

To this union seven children were born. She spent her later years at the home of her children, at different times, and passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. M. Bolles, north of McCook on May 28, 1913. The burial was held on Wednesday at Box Elder Cemetery.

#### RALPH vonRIESEN

was born September 26, 1896 at Halstead, Kansas, to David and Mary vonRiesen. He grew up in Marysville, Kansas where he graduated from high school. He was married November 13, 1922 to Edna M. Keller at Marysville. They came to McCook December 26, 1926 where they farmed west of Perry.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Edna, who died on December 23, 1961, and one brother, Roland.

He was a member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church of McCook; past Lieutenant Governor of Kiwanis in McCook and a member for over 45 years; worked for the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service for 30 years; member of the McCook Community College Foundation; and was a benefactor to several charitable organizations including scholarships to McCook Community College and McCook High School as well as to his former hometown.

Survivors include one brother, Emil vonRiesen of Topeka, Kansas, and one sister, Gertrude vonRiesen of Cincinnati, Ohio.

He died October 30, 1981 at McCook. Services were held Tuesday, November 3, 1981 in St. Alban's Episcopal Church with Rod Moore, rector, officiating. Interment was held in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

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#### FREDERICK WAGNER

was born September 9, 1856 in Russia. Coming to this country at an early age, he came to Red Willow County taking up land near McCook. He made the prairie land produce bumper crops and built himself a substantial home. He retired in 1926, and moved from the farm and settled in McCook. He passed away at his home on Wednesday, February 7, 1934 and was buried in the St. John's Cemetery. He was survived by his wife Dorthea, and four children: Doris, Fred, Gotlieb and William.

#### PATRICK WALSH

was born December 4, 1858 in Beardstown, Illinois, the son of Michael Walsh and Ellen Duffy. In his early

manhood, he became a bridge carpenter and was engaged by railroad companies and came west to McCook in 1884. He was married to Ida Bolton in 1887 at Denver, Colorado, and she died in 1916. Mr. Walsh organized the McCook National Bank in 1907, and was its president from 1907 until his death in 1928. He was also the president of the Keystone Hotel Company, the Citizens Gas Company, and was chairman or member of many committees both civic and social. He was twice a State Delegate to the Democratic National Convention; and was a Presidential Elector in 1904. During World War I, he was the Government Appeal Agent for Red Willow County, chairman of County War Savings Stamp campaign, chairman of the County Council of Defense (third Nebraska District), and chairman of the Victory Loan campaign. He was a member of St. Patrick Church, and was very active in church work. The Knighthood of Saint Sylvester was conferred upon him in 1922 by the Pope, Benedict X, as a recognition for charitable and benevolent activities. He made a trip to Europe in 1925, visiting many countries: France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, England and Ireland. While in Ireland he went to Westport visiting the birthplace and early home of his father and mother. He also visited a number of his relatives. On Thursday, November 29, 1928, after suffering a heart attack, he died. He had not been in good health for some time. His funeral was held on Saturday, December 1, 1928 at the St. Catherine's Church, and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

#### JOHN PASSMORE WALLACE

was born on August 26, 1885 near Cambridge, Nebraska from the union of marriage between his father, John Passmore Wallace, and mother, Lavinia Amen of Cambridge. John, age 29, and Lavinia, age 22, a farm girl were united in marriage in Portland, Iowa.

Young John was raised by his grandparents, the Amen's, who lived about eight miles southeast of Cambridge. He worked for fifty cents a day from sun up until sundown starting at the age of ten years. He was a self taught man as he only got to go to the third grade in school. He loved horses and could get them to do as he wished and go where he wanted them to go. It is remembered by some, that at one time John acquired a team of horses that no one seemed to be able to do a thing with, however, after he had taken them out into a field for half a day working with them they turned out to be a good team.

John traveled some after he grew to manhood and broke horses, helped dig potatoes and put up hay for

a living in Idaho.

John was united in marriage to Lillie Marguitee (King) Clark on May 16, 1923 and took her back to live on his grandparents farm near Cambridge, Nebraska. While living there three children were born to them: Thomas Eugene born March 23, 1924, Helen Arlene born October 8, 1925 and Dorothy May born May 26, 1927. As time passed and both of his grandparents having passed away, the little family moved to McCook in the year of 1928.

John got a job working for the city of McCook as the city's caretaker of the cemeteries. He worked hard at taking special care of them and acquired a reputation for making the grass grow greener while the peonies he grew there were really something to be admired. As they were later in life destroyed it nearly broke his heart. Since John loved to work he did just that wherever he could. His children can remember riding on a hay rack loaded down with straw that he was hauling for J. C. Poore at the East Sale Barn in the south part of McCook. It is also remembered he worked for the McCook Lumber Company and could add board feet faster than their more college educated helpers.

He had the opportunity to help plant the trees in Kelly Park and then finally came back to full time work at Norris Park. While working there he got the title of, "Mr. Green Thumb of McCook". An article was written about this by a Gazette staff writer named Denis Converse.

Five more children were born while John and Lillie lived in McCook. They were: Edna Ruth born on August 3, 1929, John Passmore, Jr. born December 24, 1934 (in a box car on the west side of McCook and turned out to be the biggest Christmas present possible to have that year), Alfred Ray born June 22, 1936, Richard Edward born August 15, 1938. As the family grew John decided to buy a house located at 1304 East "A" Street and there the last child, Gary Dean, was born September 15, 1945.

John and his family lived without some of our modern day conveniences, such as; electricity, until March of 1942 but were able to acquire a telephone in 1938 so the city officials could call him if they needed a grave dug in the winter time. John, however, always tried and succeeded at having a big garden, flowers, and grass wherever he lived. Being a great gardener he always had plenty of garden to share with friends and neighbors, or he traded garden for groceries he needed from the store.

