughters were born later, Kathryn Ann in September 2, 1923, and Marilyn Marie on February 28, 1926.

After graduation he joined his father, John Stevens, in the practice of law in Beaver City and was twice elected to the office of County Attorney.

During his years as County Attorney, Warren E. Tratt, "Cy", was sheriff. This was the Prohibition period when "hootch" producing stills flourished. Bootleggers flourished during this period and law enforcement officers operated despite numerous threats.

Law practice during the dust storm days of the 30's was rather depressing. One year his total income was \$1,400 which they and their three children lived on. Of course, milk was 5¢ a quart and bread was 5¢ a loaf. When the banks closed in March, 1933, he had very little cash on hand. Warner, a boy of 11 years, sensed the concern and brought forth his total assets of \$2.23 he had earned on a magazine route.

Wade moved his family to McCook in June of 1941.

About 1945 he was consulted by Elmer E. Hester regarding his desire to build an Old Peoples' Home



in Benkleman. He did not live to see this done, so after his death in 1949, Wade, along with other Board members, supervised the building of the Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home in Benkleman, Nebraska, which has been in operation ever since. Wade remained active in the management of this Home for 30 years.

For several years Wade was in the registered Hereford business, having obtained some of the breeding animals from Elmer E. Hester. In later years he was assisted by Dale F. Thompson, Lloyd Helberg and a son-in-law, Eldon Shepherd and family who still live on the farm at Perry.

During the course of his 55 years of law practice he had been fortunate to be associated with several good attorneys, in addition to his father, among them, a nephew, John Stevens Berry, Stanley R. Scott, Keith Sinor and Mike Freeman.

In 1973 the McCook Chamber of Commerce gave him a special recognition for his contributions to the community and the McCook Chamber of Commerce. He has been an active member in the Methodist Church, having been a member over 73 years. This association has resulted in his being elected as a delegate to three General Conferences at Boston, San Francisco and Denver; also Jurisdictional Conferences at El Paso, Ft. Worth, New Orleans, Wichita and Tulsa. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska Wesleyan University for several years.

Wade has been a member of the local Kiwanis Club for over 42 years was president twice, and Lt. Governor in 1964.

He was Home Service Officer of the Red Cross during the second World War, and was Regional Chairman for U. S. Savings Bonds for more than thirty years.

He has served as an appointed member of the Board of Directors of the McCook Chamber continually for nearly twenty years, and has also served as an elected member of this board. For some time he has served as legal counsel for the Chamber and his office has had the responsibility for all tax work of the Chamber. Both services have always been done without pay.

Wade and his wife were blessed with a large, wonderful family, with both the joys and sorrows related thereto. Their children, Warner, Ann and Marilyn, have provided them with 15 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

#### ROBERT R. STEWART

was born in Georgia on September 6, 1845. During the Civil War, he served with the Confederate forces,

and he was to lose his leg as the effects of a wound. He came to Nebraska and settled in Red Willow county on a homestead two miles north of McCook. On Saturday, August 4, 1894, after making arrangements for a trip to Colorado, returned to his home. Just after getting into his yard, he was seen to drop and fall from his horse to the ground. Those who had witnessed this rushed to his assistance, and carried him into his home where he died, never regaining consciousness. His funeral was held at his home and he was buried in the Longview Cemetery, with members of the G.A.R. acting as pallbearers.

#### SOLOMON W. STILGEBOUER

was born August 11, 1840 in Shelbyville, Illinois. He served in the Union Army, Company B., Fourteenth Illinois Volunteers for several months, in the early part of the Civil War, being discharged on account of typhoid fever, the effects which he never fully outlived. He was married to Elizabeth Bastian of Mercer County, Ohio on October 23, 1862, and to this union seven children were born: William J., Forester G., Solomon H., Edward B., Ella M., Lulu K., and one who passed away in infancy. The family for a time lived in Shelbyville, and Tower Hill, Illinois, Berger, Missouri and Tuscola, Illinois and then the family came to Nebraska and homesteaded near where the town of Danbury now stands. He was very active in church work and helped to organize and then build the churches. He was an active member of the Masonic Lodge and served as Master Mason in Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska, and helped organize the first order of this kind in Red Willow County. He was the first president of the Marion Bank, which he helped to organize in 1907. He died at Brawley, California on November 20, 1919, and was buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery. The services were conducted by the Masons.

