

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.

T

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.

ROBERT HANSON THOMAS

was born April 15, 1851 near Galesburg, Illinois. His father was Abel Thomas and his mother was Harriet Blair, she being a direct descendent of the Blairs on whose homestead William and Mary College, the oldest college in the United States now stands. In 1878 he, in the company of Verdon Glandon, Ed Leash and Charlie Hoag, made a pleasure trip from Illinois and liking the country, they all took land and he was a resident of Red Willow County from then on for many years. He was a contractor and builder, being one of the first in Indianola. He helped to put up many of the first buildings, such as school houses, churches, business buildings, and homes. He was married to Kate Dunning on March 15, 1883 in Red Willow County and they were the parents of four children: Lucy, Alibe M., Mary and Robert Jr. He was a charter member of the Congregational Church in Indianola, a member of the Old Settlers' Association, the Modern Woodman and the Eastern Star and Masonic Lodges. He died on Monday, July 13, 1931 at his home just west of town, after being in poor health for over two years. He was buried on Wednesday, July 15, 1931, in the Indianola Cemetery.

HENRY F. TOMBLIN

was born March 22, 1835 at Carleton, New York. From early manhood he farmed in New York state. He entered the service of the United States as a private in Company D, One Hundred Fifty-first New York Volunteers, on President Lincoln's first call for volunteers. He served throughout the entire war, and was regularly mustered out at its close. He was part of that great body of soldiery, which was with General Sherman, in his historic "March to the Sea". Shortly after the close of the War, he was converted and became a member of the Presbyterian Church at Carleton, New York. On February 27, 1861 he was married to Josephine Parsons, and they were the parents of three children. The family moved from New York state to Emerson, Iowa in 1873, where he was engaged in the lumber and hardware business. From Emerson they moved to Indianola, Nebraska in 1880, locating on a homestead in that area. From Indianola they moved to Arapahoe where they lived for several years. After moving to Arapahoe, he became affiliated with the Methodist Church. In 1908, he moved to Denver, Colorado. In 1910 he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. F. Forbes, in McCook. His remains were taken to Arapahoe for burial in the Arapahoe Cemetery.

JOHN L. TOWNLEY

was born August 2, 1848 at Townhead, Lancashire, England. He was the son of Edmund Townley and Margaret Lush. He came to the United States in 1872, establishing his residents in southwestern Nebraska. He was one of the early pioneer homesteaders in the Beaver Valley, midway between the towns of Lebanon and Danbury, during the year of 1872. He was married to Elizabeth Springer on February 3, 1875 on a farm in Red Willow County. To this union eight children were born. In 1902 he retired from the farm, taking up his residence in Indianola. The family resided in Indianola until 1919, when he and his wife moved to Boulder, Colorado. His health had been failing for sometime and he died on Thursday, December 16, 1932 at his home in Boulder. His body was brought to McCook and buried on Monday, December 19, 1932 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

Wife of JOHN L. TOWNLEY

ELIZABETH SPRINGER

was born August 26, 1856 in Hawk County, Ohio. She came with her parents to the Beaver Valley and homesteaded near Lebanon in 1872. She experienced all the trials, adversities and hardships of the early days, on what was then called the "Great American Desert". She was married to John L. Townley on February 3, 1875 in Red Willow County. They retired from the farm, and moved to Indianola, where they lived for several years. In 1919, they moved to Boulder, Colorado, and they made their home there until the death of her husband, December 15, 1932. She returned to McCook and resided with her daughter, Mrs. I. D. Pennington. She passed away on Saturday, April 15, 1933, and was buried on Monday, April 17, 1933 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

GEORGE TRAPHAGAN

was born January 23, 1881 in Wyoming, Illinois his parents moved to a farm near McCook, when George was twelve years old. He spent the rest of his years in this county, and in his early years attended country schools near his home. On February 4, 1904, he was married to Mary Ellen Corcoran, who was born near Evansville, Indiana, and moved here at an early age. The couple continued living on a farm until 1919 when they moved into town. For sixteen years, Mr. Traphagan served on the McCook Police force, first as a patrolman, and later as Chief of Police. He concluded his duties with the department in 1935, after which

he purchased a filing station. He passed away at his service station on West 3rd. Street, on Monday, December 24, 1942. His funeral was held Wednesday, December 26, 1942, and was buried in the Calvary Cemetery at McCook.