It's needless to say, John never lost his love

for farming as several farmers around McCook could tell you even though he was now a city man. You would always find him willing to go help a farmer with an extra hand or two when needed. He enjoyed helping with the oats shocking, corn picking (by hand and/or behind the corn picker), and feeding cattle. Because of his love for livestock he made his farm grandchildren happy by helping with the milking chores.

John lived to see most of his sons go into the armed forces and even return again. John, Jr. served in Korea, Alfred went to Germany and Gary served only in the United States. John's eldest son, Thomas, served in World War II and died in South Carolina on December 5, 1944, leaving a pregnant wife and small daughter, Joan, behind. A son, James, was born to her only months later. John himself was supposed to join the armed forces during World War I in 1918 but just as he was getting on the train to go, the Armistice was signed so he got to stay home.

The daughters of John and Lillie Wallace all grew up and married. Helen married a painter named Guy Shepherd, Dorothy married Percy Minary a farmer from Culbertson who lives fifteen miles northwest of McCook, and last of all Edna married Chuck Upp and had one son and later married later to Keith Judd.

John passed away December 27, 1961 at the age of Seventy-six years in his home after having a stroke. His family all being present at the time. He is remembered now by his old saying, "I'm like Will Rogers, in the way that, I have never met a man I didn't like, except one, and he had a faithful dog so I guess he couldn't actually have been all that bad!"

John's wife, Lillie, was a faithful wife, hard worker along side of John and a loving mother. She was always there when you needed her, did baby sitting for anyone with the need, visited the sick and poor, but last and not least was surely always caught with a smiling face to cheer up anyone's day. Always, like John, she helped whenever she could. She liked to play games as she often did play jacks with her children while the dishes waited to be done later. She most enjoyed telling her stories about her youth when she traveled in a covered wagon. Lillie passed away on November 27, 1973, leaving family, friends and neighbors to grieve her passing. Lillie's grandfather was a Civil War hero, Thomas Bales of east McCook.

(This information has been supplied by Mrs. Percy Minary, the former Dorothy Wallace of Rural Route 1, Culbertson, Nebraska.)

#### DONAVON WALTERS

was an only child. He was the class valedictorian at the Beaver Valley High School in 1961. He received his Electrical Engineering Degree from the University of Nebraska on the same day he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. He was to make several tours of duty to Vietnam. On December 21, 1972 the B-52 aircraft that Capt. Walters was co-pilot on was shot down over Hanoi.

His wife Charlene, and children Devin and Christine awaits word yet today.

#### Wife of PETER H. WALTERS

##### SARAH F. JACKSON

was born 1852. She was married to Peter H. Walters on January 1, 1874. She passed away on Saturday, July 13, 1940 at her home in Lebanon. She was buried in the Lebanon Cemetery on Tuesday, July 16, 1940.

#### ADOLPH F. WALZ

After losing his wife in Minnesota Adolph headed for Nebraska with his two sons and daughter. He stopped in Blue Hill, Nebraska, where his sister lived and left his daughter with her. Going on to Lamar to his other sister where he left his sons, until he could get settled. In 1923 he settled northwest of Bartley. In 1929 he was able to send for his son John. His other son had died. In 1931 Adolph married Maggie Ryan, daughter of James Ryan in Indianola. He then brought his other child, his daughter to Bartley.

John bought the home place in 1961 after the death of his father in 1958 and the death of his step-mother in 1961. He, John, had been farming the land since 1929. He married Mary Komatcher, daughter of Henry and Catherine Komatcher in 1945, and set up housekeeping on the home place. To them were born Cecela, a Sister of the Church now living in Waverly, Nebraska; Bernard lives north of Indianola and married Paula Meeder; Alice married William Tines; Mildred married Micheal Cuellar and lives in Indianola while Virginia married Ben Bortner and lives northwest of McCook. Agnes works and lives in McCook going home whenever possible.

Mary and John Walz are known for their work in the Indianola Catholic Church having held offices in the church's different organizations. John is an avid collector of old farm tools and equipment, coins and is an active member of the Antique Car Club of Red Willow County. If you should want a quilt of

any kind and have it beautifully made, Mary Walz is the lady to go to. For the Old Settlers Day in Indianola she put together the blocks the ladies had made depicting different scenes in and around Indianola which they then raffled off. There is many a child or grandchild covered with Mary's beautiful quilts. Her daughters are actively helping their mother in her projects while her son Bernard helps his father farm.

#### ISAIAH HUGH WASSON

was born October 12, 1842 at Butler, Pennsylvania to Joseph Wasson and Rachel Jomison. When he was six they moved to La Claire, Iowa, going down the Ohio River from Pittsburg to St. Louis, then up the Mississippi by steamboat to their new home. He was a playmate in his boyhood at Le Claire of "Buffalo Bill" who lived then near Davenport. In 1861, he enlisted in Company K., Twentieth Iowa Infantry at Davenport, but was rejected on account of being under weight. He then entered the transport department on the Mississippi between Davenport and St. Louis. He continued to follow that business and rose through various positions to that of captain in 1870. He was married to Sarah E. Lainbach on December 18, 1870 and to this union two daughters and five sons were born. He was on the first raft that was taken down the Mississippi by a steam tug boat. He assisted in building the steamboat Moline at Cincinnati, Ohio and was afterward Master and Captain of that boat for twenty-two years. The Moline was afterwards used in Kansas City as an excursion boat and sunk in the Ohio River in 1905. He purchased a half section of land three miles south of McCook in 1880, and lived there until April 1916, when he purchased a home in McCook. He died on Friday, May 6, 1916 from heart failure, while taking an osteopathic treatment. Funeral services were held Monday, May 9, 1916, under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge, of which he was a member. His remains were taken to his old home town and he was buried in the Le Claire, Iowa Cemetery.

