

BEET SUGAR FACTORY

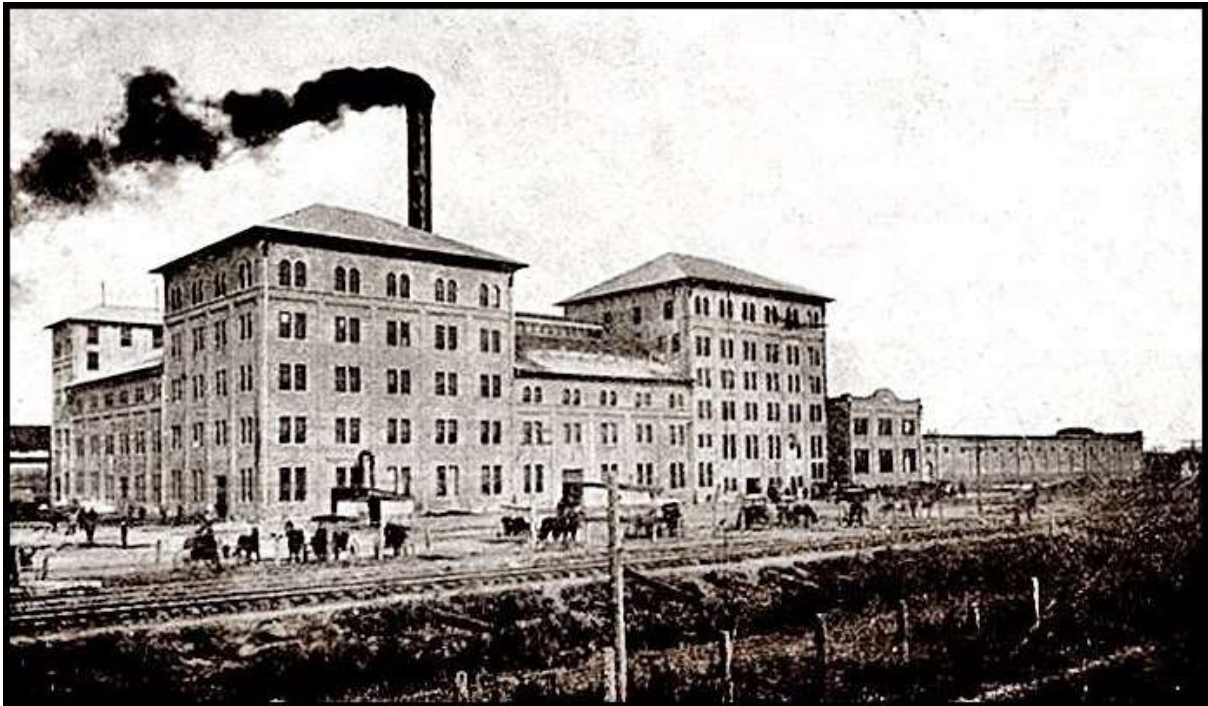
Garden City, Finney County, Kansas

Written by Bernice Crooms

Consultant: Mr. Frank Gillespie, the former manager of the Garden City Beet Sugar Factory

References: Conquest of Southwestern Kansas, copyright 1931, by Leola Howard Blanchard

** Additional information added about certain people mentioned in this story*



BEET SUGAR MILLS OF U. S. SUGAR COMPANY, GARDEN CITY, KANSAS
About 1909

Garden City is known as the Sugar Bowl of Kansas. However, it would take about twelve factories the size of this one to supply the whole state. The factory building started in 1906, on George Washington's birthday, and was ready for work in the fall, on November 10th. The Garden City factory of Beet Sugar is the only one in Kansas.

The building, constructed of brick and steel, is entirely fireproof. The storehouse can take care of one hundred thousand pounds of sugar for long periods. However, it has never been kept longer than three months, as the sugar sells just as fast as prepared.

When the factory first began its business, it had a capacity of 600 tons of beets a day. Now it has a capability of 1500 tons.