JOHN TRAUT

was born August 8, 1873 at Norka, Russia. He came to America as a boy of eighteen. Settling at Culbertson he was soon employed by the Burlington Railroad, and was sent to Max, Nebraska. For three years he worked as a section laborer, then was elevated to foremanship. He was section foreman from 1895 until 1938 when he concluded his services with the railroad. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1936. They were the parents of six children: Louise, Lucille, Phillip, John H., Floyd and Norris. He died at the McCook Hospital on Wednesday, November 7, 1962 and was buried on Saturday, November 10, 1962 in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

FRANCIS M. TRAVELPIECE

was born in 1845. He was a veteran of the Civil War, and homesteaded in Red Willow County, near Center Point, upon his arrival in Nebraska from Michigan. He was married to Margaret M. and they were the parents of five children: Thomas, Charles, Bruce, Myrtle and Della. He passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Burtch, south of Indianola on Monday, June 13, 1927. His remains were returned to his home, and was buried on Wednesday, June 15, 1927 in the Zion Hill Cemetery northwest of McCook.

U

JOHN W. UNDERHILL

was born in Harrison County, Ohio on February 20, 1847. He volunteered in the Civil War on December 17, 1863 with Company B., Thirteenth Ohio Calvary and was honorably discharged July 4, 1865. He resided in Missouri until 1879, and later homesteaded in Rawlins County, Kansas. On December 24, 1883, he was married to Hattie Shaw in Cheyenne, Wyoming and to this union three children were born: Dora, Nettie and John. Mrs. Underhill died on July 25, 1895. The family moved to Nebraska and settled in McCook. He married Amanda T. Hyatt in November of 1920. He died in his home at McCook on Saturday, March 18, 1922 and was buried in the Longview Cemetery on Monday, March 20, 1922 with the G.A.R. Post in charge.

NICKOLAS J. UERLING

was born January 22, 1871, in Granville, Wisconsin. At the age of 11, he came with his father and six brothers and sisters to live on a farm south of Indianola.

Like many other pioneer families, the Uerlings were poor - so poor that sometimes the children's school lunch pails held only bread spread with lard and salt. The mother of the family died while the children were still small, so Nickolas's father was forced to care for the children alone. Eventually the family became a vital part of the southwestern Nebraska community of pioneers who had migrated to the area near Indianola.

As the children grew into young womanhood and manhood, they married. Three of the girls married Collins who were neighbors. Nickolas met and married Theresa Brahler in 1896 and like his father, took up farming in that same area. He also taught school.

After the tragic death of their three-year old daughter, they moved from the farm into Indianola. There, three of their five children were born.

In 1900, he purchased the McCallom General Merchandise store, where, until 1921, he ran what came to be known throughout the countryside as Uerling's Store. The same building is now occupied by the Indianola Public Library and Woman's Club. For some years he also owned stores in Stamford and Madrid, though he resided in Indianola.

Nick, as he was known, was a wise, prudent and hard working man. Theresa worked alongside him and the family prospered. It was only after he retired from the store business that Nick found life a bit boring. So, he took on the management of the Equity Union and later purchased the stock of the company. He was in the general store business then for another 20 years or so. In 1944, he sold the locker plant to his son Jerry Uerling who is the present owner.

Nick died in 1962 and his last years were quiet ones, spent mostly in Indianola, with the exception of a couple winters he spent in California with his daughters. He and his Theresa celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in 1960 and Theresa died not long after.

Nick was, as the world at large sees men, just and ordinary good man, but as the world around Nick saw him, he was great. He was never a dynamic leader perhaps, but a leader nonetheless by virtue of his qualities and interests.