#### DELOS ALVIN WATERMAN

was born August 2, 1831 at Watertown, Jefferson County, New York. He was married to Mary Elnora Dye on December 24, 1857 at Monmouth, Iowa. They were the parents of two children: Charles F. and Hattie. They also had an adopted son, Fred L. During the Civil War he was a member of Company F., Forty-fourth Iowa Infantry, having enlisted in 1865, and at the time of his discharge from the service, was a first

lieutenant in the army. After the War, the family came west. In 1899 he homesteaded three and one-half miles south of Lebanon. He died on Tuesday, June 8, 1926 at the home of his son, Charles, in Lebanon, following an illness of several months. He was buried Wednesday, June 9, 1926 at the Lebanon Cemetery near the side of his wife.

Wife of LEWIS THOMAS WATSON  
CLARA MARIE UHREN

was born October 5, 1887 near Danbury, Nebraska to Henry Uhren, who had come from Germany at the age of 17, and Anna E. Ehr, daughter of Henry Ehr of Naperville, Illinois. Her mother died when she was only nine years old. Times were hard for a father and several young children alone on the farm.

Clara married Lewis Thomas Watson on December 20, 1909 at Benkelman, Nebraska. They were the parents of four children: Harold Kenneth, Christina Irene, Lloyd Dean and Floyd Lewis.

The Watsons were on a farm south of Wauneta when Lewis died on January 17, 1917 of a ruptured appendix, leaving Clara with four very small children. Unable to take care of the farm work and the children alone she moved her family into McCook. She was able to find work doing washings etc. so she could be with her family and earn a living at the same time. She worked very hard but needed the help of her oldest son, Harold, so he had to quit school in the seventh grade.

Clara died February 13, 1975 at the Imperial Hospital and was buried in the Garden Grove Cemetery near Hildreth, Nebraska by the side of her husband and other members of his family.

HAROLD KENNETH WATSON

was born November 13, 1910 to Lewis Thomas Watson and Clara Marie Uhren. His father died when he was but seven years of age so his mother moved her family to McCook where she hoped to be able to take care of her young family and earn a living for them. Harold learned to deliver the laundry his mother had done and many other jobs that he found to help the family income. When he was in the seventh grade he had to quit school to work full time. Being the oldest of the four children was not easy but he learned to work hard at any job he could find.

Harold talks of the board sidewalks down the main street of McCook, when 50¢ could buy enough meat to feed a family of five for a meal, when "Buffalo Bill"

came to town with the Wild West Show, and when they used to flood the river bottom and it would freeze over making a large skating pond for everyone in town. Once, he recalls, of skating all the way up to Culbertson on the river. Fun those days were the inexpensive kind such as the skating and dances in the homes when the rugs were rolled back and the furniture was put outside. He worked for Adolph Bower & Knosp when he had to stand in the manger to reach high enough to harness the horses. While working there he helped haul the necessary building supplies for the new Red Willow County Courthouse. He was a good worker, getting his teams to work when others would quit. He worked for Lester Lenhart & Balius on the drayline hauling coal, live stock, grain and anything else.

He married Edna Mae Whitten on January 17, 1932 in McCook and to this union was born one daughter, Lois Elaine on August 10, 1933.

Harold worked for Wallace Whitten in the hatchery here in McCook and then opened a hatchery in Cambridge in January 1934. He missed serving in World War II by being deferred as he was in the much needed business of furnishing chickens and eggs that were needed not only here in the States but to our boys overseas.

They sold the hatchery in Cambridge in 1951 and moved to McCook where he raised chickens on an acreage east of town and worked for Mr. Whitten, his brother-in-law, again for a number of years. He is now working for Budke Motors.

He has always been known for his ready smile and big "Hello" for everyone as well as his bird whistles.

He has been a member of the Methodist Church for all of his adult life and is a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star.

Wife of HAROLD K. WATSON  
EDNA MAE WHITTEN

was born May 19, 1910 to Charles William Whitten and Dora Loretta Bailey of Saunders County, Nebraska. She graduated from High School in 1927 at Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska.

While visiting with her brother, Wallace Whitten, at McCook she met Harold K. Watson and they were married on January 17, 1932 at McCook by the Methodist minister. To this union was born one child, Lois Elaine.

Edna has worked at her husband's side for many years but is now retired.

She has been an active worker in the Methodist

Church since before her marriage when she taught Sunday school. She was in charge of the Church Nursery for many years and now works in the Helping Hands store, of used items, for the Church.

Edna is also a member of the Eastern Star.

Wife of JOHN W. WELBORN  
REBECCA JANE ROBERTS

was born June 29, 1853 at Springfield, Illinois. She was married to John W. Welborn on September 27, 1868 at Plattsmouth, Nebraska. For a few years they lived on a farm near Ashland, and in 1873, they moved to Red Willow County, where they established themselves near the new town of Indianola. Her husband was an early day sheriff, and she must have known days and nights of worry and fear that he might be worsted in an encounter with some quick shooting outlaw. But she withstood it all, and for many years, has enjoyed the love and friendship of many people. After the death of her husband in 1929, she had never been well. She passed away in her home in Indianola on Friday, August 3, 1934, and was buried Sunday, August 5, 1934 in the family plot in the Indianola Cemetery.