It is equipped with all modern machinery and kept up-to-date. It has a pulp drier, which is something that other beet sugar factories do not have. The pulp is dried and

made into dairy cattle feed. The factory also uses the “Steffen’s Process” for treating the syrup. When factories do not prepare to treat it, there is always some loose sugar in the syrup.

The factory employs about 300 men. There are 14,000 acres under contract, and the beet fields extend from Syracuse to Larned.

The Garden City Sugar Company has had a lot to do with the development of Garden City. It has led the way in the progress of irrigation in the district. It built the Alfalfa Mill, the Garden City Western Railroad, the Electric Power plant, and an electric line going through the valley. The Sugar Company made it possible for the farmers to irrigate and operate their pumping plants with electric pumps.

For the past twenty-five to thirty years, Western Kansas has had its years of dry weather, but the Sugar Factory has never stopped. It has never missed a year of running.

Some of the men who made it possible to have a Sugar Factory here are the following; R. M. Lawrence*, D. R. Menke*, George W. Finnup*, E. G. Finnup*, J. E. Baker, W. M. Kinnison, George Boyd, H. V. Lawrence, and many others who spent their time and money on the project.

When the Sugar Company decided to locate the factory in Garden City, they asked the people for \$30,000 to secure 12,000 tons of beets.

A committee was appointed to take donations. That committee was D. R. Menke (chairman), E. G. Finnup (secretary), and James Craig (treasurer).

** For more information on George W. Finnup... See GEORGE W. FINNUP, Project Consultant, Finney County.*

Additional Information

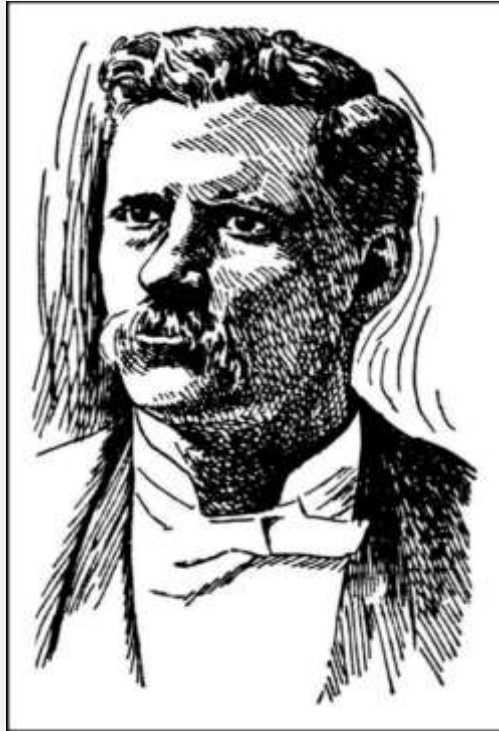
R. M. LAWRENCE
Robert McLain Lawrence

ROBERT MCLAIN LAWRENCE was born on 1 May 1847 in Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio. He married **MARGARET JANE MURLIN**, daughter of Walter William Murlin (1820-1893) and Laurinda Upton (1819-1913), on 8 Oct 1867 in Mercer, Mercer County, Ohio. Margaret was born on 4 May 1845 in Hardin County, Kentucky. Nine children were born in their marriage: Effie, Robert L., Nettie, Myrtle, Walter, Bertha, Arlington, Clyde M., and Gaylord. The family left Ohio in 1887 and moved to Garden City, Finney County, Kansas.

Robert McLain Lawrence passed away on 6 Jan 1908 in Garden City, Kansas, two years after the

building of the Sugar Beet Factory had begun. Margaret died there on 2 Apr 1937. Burial for both was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City.

Newspaper Obituary
ROBERT MCLAIN LAWRENCE



Newspaper drawing of Robert M. Lawrence

*The Garden City (Kansas) Telegram - Saturday, 11 Jan 1908
(Was written on 7 Jan 1908, the day after his death.)*

DEATH OF A PIONEER

BUSY CAREER OF R. M. LAWRENCE WAS CLOSED LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

PROMINENT CITIZEN

Will Be Missed in Business Circles, in the Church, and the Entire Community – Funeral is Tomorrow.