#### Wife of SOLOMON STILGEBOUER

#### ELIZABETH BASTIAN

was born March 15, 1844 in Wabash, Mercer County, Ohio. She lived with her parents in Ohio, they being pioneers, until October 23, 1862 when she was united in marriage to Solomon W. Stilgebouer. To this union seven children were born, three daughters and four sons. The family lived at Shelbyville and at Tower Hill, Illinois, Berger, Missouri and Tuscola, Illinois. They came to Red Willow County in March of 1875, settling near where the town of Marion now

stands. She was converted to Christ at an early age and had always been an active church worker. The people of Danbury and vicinity owe her a debt of gratitude for the efforts she put forth for the betterment of the community and the support of the churches, which she held above everything else. She had charge of the Cradle Roll of the Congregational Sunday School at Danbury until January 1, 1927, when poor health caused her to turn her work over to her successor. Her husband, Solomon, died November 20, 1919. She first made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Lulu Green near Danbury until December 1, 1926, when she made her home with her son Solomon H., at Marion. Her health had been failing for several months. She was confined to her bed for only 8 days when she died on Friday, March 4, 1927. She was buried near her husband on March 5, 1927 in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery.

#### LINUS C. STOLL

was born January 9, 1885 at Greencastle, Iowa, and moved to Curtis, Nebraska at an early age. He graduated from the Curtis High School, then worked in McCook and in Wichita, Kansas before entering an optical school in Kansas City. After graduation he returned to McCook in 1909, and set up his jewelry and optical store. He owned and operated the Stoll Store until the day of his death. He was active in civic, lodge and the professional organizations; including the McCook Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Lodge, Elk's Lodge, and the Nebraska Association of Optometrists. He was vice-president of the optometrist in 1929 and president in 1930. He passed away in McCook on Wednesday, December 15, 1948, after being in poor health for almost a year. His funeral was held in the First Congregational Church on Saturday, December 18, 1948 and he was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

#### WILLIAM ARTIUMS STONE

was born near Boston, Massachusetts on August 12, 1867. When a small child he came to Wilsonville, where his father, Julius O. Stone, homesteaded in the early 1870's. When the family first came to Wilsonville from Boston, at times the reports of Indian raids were numerous. In 1878, the sod house of the Stone family was made into a fort, in preparation for a raid by Indians. Settlers drove their teams from as far as Cedar Bluffs, Kansas, scouts would finally report the alarms were false. William clerked in the stores of Wilsonville many years, be-

fore coming to Danbury in 1904, where he opened his own store. He passed away in his home on Saturday, May 28, 1937 in Danbury, Nebraska. His funeral was held on Sunday, May 30, 1937, and he was buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, Mary J., his two sons; Harold and Everett, two sisters, Mrs. Cora Walsh and Mrs. Alice Walsh, and three brothers, George, Irvin and Fred.

#### JOHN ALEXANDER STRAIN

was born October 14, 1841 in Highland County, Ohio. When a young man, he enlisted in Company G, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, in 1861 and served through three years of the bloody warfare. He passed away in his home at Danbury, Nebraska on Friday, April 4, 1913.

#### HARRY STRUNK

was born in Pawnee City, Nebraska on December 2, 1892 to Albert H. Strunk and Amanda Kenney. He attended the Pawnee High School and worked as an apprentice on the Pawnee Press and Pawnee Report from 1905-1907. Between the years of 1908 and 1910, he worked for various newspapers and in the latter part of this period, he worked as a printer for the McCook Tribune. Strunk and his friend B. H. Stewart originated and operated a job printing shop in McCook beginning in 1911. Later that year, Strunk established the Red Willow County Gazette which continued for 13 years until 1924.

On June 4, 1912, Harry Strunk married Arlene Allen and they had two children, Allen Duane and Shirley Margaret.