JOHN W. WELBORN

was the second son of nine children, five boys and four girls, of William and Talitha Floyd Welborn. He was born in Toad County, Kentucky on October 22, 1843. He moved to Missouri with his parents in 1859, and after the Civil War, came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Cass County. There he and Jennie Roberts were united in marriage on September 27, 1868, to this union three children were born: Robert Forest, Jesse Floyd, and Lillian. They came to Red Willow County in the spring of 1873, and resided here till his death. He was accompanied by two of his brothers, Jesse and Frank, and they went into the cattle business. They traded cattle later for a store and stock of goods, located on the southeast corner of the intersection of the main streets in Indianola, & were in that business during an Indian scare. He buried what money they had, and wrote to his brother in Nebraska City as to the location of it so he could find it if the Indians killed all of them. In 1877, at the third election held in Red Willow County, he was elected Treasurer, and served one term. In 1881 he was elected sheriff and was re-elected in 1883 and 1885. John was widely known and by a gentle, kindly and generous nature and personality, made friends everywhere. It was of his kind that made possible

the "Winning of the West". He passed away at his home in Indianola on Tuesday, May 21, 1929 after a gradual decline in his strength for the last two years. His funeral, which was attended by a large concourse of neighbors and friends, was held Thursday, May 23, 1929 and interment was in the Indianola Cemetery.

JAMES T. WELCH

was born December 14, 1876 in Hamlin, New York. He had for many years been chief dispatcher at Lincoln before coming to McCook in 1920. He had worked for other railroads before joining the Burlington. He was married to Mrs. Alice Morris and they were the parents of four sons: William L., Ted, Edward J., and Leslie J. In 1938, because of ill health, he had to give up his duties as trainmaster. He died in Hastings, Nebraska on September 19, 1940. His remains were returned to McCook and buried in the Calvary Cemetery on September 23, 1940.

ANGELO P. WELLS

was born in Steuben County, New York on October 31, 1845. He enlisted in Company I, Eighty-fifth New York Volunteers on October 6, 1861. He with his father were taken prisoners in April 1864, and were confined in the prisons at Charleston, Florence and Andersonville. They were paroled march 1, 1865 and honorably discharged, but his father died. At that time his mother moved to Illinois and he went there after the War. He attended and graduated from the Hahneman Medical College of Chicago and practiced a year afterward in that city, and then moved to Aurora, Nebraska, after a short time moving to Colorado. In 1888 he moved to McCook. He was recognized as a leading physician of his school in this state, and he served two years as president of the state association. He was an active member of the A.O.U.W., and the D. of H., and was prominent in G.A.R. circles. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and took an active part in church work. He was at the time of his death, superintendant of the Sunday School.

After an illness, which lasted for over two years, death came while he slept, on Monday October 29, 1906. He was buried in the Longview Cemetery at McCook.

GOTTLIEB WEYENETH

the son of Emmanuel Weyeneth and Mary Bigler was born November 12, 1848 in Neufechatel, Bern Canton,

Switzerland. The experiences of his early youth and manhood were associated with life in his native country. He was the oldest of a family of eight children, and at an early age he knew what it was to face the stern realities and hardships of life and share in the responsibility of bearing family burdens. Yet he faced these problems and played his part well without a murmur or complaint. In foreign countries, where military service is universally required, many youth emigrate in order to escape this irksome requirement. It is worthy to note that when he came of military age, he served his native country faithfully and well. Then, after he had discharged his full duty to his parents, and also his country, he immigrated to America, landing in June of 1873. He first came to Crete, Nebraska and for a short time made his home with an uncle and aunt, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Bigler. He came to Red Willow County in 1874, with a partner by the name of Schlickner. A man by the name of White, had been out in this country, and returned to Crete with a lot of enthusiastic stories of the great possibilities out in western Nebraska. He said that just south of McCook, on the river bottom, was a half section of land that would make someone a fortune, so they came out to look it over. They landed at Indianola on the stage and the following morning Mr. Starbuck brought them to where McCook is located to look over the land. It was too sandy for them, so the next day, they went over to the Beaver Valley. Gottlieb took a homestead in the fertile Beaver Valley, a short distance west of where the town of Marion stands. He resided on this farm until November 1919, when he moved to Marion. On March 27, 1881 he was united in marriage to Emma Jane Irish at Indianola, Nebraska, where she resided. To this union five daughters: Corene, Ruby, Stella, Elsie, and Bertha and three sons: Clyde, Ernest, and Joe H. were born. On January 24, 1923 his faithful wife and companion died following complications from the flu. He was never able to fully reconcile himself to this loss. He was tenderly cared for by his daughter Bertha. The end of his life came peacefully on Friday, after a brief illness from an attack of influenza on February 19, 1932 in Marion. He was buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery on February 21, 1932, with the impressive Masonic rites.

Wife of GOTTLIEB WEYENETH  
EMMA JANE IRISH

was born in Roscoe, Illinois on December 22, 1851.

She united with the Methodist Church of Roscoe, at an early age, and later became a charter member of the Presbyterian Church at Marion, Nebraska. She came to Red Willow County with her parents in 1880, where she spent the remainder of her life. She was one of the pioneer homesteaders, having taken a claim in the early 1880's. She was married to Gottlieb Weyeneth on March 27, 1881 at Indianola, and they were the parents of eight children. She died on January 24, 1923 at Marion, following complications from the flu. She was buried in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery on January 26, 1923.

WILLIAM WEYGINT

was born December 1820 in New York state. He was among the first settlers in Red Willow County, and had the distinction of plowing the first furrow in this county. He had taken a claim about the same time that Edgar S. Hill, who was the first County Judge. He died on Friday, November 16, 1917 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. I. J. Starbuck in Salt Lake City, and was buried in Salt Lake City on Sunday, November 18, 1917. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, and one son.

FOWLER SYLVESTER WILCOX

was born at Canaan, Columbia County, New York on October 25, 1850. He grew to manhood on a farm near Canaan and attended school there. For a few years before his marriage on May 19, 1875 in Canaan, to Kate Lovejoy, he taught school. After a few years following his marriage, he moved to Gillman, Illinois and there managed a poultry business, until he went into partnership with his brother Justin, in the mercantile trade. He lived in Gillman for nine years, joining the Methodist Church there with his wife. They came to McCook in the spring of 1884, and lived here for the remaining years of their life except for one year spent in Denver. On coming to McCook, he again entered into partnership with his brother, but when his health failed he disposed of his interests to Alfred Fowler, and went into the livestock business. He was associated in enterprises with Ed Flitcraft and Charles Brewer. He was engaged in this for many years and was successful in trading. He died in McCook on Thursday, May 16, 1935, and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on Saturday, May 18, 1935. He was survived by his son Harry.