R. M. Lawrence, for twenty years, one of the leading citizens of Garden City, died at his home on North Seventh Street yesterday afternoon. His death resulted from pneumonia with which he was taken ill some two weeks ago. For several days, his condition has been regarded as serious but, yesterday morning, the announcement that he was improving, led many of his friends to be more hopeful of his recovery. In the afternoon, he grew gradually worse until the end that came at 4:45. The death of Mr. Lawrence marks the closing of a life of unusual activity. Since coming

to Garden City he has been actively engaged in business at all times and he had accomplished much in his former home in Indiana before coming to Kansas. Mr. Lawrence was born in Wayne County, Ohio on 1 May 1847. He continued to make the state his home until he grew to manhood. When quite a young man, he went to Pierceton, Indiana, where he was engaged in the mercantile business. On 6 September 1885, he, in the company of his cousin, H. V. Lawrence, came to Kansas and settled on claims in Haskell County. Two years later, he came to Garden City and established the coal business, which he has conducted ever since.

In addition to giving the closest attention to the details of his own business, he has found time to work for the general welfare of the town and to aid in every worthy cause that has been presented to him. He was one of the organizers and was the first president of the Industrial Club, which has had a large part in the development of this section. In the early nineties, he served on the board of county commissioners and was active in getting the account of the county on a business basis.

Mr. Lawrence was identified with many of the enterprises of the town as a stockholder and director and his counsel will be missed in many places. When the Garden City National Bank was founded, he was elected vice president of the institution and he held this position until his death.

In his early life, he joined the Presbyterian Church and since coming to Garden City, he has been an active member of the organization. He was for many years an elder in that body and at the time of his death was superintendent of the Sunday school. His gifts and Christian work were not limited to his own church and many other worthy causes will remember the assistance he gave them. He was a Mason, a member of the Modern Woodmen, and the Fraternal Aid.

Before leaving Ohio, he married Miss Margaret J. Murwin (*Murlin*), who with their nine children, survives him. The children are Miss Effie Lawrence, of Boulder, Colorado; Robert Lawrence, Garden City; Mrs. Nettie McMurray, New York City; Mrs. Myrtle Rice, New York City; Clyde M. Lawrence, Topeka, Kansas; Walter Lawrence, Denver, Colorado; Arlington Lawrence, Garden City; Miss Bertha Lawrence, Garden City; and Gaylord Lawrence, Topeka, Kansas. The funeral services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Additional Information

The following are details about the children of ROBERT MCLAIN LAWRENCE and MARGARET JANE MURLIN...

1.) EFFIE L. LAWRENCE was born in May of 1868 in Ohio. She never married. In 1910, Effie was teaching school in Boulder, Colorado. By 1918, she had returned to Garden City, Kansas and taught school there. She passed away in June of 1953 in Garden City and buried there at the Valley View Cemetery.

Newspaper Article

EFFIE L. LAWRENCE

The Sugar Beet Newspaper, Garden City, Kansas - Monday, 10 Oct 1932

MISS EFFIE LAWRENCE RELATES EXPERIENCES

Miss Effie Lawrence has had more experience teaching than any other teacher in the Garden City schools. She taught many different subjects and has had two of our present teachers under her supervision. She has taught in the Garden City schools since 1918 and had years of previous teaching before she came to our city.

She taught Mr. Grimsley, now a science teacher in the junior high class when he was attending the ninth grade. Mrs. Eugene Weeks was one of her students in the rural school. The editor of the Junior Jayhawker, during Miss Lawrence's experience, was Mrs. J. M. Shanks, who was then known as Melissa Phipps.

At various times Miss Lawrence has taught hygiene, geography, English, world history, and industrial training. A majority of Miss Lawrence's pupils say they learned more and at the same time received more enjoyment than from any class they can recall.

2.) **ROBERT LEROY LAWRENCE** was born on 20 Aug 1869 in Auglaize County, Ohio. He married Mabel Claire Maddux on 24 Nov 1909. They had one known daughter, Martha who was born on 12 Mar 1912 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas.