Mr. Strunk established the McCook Daily Gazette on July 1, 1924. This paper later absorbed the McCook Tribune and the South Side Sentinel. One of Strunk's earliest editorials dealt with irrigation and flood control projects for the Republican River Valley region. The 1930's were days of few crops, bitter rain, and hard economic times. When rain did come it often flooded the homes and areas along the creeks and rivers emptying into the Republican River. Each minor flood along Dry Creek, Coon Creek, Medicine Creek and others fired his enthusiasm and renewed his efforts to gain flood control methods.

The flood of 1935 seemed to culminate what Strunk had been saying editorially for nearly 25 years. One hundred twelve lives, thousands of head of livestock, and numerous homes were lost, and thousands of areas of fertile farm land were turned to waste by the sands left by the flood.

Strunk's efforts were heard and watched by national politicians such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Harry Truman, Senators Hugh Butler and Carl Curtis, and others. It was not unusual for Strunk to pick up the phone anytime of the day or night, and call these people to air his views.

As president of the Republican Valley Conservation Association, he made many trips to Washington, D.C. to promote dams for the Nebraska farmland area.

In 1946, President Truman imposed a moratorium to stop further public works projects in his effort to cut federal spending. Strunk went over this moratorium and the dam known as Enders Dam was created. The struggle continued by Strunk and later Swanson Lake near Trenton and Strunk Lake near Cambridge were built with his help. Strunk's efforts in flood control and irrigation have been a tremendous benefit economically to all the residents of this area.

This activity was responsible for the location of the Bureau of Reclamation's Kansas River Basin headquarters being located in McCook.

Strunk became known nationally when in 1929 his McCook Daily Gazette premiered the first air newspaper delivery route in the United States. The high-wing Curtiss-Robin monoplane called "The Newsboy" flew 389 miles delivering the daily paper to 48 communities.

Harry Strunk died in 1960, never having relinquished his control over his newspaper.

#### LOUIS SUESS

was born near Decorah, Iowa on April 1, 1870. As a youth his family moved to a farm in Lancaster County, Nebraska. They came to Culbertson in 1882 when his father accepted the pastorate of a German Lutheran Church there. In 1885 he came to McCook where he completed the last few months of his schooling. In 1896 Louis began work in the old Joe Menard Store. Later he became a clerk in a store owned by J. C. Allen, who later became Secretary of State. He remained in the store when it was purchased by DeGroff and Weller. The Weller interest was later acquired by C. L. DeGroff, who operated the store until 1927, when Mr. Suess acquired the property, after owning an interest in it for a number of years. In 1930 Mr. Suess was honored by the Nebraska Federation of Retailers by being chosen as one of Nebraska's Master Merchants, for that year. He served at one time on the board of directors of the Retailers Federation. During his active career Louis was active in a number

of other business interests. He was one of the organizers and the secretary-treasurer of the now inactive Clya Products Company, which operated a brick factory in west McCook. He was president of the old McCook Milling Company. He also was interested in a number of oil developments in Kansas and owned several farms in this vicinity.

Louis Suess was a York Rite Mason, member of the Knights Templar and the Shrine. He was an active member of the Congregational Church and was a president of the Rotary Club and a board member of the Y.M. C.A. He also served on the McCook board of education for eleven years. He had served often as a director and committeeman of the McCook Chamber of Commerce.

His first wife, Kate Schmidt, passed away in 1892, leaving him with three daughters Gertrude, Martha and Eleanor. In September of 1902 he married Ethel M. Oyster and they were the parents of one daughter.

Louis Suess died in 1943 and is buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook, Nebraska.

#### EDWARD SUGHROUE

came to Red Willow County in the fall of 1892 when he took up a homestead northwest of Bartley in Alliance Township. He was born near Irish Grove, in Rock Run Township, Stephenson County, Illinois to Timothy James Sughroue and Alice Ellen Doran on February 14, 1871. After graduating from college in Rockford, Illinois, he took a job with the Illinois Central Railroad. One day after viewing thousands of people pouring out of the sweat shops in Chicago, he remarked, "This is not for me."

The twenty-one year old man left his parents and family and boarded the train at Seward, Illinois with his sister, Mary, to go west. They traveled as far as Bartley where their uncle Patrick Reddy and family met them.