Wife of FOWLER S. WILCOX  
KATIE LOVEJOY

was the daughter of George W. and Mary Lovejoy. She was born in Hudson, New York on October 27, 1854. She was married to Fowler S. Wilcox on May 19, 1875 at Canaan, New York. They went to Gillman, Illinois where they made their home for the next nine years. They came to McCook in March of 1884. Before her marriage she was a member of the Christian Church, but united with the Methodist Church in Gillman and she and her husband were active in the church work. She departed this life on Monday, May 17, 1920 and was buried on May 19, 1920 in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

GERALD WILCOX

was born in Canaan, New York on August 7, 1861 to Sylvester and Elizabeth Wilcox. He moved to Nebraska at the age of 20. On September 30, 1888 at McCook, he was married to Carrie Nelson. They were the parents of ten children: Mary, John, Elsie, Charles, Roy, Earl, Lynn, Chester, Thelma and Florence. They moved to a farm eight miles northeast of Culbertson, and there lived in a one room sod house. Four years after McCook was founded, he bought some farm land near the Republican River, south of McCook, and built a home on their land. At that time there was only one other farm south of McCook that had broken the soil for farming, the rest was prairie land. In 1915, he put in the first irrigation well in this county. It was accomplished with a continuous brigade of buckets rotating on a belt that were lowered into the well, and as they came out again, they dumped water into a ditch on the surface. He had two hobbies of great importance to him. They were raising purestock livestock and alfalfa. He introduced alfalfa to this county by raising it on his farm. He died on December 24, 1954 at his daughter's, Mrs. Mary Hesterworth, in Hastings. He was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery on December 29, 1954.

Wife of GERLAD WILCOX  
CARRIE NELSON

was born to Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Nelson, on November 22, 1869, at Berme, New York. With her parents, she came to Dorchester, Nebraska in 1880, and resided there until 1884, when the family came to McCook. The trip was made in a covered wagon and her father took up a homestead near McCook. On September 30, 1888, she was united in marriage to Gerald Wilcox at McCook and to them eleven children were born. They made their

first home twelve miles northwest of McCook on a homestead. Here they faced the trials of early years of western Nebraska, but by struggles, industry and thrift, they succeeded and for many years they resided on their large, modern farm south of McCook, where they reared and educated their family. While she was chiefly concerned in meeting the problems of life as they came day by day, she was mindful of her neighbors and friends and was ever ready to help others. She was much interested and helpful in the activities of the school in their district. She died at her home on Friday, June 21, 1935 and was buried Tuesday, June 25, 1935 in the Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

JUSTIAN A. WILCOX

was born in Canaan, Columbia County, New York on December 20, 1842. He enlisted from Columbia County in 1862 and served with the One Hundred-twenty-eighth Division of Volunteers, and mustered out in 1865. He re-enlisted with the Thirty-eighth Colored Regiment, being discharged after the War with the rank of Captain. In 1871 he moved westward to Gillman, Illinois. In 1872 he was married to Callie Smith at Gillman, and they were the parents of a son Edwin and a daughter Mabel. In 1882 he came to Red Willow County and located in McCook. Here he entered the Mercantile business which he continued to operate uninterrupted until 1915. He was active in civic activities of this town. He was a member of the Methodist Church, Knight Templar in the Masonic Order and was First president of the local G.A.R. Post. He passed away at his home in McCook on October 16, 1925. His burial, on October 18, 1925, was in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

WILLIAM E. WINDHERST

was born December 8, 1838 at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He grew to manhood there, and was married to Mary Utley, on June 1, 1865. They were the parents of one daughter and four sons. The family moved to Grinnell, Iowa and in June of 1873 moved to Red Willow County. The homesteaded three and one-half miles north of Indianola, on the Coon Creek. Because when they came to this county, they were able to bring a few cows, several horses, and enough chickens to stock a small poultry yard, they were considered quite wealthy by their pioneer neighbors. The winter of 1873 was one of the most severe in Nebraska history. First building shelter for their livestock,

delayed building a house for themselves. They had just completed their log cabin, when the great blizzard of that early winter struck, covering the prairies for miles around with heaping drifts of snow that prohibited travel for weeks. The family faced all the hard times, hot winds, prairie fires, Indian scares and failures but never weakened. On March 14, 1886, he was married to Sarah Huff. No children were born to them, but they adopted two daughters. He died at his home on March 1, 1935.

#### ASA ALLEN WOLFE

was born August 11, 1889, to Silas and Sara Puckett in the village of Wellfleet, Nebraska. Silas operated an "eating house" and the family lived in a one room "dugout". This was constructed by digging into the bank of a canyon, sodding up the front and covering it with planks, some tar paper and sod to hold the tar paper.

Asa's mother died of typhoid fever in 1890, and he and his two-year old sister Rozella (Truck) were raised by their grandparents, Allen and Rebecca Puckett on their farm northeast of the then county seat, Indianola. Asa assisted his grandfather with many of the farm chores.

He and his sister attended the rural school until they moved to Indianola in 1905, where he graduated in 1910 at the age of 21. He worked in his Uncle John Puckett's store the last two years of his high school, attributing much of his business expertise to the knowledge gained from this association.

In 1910, he enrolled in Doane College, Crete, Nebraska. The Greek alphabet thwarted his plans to become a minister, and his long, productive career in education began.

He attended Peru State Teacher's College, Peru, Nebraska. He received a teacher's certificate and taught in a rural school in Keith County, here organizing a Sunday School, and a rural literary society, which stimulated participation by ranchers from a large area.