After his father passed away, Robert continued with the coal business that his father started in Garden City. Mabel passed away in 1951 and Robert died on 23 Aug 1957 in Garden City. Robert's death was due to a fall that occurred only a short time earlier, putting him in the hospital with a broken hip. He was 88 years old. Both Robert and Mabel were buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City.

3.) **NETTIE MARGARET LAWRENCE** was born on 4 Oct 1871 in Auglaize County, Ohio. She married Fred Russell McMurry in about 1908. They had three children: Lawrence W. McMurry, and twin brothers... Henry Lewis McMurry and Howard Vernon McMurry. Fred McMurry died on 28 Jun 1943 in Westwood, New Jersey. Nettie passed away on 5 May 1953 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Nettie and Fred were buried at the Old Tappan Cemetery in Old Tappan, New Jersey.

4.) **MYRTLE LAWRENCE** was born on 7 Aug 1874 in Indiana. She married Oscar Victor Rice on 5 Jun 1901 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. He was born in 1872 and died on 14 Jan 1932. Burial was at the Mount Zion Cemetery in North Coventry Township, Pennsylvania. Myrtle died on 20 Jul 1960 in Los Angeles County, California. She was buried at the Glen Haven Memorial Park Cemetery in Sylmar, California.

Myrtle and Oscar had one daughter, Helen Lawrence Rice, who was born on 21 Oct 1903 in Kansas. She married Robert Rollin Orr on 20 Jul 1929. Robert was born on 27 Mar 1901 in Greeley Junction, Weld County, Colorado. He died on 19 Apr 1973 in Los Angeles County, California. Although her home was in La Crescenta, California, Helen passed away on 13 Jan 1975 in Dallas, Texas. Helen and her husband, Robert, were buried at the Glen Haven Memorial Park Cemetery in Sylmar, California.

5.) **CLYDE MCLAIN LAWRENCE** was born on 30 Apr 1876 in Indiana. He married Pearl Priest, the daughter of Joseph Harding Priest and Mary Elizabeth Rogers, on 27 Dec 1899 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. They made their home in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas. Pearl passed away there on 19 Dec 1906. Her burial was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas.

Clyde then married Ethel White. They had two children, Madeline Lawrence and Kenneth Lawrence. In the early 1920s, Clyde and his family moved to Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa. There, Ethel passed away on 18 Mar 1957 and Clyde died on 23 Jan 1959. They were buried at the Topeka Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas.

6.) **WALTER RALPH LAWRENCE** was born on 6 Apr 1879 in Pierceton, Gibson County, Indiana. He was married to Lola Berry on 25 Jan 1906 in Topeka, Kansas. They left for Denver, Colorado right after the marriage took place. Two sons were born into their marriage: Walter "Ralph" Lawrence, Jr. and William B. Lawrence. Walter Ralph Lawrence died in Jan of 1960 in Grand Rapids, Michigan while visiting his son, Ralph Jr.

7.) **BERTHA LAWRENCE** was born on 21 Nov 1880 in Princeton, Gibson County, Indiana. She married Isaac Harlan Meek, son of James Gill Meek and Hannah Beal, on 31 Mar 1909. Isaac was born on 6 Jan 1877 in Columbia, Marion County, Iowa. Soon after their marriage, Isaac and Bertha moved to Tuttle, Grady County, Oklahoma.

They had one son, James "Robert" Meek, born on 15 Feb 1910 in Tuttle, Oklahoma. By 1930, Isaac and Bertha had moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma. In 1940, they were living in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma where they operated a home bakery. Their son, Robert, passed away there on 10 Mar 1964. Isaac died on 5 Apr 1959 and Bertha passed away on 18 Jun 1964, both in Oklahoma City. Both were buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas.

8.) **ARLINGTON MERLIN LAWRENCE** was born on 2 Oct 1883 in Pierceton, Kosciusko County, Indiana. Arlington was married to Dorothy Alice Chatterton, daughter of John Chatterton and Alice Frazee, on 17 Oct 1917 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. Arlington and Dorothy made their home there and had two daughters, Margaret Ann (Lawrence) Lewis (1920-2008) and Alice (Lawrence) Wade.