During the years of 1892 to 1894, he taught school in District No. 39 and resided alone in a small sod house on his farm until he became acquainted with a neighbor girl by the name of Barbara Tines. They were married at Indianola, Nebraska on May 1, 1895, and became the happy parents of 10 children.

His chief interests included agriculture, cattle, and cooperatives. On April 20, 1917, when the Federal Land Bank of Omaha opened its doors, Edward Sughroue, made the long trip to Omaha to apply for a loan on his farm. His application was approved and his name went on the books as the No. 1 of the first National Farm Loan Association in the Omaha District.

The Indianola Association Loan Committee at that time included W. N. Edgar, Joseph V. Harrison, and J. W. Dutcher.

Ed was elected director and president of the Indianola Federal Land Bank at an organization meeting on February 1, 1917, and he served continuously in those positions until 1954. The Indianola NFLA was consolidated into the McCook NFLA on December 6, 1943. The farm loan conditions prior to the establishment of the Federal Land Bank weren't good, noted Mr. Sughroue with interest rates eight to ten percent in our part of Nebraska. Loan terms were from one to five years with little certainty of being renewable. It was a great day for farmers when the Cooperative Credit System was started in the United States.

Very active at the age of 85 years, he still attended the annual meeting of both his National Farm Loan Association and Production Credit Association. For 37 years, he had served as president of the Indianola and McCook Farm Loan Association, and from 1934 to 1950, he was president of the McCook Production Credit Association. When the Federal Land Bank marked its billion dollar loan, special tribute was made to Ed and several men like him who had given their time and effort to building and strengthening the Cooperative Association in the Omaha District.

In 1909 the pioneer was elected as the Red Willow County Commissioner, serving in this capacity for four terms. In 1916 he was candidate for the State Railway Commission and Treasurer of the Progressive Party in Nebraska, served as president of the Indianola Equity Exchange from 1920 to 1960, and was instrumental in organizing the Bartley Telephone Exchange where he served as president and manager for several years.

In November of 1919, he was elected as Red Willow County delegate to the 1920 State Constitutional Convention. The State of Nebraska is still served by this constitution.

One of his major interests at the convention was for rural credit. The following was taken from the proceedings of the Convention, "The Federal Farm Loan Association will not loan but one-third the actual value on the farm and by establishing those state credit associations - government can safely loan sixty or seventy percent of the value of the farm.

Mr. Sughroue was truly a hard worker and spent many hours encouraging the farmers to stay right in the buggy, as his expression went, during the long drought and dust bowl days, and hang on to their

farms as rural living was a good and wholesome life for families.

The avid reader played a great role in politics and was active in civic affairs, being Indianola's Mayor for three terms during the 1930's. He was a faithful member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus Council No. 2693, Holy Name Society, and also served on the church committee for several years.

His land that he loved so much is still owned by family members and being farmed by the third and fourth generation of the Sughroue clan. Only one of his 240 some descendants had the distinction of being born on St. Valentine's Day, February 14. Her name was Debra Mae Sperle, great-grandchild No. 96 and the granddaughter of Leo and Twila Sughroue. It appears his love for this great country rubbed off on his family as at one time, all of his children were farmers, namely: Paul, Clarence, Frank, Tim, Martin, Mary Rothmeyer, Alice Thomas, John, Leo and Nellie Vontz.

He was a good friend of Senator George Norris, of McCook, founder of the Tennessee Valley Authority and assisted him in many of his endeavors. He also admired the great success of the Bureau of Reclamation which was good flood protection for Red Willow County and southwest Nebraska.

Mr. Sughroue died in his home in Indianola in 1963, at the age of 92 years and 8 months. His long and active life was a gift from God. He kept busy and thoroughly enjoyed helping people of all races, color, and creeds. No man, woman or child was ever a stranger to him. He was buried in the St. Catherine's Cemetery in Indianola.