In 1916, he received his B. A. degree from Peru and was elected superintendent of schools in River-ton, Iowa. This experience was shortened when he received draft No. 1 for Red Willow County for World War I. He and his sweetheart of ten years were married August 30, 1917, and he was inducted into the service on September 5, 1917. He served two years, including a tour of France which gave him the opportunity to attend the Besancon University in Paris.

He was honorably discharged in 1919 with the rank of Battalion Sergeant Major.

Asa returned to Nebraska after his discharge, and he and his bride of two years embarked on their over fifty years of marriage and his fifty-five years in the field of education, sixteen years in Iowa and the remainder in his beloved state of Nebraska. He has often stated that one of his greatest rewards has been the opportunity to counsel and guide the thousands of youth both as a teacher and as a supervisor of education. He received his M.A. in Education from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, in 1934.

He was active in scouting, served five years as Red Willow County Red Cross Chairman, was in charge of the disaster relief during the floods of 1935 when over 100 lives were lost, assisted with the organization of the McCook Chapter of the Senior Citizen's Center and was the director for three years and spearheaded the McCook Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, being its first president. This activity led to him being selected as "Nebraska's Outstanding Senior Citizen" in 1971 and his being named one of Nebraska's delegates to the 1971 President's Conference on Aging in Washington, D. C.

His over forty years of membership in the McCook Kiwanis Club have brought many accolades to the club. He was youth service chairman for many years and directed a local career day for high school students for over fifteen years, was chairman of the Nebraska-Iowa District Service Committee for several years, and was a member of Kiwanis International Committee on Circle K Clubs. He was lieutenant Governor, Division X, Nebraska-Iowa District and Governor of the Nebraska-Iowa District of Kiwanis in 1960. Asa served as District Commander of the Veterans of World War I, State of Nebraska during the year 1980-1981. While he was attending the 60th anniversary celebration of the Kiwanis Club of Kearney, he was surprised to be called to the podium by a member of the Nebraska-Iowa Circle K Club who presented him with a beautiful heart-shaped plaque on a polished mahogany background. The inscription read: "In recognition of outstanding service the 1979-1980 Circle K District Board creates the Asa Wolfe Award, April 26, 1980".

He was County Superintendent of Schools of Red Willow County for seventeen of the years between 1935-1975, retiring at the age of 84 to care for his



ailing wife who passed away in May of 1975. During these years, he served as President of the Southwest Nebraska Division of the Nebraska State County Superintendent's Association, and state chairman of the committee for research and development of "meaningful objective tests for eighth grade students." In 1974 he was presented a plaque by District V, M.S.C.A. in appreciation for his distinguished service.

Asa was presented the McCook Annual Builder's Award in 1973. He has been a member of the Congregational Church since 1904, serving as a board member of the McCook church, and Moderator of the Southwest Nebraska Congregational Church Council. There are fond memories of traveling to some of the adjoining smaller communities where he "filled in" for absent ministers.

Life was not always easy for the Wolfes. Raised in poverty and faced with the 1930 depression and five children, their devotion to each other and their Faith has seen its rewards through their respect of the community and their children: John, M.A. from the School of Mines, Golden, Colorado, now a geologist in the Philippines; Mildred Burns, PhD in Secondary Education Administration, Stanford University, and an associate professor in the Department of Education, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Marjorie Hansen, R.N. from Children's Hospital, Denver, Colorado, Billings, Montana; Ina Mae Lewis, B.S. from the University of California, Fresno, California; a special primary instructor in Tulairie, California; and Charles, M.D. from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, practicing in Spokane, Washington.

And so, for this 91 year old gentleman who has spent a lifetime in service, from Nebraska to Iowa, to Montana, to New York and to Canada, to Washington to California, and to the Philippines, there are "no strangers," just "friends he hasn't met."

Asa still resides in McCook and is an active member of the community.

#### ALICE MAE THOMAS

was born to Robert H. and Kate Thomas in a sod house near Indianola, Nebraska on December 6, 1890. She was a very puny baby, weighing less than six pounds at birth. Because of her poor health and the meager facilities in the sod house her parents consented to have her grandmother, Lucy Dunning, who lived in Indianola, care for the baby.

This became a permanent arrangement so Alice grew up with the grandmother. She attended school in the

Indianola schools, graduating from the high school in May of 1911. It was her good fortune that the school board added Normal Training which prepared her class for teaching in rural schools. She taught several years in rural schools in Red Willow and Frontier Counties, then accepted a position in the primary grades in the Uehling, Nebraska schools. After her second year there, she was promoted to principal of the schools and taught high school subjects in the ninth and tenth grades.

Alice was married to Asa A. Wolfe August 30, 1917, just a few days before he entered the armed services and soon was transported to the overseas theater. During those two years, Alice was employed as an elementary teacher in the Fairbury, Nebraska schools.

When Asa returned home at the end of World War I, he and Alice moved to Riverton, Iowa where Asa took up again his duties as superintendent of schools. It was here that their first two children were born.

From the time that Alice was a little girl, she led a very active life. She began teaching a class of small girls in the Congregational Church in Indianola when she was about 12 years of age, continuing this until she left the community for teaching positions.

Since coming to McCook, she had been active in many community organizations. She was a longtime member of "S.D." one of the extension clubs, serving her turns as president. She was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star at age 21, was a member of the Research Club, the womens auxiliaries to the American Legion and the Veterans of World War I. By tracing her ancestry back to the Blairs - founders of William and Mary College, she became eligible for and was accepted into the Daughters of the American Revolution.