Arlington died on 31 Jul 1952 in Garden City, Kansas. Dorothy passed away there also in 1952. Both were buried in Garden City at the Valley View Cemetery.

ARLINGTON & DOROTHY ALICE (CHATTERTON) LAWRENCE



Photographs from the book titled "History of Finney County, Kansas" – Volume II

9.) GAYLORD TAYLOR LAWRENCE was born on 9 Jan 1885 at Pierceton, Kosciusko County, Indiana. He married LAURA LENA LUX, daughter of Samuel Edward Lux (1861-1930) and Lena Stalter (1861-1931), on 25 Oct 1911 in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas. Laura was born on 28 Jul 1886 in Pekin, Tazewell County, Illinois. She passed away on 31 Oct 1950 at Topeka, Kansas and Gaylord died there on 19 Dec 1962. Both were buried in Topeka at the Mount Hope Cemetery.

Cemetery Headstones
GAYLORD LAWRENCE & LAURA LUX



MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY
Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas

Headstone photographs provided by Janice Dean LeMaster

Gaylord and Laura had three children...

GAIL LAWRENCE (2 Mar 1915-3 May 1991) was married to George Osborne Wilson (19 Dec 1915-

15 Mar 2008). They passed away in Santa Clara County, California. Burial was at the Cypress Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Colma, San Mateo County, California.

ROBERT LUX LAWRENCE (13 Apr 1917-17 Aug 1971) Burial was at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas.

MARGERIE LAWRENCE (7 Sep 1920-5 Sep 2006) Margery never married. Her burial was at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas.

Additional Information

D. R. MENKE David R. Menke

DAVID R. MENKE, son of Henry Menke (1820-1894) and Margaret Gerken (1827-1903) was born on 4 Mar 1848 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He married MARETTA BELINDA URIE, daughter of William Urie (1816-1850) and Belinda Noah (1822-1883) on 30 Sep 1869 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Maretta was born on 5 Mar 1850 in New Concord, Muskingum County, Ohio. David and Maretta had three children: Olivia Catherine Menke, Harry William Menke, and George Gerken Menke.

David moved the family to Farmington, Illinois, but they stayed for only a short time. Then on 20 Aug 1878, the family arrived in the area that was soon to become Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. The area had not been named yet but soon David became the town's first merchant and the first Postmaster on 8 Oct 1878. (He held this position until 16 Jun 1881.) In 1879, David Menke built the family a two-room house with 80 acres. He was the first one in that area to grow alfalfa.

Finney County was organized in 1884 and Mr. Menke became one of the first county commissioners and was soon to become Chairman of the Board. For fifteen years, he was the manager of the First National Bank in Garden City. There, in the year 1900, David Menke started the first telephone system. He also built the first electric light plant in Garden City and operated the plant for seven years without pay so the town would have electric lights. In 1906, he was part of a group that worked hard to have the beet sugar factory started.

The house called Sunnyland at 501 N. 5th Street in Garden City was built for David Menke and his family in 1909. ** (In 1959, I rented a room at the beautiful Sunnyland, in Garden City. It was a brief stay while I attended school there. At that time, I had no idea I would be learning more about this special place years later. ...Kathye Snyder-Knight)*

Maretta stood beside her husband, supporting him with everything he did to make Garden City a successful town. She passed away on 26 Feb 1933 and David died on 8 Apr 1933, both in Los

Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. They were buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas.

Cemetery Headstone

VALLEY VIEW CEMETERY, GARDEN CITY, FINNEY COUNTY, KANSAS



Thanks to Jeremy Ortiz for providing headstone photographs

Newspaper Obituary DAVID R. MENKE

The Hutchinson Kansas News, 12 Apr 1933

EX-GARDEN CITY MAYOR IS DEAD

THE END COMES FOR DAVID MENKE IN LOS ANGELES SOON AFTER THE PASSING OF HIS WIFE.