#### JOSIAH SULLIVAN

was born in Green County, Indiana on November 17, 1845. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry at Greensburg, Indiana on February 14, 1865 and was honorably discharged in August 1865. At Newark, Indiana in 1869, he was married to Mary T. Hanson and they were the parents of seven children. In 1882 they moved to Indianola, Nebraska and later took up a homestead in Frontier County. In 1903 they moved to McCook. In 1915 they moved to Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Sullivan preceded her husband in death. After his wife's death, he moved to Englewood, Colorado, where he died on Friday, May 17, 1935. He was buried in the Riverview Cemetery on Monday, May 20,

1935. He was one of the founders of the local J. K. Barnes Post, G.A.R. and for years worked as a carpenter.

#### HARVEY PUTNAM SUTTON

was born on the Sutton homestead at Westhollow near Naples, New York, on July 17, 1860, the son of Joel C. Sutton and Sarah M. Robinson. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Velma S. Kisevalter in Washington, D. C. on October 22, 1952.

Harvey was the youngest of his three brothers. His twin brothers, Cordie and Carlie, and his father Joel all died within two years of what was then called quick consumption.

The entire family were musicians, playing the instruments of that day, and the father traveled the countryside selling organs, harpsichords, orchestra and band instruments. After the death of the father and two brothers, Harvey, then about eight years old, and his mother moved to Dexter, Michigan, where the older brother, Benjamin, owned a jewelry store and was the director of the Dexter Band. This continued Harvey's musical education as he always attended the rehearsals, first playing drum and later becoming very good on the E Flat Bass, touring with Joe Jefferson players and later with a circus band which later became Forepaws and Sell.

The circus played at Grand Island about 1882 and this trip to Nebraska had much to do with his spending most of his life in Nebraska. While in Chicago with a musical organization, he was taken ill and when about recovered, he flipped a penny to see whether he would go back east or go west. The decision was west, leaving Chicago for Grand Junction, Iowa, where he opened a jewelry store and music store and had the great pleasure of organizing and directing the Grand Junction Band as well as the bands of two other nearby towns. His love of fishing and hunting instilled from his life's beginning in New York and Michigan, brought him to Ainsworth, Brown County, Nebraska where he took a homestead, opened a jewelry store and music store and organized the Ainsworth Band and a good orchestra.

Both organizations played many of the towns on the Northwestern Railroad line, Valentine, Johnstown, Wood Lake, Bassett, O'Neil; this between the years of 1885 and 1889. Here at Ainsworth he fell in love with Elizabeth Burns Munson, and they were married June 4, 1886. Three sons were born to this union. Earl died at one year of age and Robert in 1907.

Harold survived and operated a jewelry and musical instrument store in McCook for many years.

Harvey P. Sutton came to McCook in the early spring of 1889. The superintendent of the Chicago and Burlington Railroad at McCook wanted a Burlington Band, sending a committee to Ainsworth to induce him to come to McCook and organize a band. It was the spring of the year and Bock Beer was on tap and, of course, to be social, the committee made the rounds with a very willing guest. However, when the midnight train arrived Harvey had decided to go back to Ainsworth.

The committee and Superintendent, A. Campbell, kept the telegraph lines busy over the next several weeks and finally induced him to come to McCook. The Burlington would furnish jobs for the musicians and the businessmen agreed to pay \$75 per month for the band instructor. (Only the first month's salary was ever paid.) He was made the division watch inspector and organized a great band and orchestra which, over the years, added much to the enjoyment of the local populace and made a name for itself here and over the west. The band was the official band at the Nebraska State Fair in the '90's held at Hastings, and in 1898 was the official band at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha and placed 2nd at Denver's Festival of Mountain and Plains and took first prize in 1899.

The McCook Burlington Band was the official band for the Knight Templar Conclave in Denver in 1913. In the early days, the summer concerts given on Main Street at the corner of "C" Street, were attended and enjoyed not only by McCook but by the people in the towns and country for miles around. The bandstand was pulled by horses to the center of the square and the arc light was lowered for light.

The present bandstand in Norris Park was dedicated to Harvey P. Sutton and is presently used on many public occasions as well as for band concerts by the McCook High School band and other musical organizations.

After coming to McCook a son was born, Robert M. Sutton, who died at the age of 15 years. A daughter, Velma Lois Sutton was born in 1897. She is a graduate in voice from New England Conservatory of Music and studied in New York. She toured with Ernstine Shuman-Heinke, and lived in Washington, D.C. later. Also one daughter, Virginia, lived to be only one year old and was always very frail.