At one time Alice guided a group of girls in cooking projects as part of her extension program. At another time, she acted as Den Mother for a group of Cub Scouts. She completed a Red Cross teaching program in First Aid and led several classes of girls through this program. Later, during World War II, she accepted the assignment of secretary for Home Services - later for military men and their families. She was active in this program for about 30 years, and at the same time she assisted the Salvation Army with their services to civilian needy transients. This proved to be a 'labor of love' for her for not

only did she dispense the aid that the two organizations had to offer, she visited with and counseled many who were down and out. No matter what the race, she always found great pleasure in visiting with any who would take the time to listen.

Her hobby was history. She grew up under the tutelage of a grandmother who had lived the facts of the Underground Railway--an organization albeit it a very loose one, that aided many an escaped slave to flee the bondage of slavery. She was much in demand in various schools with her slave stories. She gave lectures in many communities of early history of Nebraska, the various Indian Tribes and on the many trails through Nebraska - trails that early pioneers had used in their migration west.

Long ago she was convinced that a children's department was a necessary part of a library and that a regular story hour for them was a "worthwhile" service. When she came to McCook she did not find either one.

Late in December, 1953, the children of this community had their own special corner in the library. As a member of the board Mrs. Wolfe had a big part in bringing it about. Before her retirement she saw the start of a story hour for children. When the library was closed for repairs and remodeling the board drew up plans for rearrangement of the two floors, the children's department was set up in the basement of the building.

The McCook library board was the fourth Mrs. Wolfe had served on. Her first experience was at Green, Iowa, and later at Kanawha, Iowa. At Green she saw a library story hour in operation. At Kanawha she helped organize such a program.

When the Wolfe family moved to Indianola in 1932, she helped start a new library, nor did she forget the children and their story hour. Now she has seen the same thing worked out for the children of McCook.

She rated story telling very highly as a force in the education of a child. It can be made a part of geography, English and history besides helping to create a love of good reading, she said.

The library has never been the sole interest of Alice. She maintained she had no hobby, but her husband said she had. He claimed it is a love of history, and pointed to a house full of papers and books to prove his point.

High school and college students faced with writing a thesis on some local event or individual always found help in her papers. She not only loved to

read history, she liked to write it. Thanks to her some six organizations in the county have complete histories.

When she went on the library board she found no history for it so she dug back into secretaries records and came up with one.

The Old Settlers Association in Indianola did not have a historian until Mrs. Wolfe joined in 1932. She wrote histories for the McCook PTA, the American Legion Auxiliary of this city and for the local Woman's Club.

The Old Settlers Association was a very close interest of her's. Some member of her family has been on the board for 48 years. Her mother was secretary for 14 years; Mrs. Wolfe had the job for 24. She finally gave it up to become - you've guessed it, historian.

Maybe her love of history stems from living with her grandmother, who was a widow with four children when she moved from Eastern Nebraska to Indianola.

Alice died in May of 1975, leaving a loving family and host of friends to mourn her death.

#### WILLIAM M. (BILLY) WOOD

was born May 10, 1861 in Hebron, Indiana. He left Indiana at the age of seventeen to seek work, and was later hired by the C.B. & Q. On July 12, 1886, he was hired as a brakeman working out of Red Cloud, he later was made extra conductor. While working at Red Cloud, he met and married Adella Lindley, and to this union eleven children were born. He was transferred to McCook, after only working at Red Cloud for eighteen months, to the Mechanical department as fireman and in September 1897, was promoted to freight engineer. He endured the blizzard in January of 1888 at Red Cloud and later that year, the strike in McCook. He was all ready to take the train out of McCook when he was ordered not to move the train. He made his first run as a passenger engineer in 1904. From 1912 until 1917, he served as road foreman of engineers. He retired on June 1, 1931, after forty-four years of railroad service. He stated at the time of his retirement that he never had a passenger hurt, nor had been in a serious railroad accident. He also recalled at this time that when he arrived in McCook, that he only had thirty-five cents in his pocket, and his first need was some money. He worked for Rooney and Seight at the brickyard and helped fashion the bricks that were used in the Franklin Bank building on Main and B Street. He never missed a day's work because of illness in all of his

service. He served on the McCook City Council and also was a member of the Masonic and the Elk's Lodges. He died in McCook and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery, May 11, 1939.

Wife of ELVIN T. WOODS

TINNIE RYAN

was born November 12, 1873 at Meadville, Pennsylvania to William S. and Harriet Ryan. In 1880, her parents migrated to Nebraska, and settled on a homestead a few miles east of where Danbury now stands. Here she received her education and grew to womanhood, and she spent the remainder of her life in Red Willow County. On June 8, 1894, in Red Willow County, she was united in marriage to Elvin T. Woods. To this union, nine children were born. After their marriage the Woods lived on a farm near Danbury until 1916, when they moved into town, where Mr. Woods operated a blacksmith shop. Coming into this county as a child, she knew from first hand experience, the hardships endured by those who settled this county, and laid the foundations by which our cities grew. She found fellowship in the Methodist Church, and throughout all the years, she proved her faith by her works of love and mercy to all those within the sphere of her influence. Even when her health was greatly impaired, she continued to help and serve as best as she could. For several years, she had been afflicted with heart trouble and other complications, and in November 1938, her son, Dr. Ozro T. Woods of Dallas, Texas, came for a short visit. The Woods returned with him to Texas, hoping that a change in the climate would be helpful for her health. She underwent major surgery, and seemed to be making improvement, but she died in Dallas, on Monday, December 12, 1938. Her remains were returned to Nebraska, and was buried Thursday, December 15, 1938 in the Danbury Cemetery.