Garden City, April 12 (*the day the newspaper printed this article*) – David R. Menke, 85, former mayor and pioneer businessman of Garden City, is dead in Los Angeles, California.

His daughter, Mrs. Benoit R. H. d'Allemand, who had gone to California when word came of his being stricken, will bring the body to Garden City for burial.

Mrs. Menke died in Los Angeles only six weeks ago, at the age of 83. Her body was brought here for burial then. They had been married for 64 years.

A son, George G. Menke, of California, and a daughter, Olivia d'Allemand of Garden City, survives Mr. Menke.

Mr. Menke came to Garden City in 1878. During that time trains did not stop in Garden City, which was only a flag stop, and only two frame shacks on the town site marking the town. He became the town's first merchant, opening a general store, which also became the first post office, and he served as the first postmaster, until 1881.

When Finney County was organized in 1884, Mr. Menke was elected one of the first county commissioners, and chairman of the board. He later served four years as county Treasurer, then engaged in the banking business, became head of the First National Bank, later bought the Windsor Hotel and operated it, installed the first telephone exchange here in 1896, and built a gristmill.

He served as mayor of the city for several years, and the municipal light plant was established during his administration in 1913.

Mr. Menke also was prominent as a ranchman and cattleman, being widely known as a Hereford breeder, and developed a fine ranch of about 2,000 acres. He was the first one to grow alfalfa in this part of the Arkansas Valley, in 1879. At one time he had 1,000 acres of alfalfa here.

He was a promotor of the first irrigation ditch here, built in 1879, and was largely instrumental in the building of the million-dollar sugar beet factory here.

SERVICES FOR DAVID R. MENKE

The Hutchinson Kansas News, 14 Apr 1933, Friday

Garden City, April 14 – The funeral for David R. Menke, first mayor and first postmaster of Garden City, who died in Los Angeles, Saturday, will be held here (*Garden City, Kansas*) on Tuesday and the burial will be at the Valley View Cemetery. The body will arrive from California on Monday.

Additional Information

The following are details about the three children of DAVID R. MENKE and MARETTA BELINDA URIE...

1.) **OLIVIA CATHERINE MENKE** was born on 4 Sep 1870 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was first married to Rae J. Lemert on 8 Oct 1891 in Garden City, Kansas. They were later divorced. One daughter was born in their marriage: Mildred Lemert (1892-1970). Olivia then married Benoit R. H. d'Allemand on 18 Jan 1912 in Garden City, Kansas. They had one daughter: Janet d'Allemand (1913-1918). Benoit d'Allemand passed away in July of 1953. Olivia died on 30 May 1956 at her home in Garden City. Both were buried there at the Valley View Cemetery.

2.) **HARRY WILLIAM MENKE** was born on 2 Feb 1873 in Salem (a suburb of Pittsburgh), Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Garden City, Kansas High School in

1892. The following year (1893), he entered the University of Kansas. Because of his interest in birds and other animals, H. William enrolled in Zoological and Ornithological classes. He married Anna E. Costello on 24 Feb 1920 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. One daughter was born into their marriage, Billiana (Menke) Finney (1929-2003). H. William Menke passed away on 23 Jun 1936 in Los Angeles, California. His body was cremated. Anna was born on 24 Sep 1891 and passed away in May of 1976.

H. William Menke
HARRY WILLIAM MENKE



Photograph from the University of Kansas 1897 Yearbook

Newspaper Obituary
H. WILLIAM MENKE

The Los Angeles California Times, 24 Jun 1936

LOS ANGELES MUSEUM PHOTO SECTION CHIEF VICTIM OF HEART ATTACK... Stricken with a heart attack yesterday, H. William Menke, 63 years of age, head of the photographic section of the Los Angeles Museum, died at his home, 1207 Third Avenue.

The scientist has been associated with the museum since 1928, coming here from the Field Museum in Chicago.