Nick was an ardent Catholic, active in his church. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name Society. He was a committeeman on the group which helped with the building of St. Catherine's Church. But best of all, Nick lived his religion in daily life; he showed by his principles and values that his faith was real. He was also a leader in civic affairs; besides being a charter member of the Rotary Club, he was director of the old Farmers and Merchants Bank and for many years, served on the Indianola School Board.

As an employer, he was exacting in his requirements for serving the public well. Even though he believed that the customer was generally right, he also supported his employee's views. He was fair, he was pleasant to work for; he was honorable and honest. Best of all, he had a great sense of humor and was a happy man.

Perhaps there are many men like Nick in this world. But somehow, persons in Indianola who knew him would find it difficult to find a better man - a wiser businessman - a more sincere Christian than Nickolas Uerling. Nick died in 1962 and is buried the St. Catherine's Cemetery in Indianola.

V

WILLIAM VALENTINE

was born March 11, 1856 in Vermont, and received his early education in the New England States. He came west as private secretary to the noted preacher, Rev. Thomas Collier. Later he came to Nebraska City as principal of one of the city wards and later County Superintendent of Public Instruction in Otoe County, Nebraska. In 1889, he came to McCook as superintendent. He was unanimously re-elected by the school board for nine consecutive years. Probably no person exerted so wide an influence. He was a polished, cultured, gentleman, a brilliant conversationalist, an entertaining reader, an eloquent, forceful, and instructive speaker. He was charitable and generous to a fault, always ready to help an unfortunate creature, man or beast, by kind word or deed. After leaving McCook he didn't remain long in any one place. He was a private tutor for a wealthy family, after which he gave up teaching. He sold encyclopedias for a large publishing house, drifting from Chicago, Indianapolis and other cities. He went to St. Louis and became a reporter, and then editor of a fraternal paper, writing magazine articles and stories. He went from there to Joplin, Missouri to become assis-

tant editor of the Daily American, published by H. Spearman Lewis. In January of 1907 he went to Smith, Arkansas to work with the Southwest American newspaper. In all of his wanderings, he loved McCook and her people most of all and called this city his home. He died on April 13, 1907 in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. His remains were returned to McCook and he was buried on April 16, 1907 in the Longview Cemetery at McCook, under the auspices of the High School Alumni Association. Many of his former pupils were in attendance. His influence for good showed in his former pupils, who have always stood by him, and the tribute they paid to his memory, showed their loyalty to him.

Wife of JAMES FREMONT VAN ORSDEL SARAH ROSE RANDOLPH

was born in Butler, Pennsylvania on June 22, 1850. Her early years were spent there with her father, mother, sister and brothers. Her father, J. W. Randolph, held a commission as Major in the Civil War, and afterwards the family moved to Bufort, South Carolina. Some years later, the family moved to Eddystone Island, where they resided. In 1876 at Butler, Pennsylvania, she was married to James Fremont Van Orsdel. They were the parents of five children. They came west to settle in the eastern part of Kansas. They were among the early settlers there and spent the greater part of their married lives in that location. They moved to Lebanon, Nebraska where they were to spend the last years of their lives. She passed away on Friday, March 15, 1935 at her home in Lebanon. She had been bedfast for several weeks following an accident. Her funeral was held on Monday, March 18, 1935, and she was buried in the Lebanon Cemetery.

Wife of D. C. VAUGHN SARAH E. BEEBE

was born on November 11, 1844 at Chester, Gauge County, Ohio. She was of a family of nine children. On February 23, 1857 she married D. C. Vaughn, and to this union three children were born. Mr. Vaughn died from exposure due to bad effects gained while a prisoner during the Civil War. On June 20, 1886 she was married to Milton Bonner, who had escaped from the Andersonville Prison, where he was held as a prisoner during the War. After the War they moved to Iowa, and later to Scandia, Kansas, making their home in that place till the death of her husband.

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.

W

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