ENOS MARION WOODS

was born near Knoxville, Tennessee on September 19, 1840. When five years old, his parents moved to Mahaska County, Iowa, near Leighton. In 1862 at the age of 22 he enlisted in the Union Army as a member of Company G., Thirty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry. On April 15, 1864 at Poison Springs, Arkansas, he was severely wounded in battle and being unable to move with his regiment, he was taken prisoner ten days later and spent the next ten months as a prisoner of war. He spent his time in the following

prisons, first at Camden, then Magnolia in Arkansas, and later at Shreveport, Louisiana. He was paroled from prison on February 26, 1865 and reached his home in April. After reaching home, he was permitted to attend the funeral services of President Lincoln at Springfield, Illinois. That was a privilege which he always esteemed. He was married to Elvira A. Strain on March 2, 1868. In March 1888 he and his family moved to Danbury, Nebraska, where he was to make his home for the remaining years of his life. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and helped erect the church in Danbury. In 1888, he helped organize the Fleming Graham Post of the G.A.R. at Danbury. He was an enthusiastic member of the Masonic order, being a member of Boaz Lodge. He continued his lodge duties and activities as long as his health permitted. His war wound had left him badly crippled and physically handicapped. For many years before his death he was never wholly free from physical pain. In the face of all of it, he however remained cheerful and courageous until his final breakdown. His trials came to an end at his home in Danbury on August 26, 1921. His funeral was held in Danbury, with last rites at the grave by the Masonic Lodge. He was survived by his wife and four sons: Elvin T., Orville B., Harley E., and George W.

Wife of ENOS M. WOODS

ELVIRA ANN STRAIN

was the daughter of Thomas and Nancy Strain. She was born in Highland County, Ohio on June 5, 1843. In 1850 with her family, she moved to Jasper and later to Mahaska County, Iowa, near the town of Leighton, where she resided until 1888. On March 22, 1868, she married Enos Marion Woods. In the spring of 1888 the family homesteaded near Danbury. She was in very poor health for many years, and after a second stroke of paralysis died on Thursday, March 11, 1926. She was buried next to her husband in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery. Attendance at the funeral was so large, that extra seats were added to accommodate those who had assembled to pay their last respects to their dear friend.

CHARLES R. WOODWORTH

was born in 1876 at Milford Center, Ohio. He moved to Geneva, Nebraska as a young man. He studied pharmacy at Ohio State University, and for a while, he taught school at Geneva. He came to McCook in 1904 and worked for the McMillen Drug Store. He moved to

Boise, Idaho and spent a year and a half, before returning to McCook in 1906. He bought the Lon Cone and brother drug store, which he operated until 1940 when he retired from active business. In 1898, he enlisted with the First Nebraska Volunteers for service in the Philippines. During his service in the Spanish-American War, he served in thirteen engagements. He was married to Mable Wilcox in 1905. He was a member of the Odd Fellows, Elk's Lodge, Spanish-American War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Macabees, having held offices in several of these organizations. In April 1953, he went to the Veterans Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he had a major operation. He passed away on March 12, 1953, and his body was returned to McCook where he was buried on March 16, 1953 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

#### JACK WRIGHT

was born in Frankfort, Kansas, and spent his early youth in the town of his birth. At the age of 20, he decided he should have his chance to strike out and conquer the world; so going to Manhattan, Kansas, he took up the baker's trade in 1906. Later, he tried a long distance change and went to Great Falls, Montana. He remained in this area for ten years, returning to Beloit, Kansas, still following the baker's trade. In 1919, Jack decided to make a change, and moved to McCook. He made it a complete change, taking up a different line of work, in the Model Cafe. Not satisfied with that, he attempted the grocer's life, and kept at it for seven years, and then decided that the calling of his life would be the warehouse business, dealing with new and used furniture. His business must have prospered, because he had made many improvements in his building and expanded his business here. As a sideline he took up auctioneering. He was a graduate of the Missouri Auction School at Kansas City, Missouri. On December 25, 1921, he was married to Mable Leland of McCook. They bought a house on Main Street in which to reside. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and they attended the Christian Church.

#### Y

##### JOHN HENRY YARGER

first saw the light of day on November 20, 1840 in Hartleton, Union County, Pennsylvania. When but a mere lad, his parents moved to Flat Rock, Ohio, where

he grew to manhood. He was a Union soldier of no mean repute. He enlisted in Company K., Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteers Infantry in 1861. He was made corporal, sergeant and commissary sergeant in succession. After more than four years of service he was discharged, but immediately re-enlisted, and for nearly a year served as First Lieutenant, commanding Company G., 49th Ohio Volunteers. He was honorably discharged in November 1865. He married Mary E. Patterson on January 9, 1873 at Knoxville, Iowa. They were the parents of three children: Oscar, Mrs. A. F. Clark and Mrs. H. D. Stewart. In 1879 he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, from there he came in 1884 to Nebraska, and settled in McCook. He was a charter member of the Methodist Church, at McCook. He always took an active part so long as he was able and when his condition forbade further participation, he greatly grieved. He was hard-working, earnest, devoted husband, father, and friend. In 1912 he suffered a stroke of paralysis which practically made him a helpless invalid. Gradually life slipped away, until on Sunday, March 25, 1917, he departed this life in his home here in McCook. He was buried on Wednesday, March 28, 1917 in the Longview Cemetery.

##### Wife of JOHN H. YARGER

##### MARY E. PATTERSON

was born in Havana, Illinois on May 21, 1854. Her parents moved from there to Knoxville, Iowa, when she was small. There she grew to womanhood, and was married to John Henry Yarger in 1873. Two daughters and a son were born to them. They came to McCook in 1884. She was a member of the Methodist Church since 1868 and was one of the first members of that church in this city, holding her membership till the end. She was taken sick and seemed to be getting along alright, but pneumonia set in. Despite all efforts to save her, death came on Saturday, March 27, 1914. On March 28, 1914 she was buried in the Longview Cemetery at McCook.

#### Z

##### GEORGE H. ZIMMERMAN

was born in Stark County, Illinois on May 22, 1842. He enlisted in the Third Illinois Calvary in the spring of 1864, serving until November of 1865. He was married to Margarette Marsh and ten children were born to this union. He resided in Illinois until 1883, when he came to Fillmore County, Nebraska. In