

LEE D. PRICE

Lee Davis Price

Project Consultant – Finney County

Thanks to Laurie Oshel, Assistant Director at the Finney County Historical Society Library in Garden City, Kansas, for providing information about Lee David Price found in the book titled “Year Book and Biographical Sketches-1936.”

LEE DAVIS PRICE, son of Theodore McDonald Price (1839-1911) and Mary C. Hetler (1841-1932), was born on 12 May 1864, near Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. His father was a captain in the Union Army and a wagon maker by trade. The family moved close to Three Rivers, Michigan, in 1868. In 1878, they settled in Spring Dale, Sumner County, Kansas. Lee had several different jobs as a young man. He eventually worked with his father building several of the first homes and business buildings in Conway Springs, Kansas, and throughout Sumner County. Both his mother and father died there and are buried there.

Tightrope walking was something Lee Price learned to do, and he put on several different exhibitions during the Fourth of July celebrations and the Christmas holidays. He played the fiddle at many of the local dances.

In 1886, Lee Price was living midway between Eminence and Ravanna (*Finney County*), Kansas. Being an excellent carpenter and stonemason, he was in a lot of demand. He built several farmhouses that are still standing (1936) in that area of Finney County.

Lee married **ANNIE ELIZABETH HERMAN**, daughter of David William Herman (1848-1928) and Mary Adeline Frederick (1847-1932), in Ravanna, Kansas (*later a ghost town in Finney County*), on Christmas Day in 1887. Annie was born on 26 Feb 1873 in Illinois. They made their home in Finney County, where Lee helped build the Stone Schoolhouse in Ravanna in 1888 and the Ravanna Courthouse in 1889.

In 1890, when the Midwest experienced hard times, Lee and Annie moved to Salem, Oregon. There, Lee helped build many houses and was elected a delegate to the Democratic State Convention. About 1893, Annie made a trip to Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, to visit a family friend and be with her parents in Ravanna, Kansas. Soon after her visit, Lee and Annie moved back to Finney County. He soon returned to Oregon and bought a stone quarry on the Yaquina River, and built a small community named Morris, which was the headquarters for the quarry workers. In 1895, Lee went to Los Angeles, California, and continued in the building trade. He was there for three years and then returned to the Ravanna area in 1898, where he improved a ranch and stayed for six years. He planted many shade trees and fruit trees, producing many wild grapes.

They moved to Coffeyville, Kansas, in 1904, and Mr. Price began working on the

reconstruction of an opera house there. It was still standing in 1936.

The 1900 census shows they lived in Garfield, Finney County, Kansas, but in 1908, they moved again. This time they went to La Jara, Conejos County, Colorado. There he helped build an opera house, the post office, a schoolhouse, and many homes. In 1916, he moved to Ordway, Colorado, where he owned a farm for only a short time before returning to Finney County, Kansas. He bought fifty acres, two miles west of Garden City, and again, planted many shade trees and fruit trees.

Lee and Annie Price later moved into town, where he continued to work as a carpenter contractor, building several homes and apartment buildings.

Research records indicate that Lee and Annie Price did not have children. Lee died on 23 Sep 1938, and Annie died on 2 May 1942. Burial for both was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas.

Cemetery Headstone

LEE DAVIS PRICE & ANNIE ELIZABETH (HERMAN) PRICE



VALLEY VIEW CEMETERY
Garden City, Finney County, Kansas
Photograph provided by Judy Litton