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHER... He has also made numerous contributions to motion pictures, being one of the pioneers in experimental color photography. In 1914, Menke traveled around

the world with Dr. George A. Dorsey, the author of "Why We Behave Like Human Beings," taking pictures for him.

As a paleontologist, he was credited with the discovery of one of the largest fossils ever found in Montana. He has been closely associated for many years with Dr. William A. Bryan and Dr. John A. Comstock, the heads of the Los Angeles Museum.

Mr. Menke was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and leaves his widow, Mrs. Anna Menke, and a daughter, Billiana. The body is at Pierce Brothers Mortuary where services will be conducted Friday. Cremation will follow.

3.) **GEORGE GERKEN MENKE** was born on 29 Jul 1874 in Pennsylvania. He never married. George passed away on 24 Mar 1952 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California.

Additional Information

E. G. FINNUP Edward Grant Finnup

EDWARD GRANT FINNUP, son of Frederick Finnup (**See Story FREDERICK FINNUP PARK*) and Wilhelmina Lohmann, was born on 22 Dec 1870 in Vevay, Switzerland County, Indiana. He attended the public schools in Garden City, attended the Northern Indiana Normal Institute at Valparaiso, and attended the Kansas State University at Lawrence, Kansas.

On 14 Jun 1893, Edward married **MARIE EILUM FLYNN**, daughter of Christopher J. Flynn (1828-1889) and Catherine Spratt (1832-1912), in Baltic, Connecticut.

Mr. Finnup worked mostly as a farmer, working 1,000 acres west of Garden City, during a season. He became successful in growing Sweet Clover, becoming the largest grower in the United States. He was also successful in the cattle business. Edward Finnup was active in politics as a Democrat, but he never ran for office. In 1900, he was elected by the Democratic Party to be a delegate at the National Democratic Convention in Kansas City.

Edward Finnup passed away on 2 Mar 1934 in Garden City, Kansas. Marie died there on 1 Oct 1952. Burial was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City.

Three children were born in their marriage, and they had one adopted daughter...

1.) **IRENE W. FINNUP** (1894-1975) married Raimon Gerhart Walter, Sr., (1894-1988), son of John Walter and Jean M. Parton, on 29 Oct 1919 in Garden City, Kansas.

2.) **GLADYS KATHERINE FINNUP** (1896-1979) married John William Nolan (1889-1963), son of Lawrence Nolan and Anna Jane O'Hern, on 9 Oct 1918 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas.

3.) ALONZO EDWARD FINNUP (1897-1963) married Mary Stella Hall (1896-1953) on 3 Jun 1922 in Denver, Colorado. They had one daughter, Jeanne Elizabeth Finnup. Alonzo and Mary were buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City.

4.) MILLICENT KATHERINE FINNUP (1915-1971) was the adopted daughter of Edward Grant Finnup and Marie Eilum Flynn. She married Glenn Robert Corn (1914-1965) on 29 Sep 1938 in Garden City, Kansas. Burial was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City. Glenn and Millicent had four children... Millicent, Glenn, Donna, and Mary L.

**Newspaper Obituary
EDWARD GRANT FINNUP**

Opportunity, Garden City, Kansas Newspaper, 01 Mar 1934

E. G. FINNUP, SWEET CLOVER "KING," DEAD

E. G. Finnup, one of Western Kansas' most widely known men, died at his home in Garden City, on March 2nd, of a sudden heart attack, aged 63.

Mr. Finnup was one of the best known seed men in the West, the largest shipper of alfalfa and other field seeds, and was the first man in the world to raise and ship a carload of sweet clover seed. Becoming convinced many years ago of the value of sweet clover for pasture, feed, and as a soil of the value of sweet clover for pasture, feed, and as a soil builder, he started raising the crop and shipped the first carload in 1912, gaining at the same time the title among seed men as the sweet clover "king".

He was perhaps equally as well known as a stockman, banker, and Democratic politician, and for many years was the outstanding Democrat in the Seventh Congressional district in Kansas, though he never sought office for himself.

The Finnup Seed Store in Garden City will be continued under the management of his son, A. E. Finnup, who has been associated with his father for several years.