Mrs. Sutton was a great helpmate and enjoyed the

Shakespeare Club, the Au Fait Club and made the arrangements and supervised the building of the "Frank Lloyd Wright House" on the corner of 602 Norris Ave.

Harvey P. Sutton was a lover of all sports and was an expert fisherman, trap and game shot, and billiard player. He loved games, loved people and above all loved his music. Whatsoever was good for McCook, Red Willow County, the United States of America, he and Eliza Sutton were leaders. Eliza died in 1952.

#### WILBUR KAY SWANSON

was born in North Platte, Nebraska on November 1, 1903 to Swan Swanson and Lillian Kay. He grew to manhood in North Platte, graduating from the High School in 1922. His spare time, while in high school, was spent working at jobs ranging from engine wiper in the North Platte roundhouse, window trimmer, employee of a ladies ready-to-wear shop, and sign artist. He then went to the University of Nebraska, where he graduated with a degree in Business Administration in 1926. He was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and once served as it's president. He also was president of Delta Sigma Pi, a commercial Fraternity, and also a member of the University Commercial Club. During homecoming week at the University, they have enjoyed the custom of decorating the exteriors of fraternity and sorority houses. The social organizations compete each season for prized and honors with their decorations. The result is always beautiful and a novel part of homecoming week, which can be enjoyed by everyone. For four consecutive years during his career, while a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, they carried off the honors with decorations which he had designed and help erect. He worked after graduation at the Lincoln Theater as an artist for a year and then another year in a Chicago Poster Studio. In 1928 he came to McCook and established the Swanson Sign Company. On November 1, 1929 here in McCook, he was married to Myrle LaVon Chambers, and they were the parents of one son, Richard, who preceded him in death. He was active in civic life: Past Exalted Ruler of the McCook Elk's Lodge (1946-47), member of the Elk's Grand Lodge, Past State President of the Elk's Association, member of all the Masonic bodies in McCook, and Tehama Shrine of Hastings. He also was a member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. His spirit departed his body on October 10, 1978, here in McCook, and was buried October 12, 1978 at the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook, Nebraska.

#### FRANCIS SWARTZ

was born October 5, 1843 in Pennsylvania. He enlisted, October 12, 1861 in Company D., Fifty-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers, but was transferred to Company D. of the First United States Artillery. He served throughout the War, and was discharged on October 12, 1867. He was married to Alice Holtzman of Hagestown, Maryland on March 24, 1867. To this family were born seventeen children. The family moved westward in the early days of the settling of the west to Red Willow County. He was a member of the Methodist Church in Bedford, and on settling in Red Willow County, became associated with the McCook Methodist Church. He passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jennie Donelson, in McCook on Tuesday, May 21, 1929 and his funeral was held on Wednesday, May 22, 1929 and he was buried in the Riverview Cemetery.

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#### Wife of ARCHIBALD J. THOMAS

#### EMMA J. UNDERHILL

was born July 9, 1856 at Belle Fountaine, Ohio. She was married to Archibald J. Thomas, a veteran of the Civil War. She was the mother of three children. The family came to McCook in 1886. Her husband was a pioneer dentist of McCook practicing his profession here for a number of years, and then moved to Stratton, and later to Denver. He died in 1905 and was buried in the Riverview Cemetery. She died in Denver on March 9, 1932 and her remains were returned to McCook and buried on Saturday, March 11, 1932 in the Riverview Cemetery next to her husband.

#### DANIEL WAYNE THOMAS

was born and raised in the Danbury community. He was valedictorian of his Beaver Valley class. After two years at the McCook Junior College, he went on to receive his bachelors degree in mechanical engineering in 1968. Danny liked the out doors and worked summers on the Allan Redfern farm or helped his step-father Griff Helm. He enlisted in the Air Force in the spring of 1968. He received his wings in 1970 and was assigned to overseas duty in February of 1971. Captain Thomas disappeared on July 7, 1971, while flying an Air Controller mission in an OV-10 aircraft. Still awaiting word are his mother, Mrs. Carol Helm, his father Malcolm E. Thomas, twin brothers Edward and Eugene and a sister, Carol.