

# **HISTORY OF FINNEY COUNTY AND CITY BUILDINGS**

Finney County, Kansas

Written by DeLora Black

*Consultants: Mr. George Finnup, Mr. Will Holmes, Mr. Ovid D. Harman and  
Mr. Simeon Moss, City Clerk*

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

In 1880, Sequoyah County, before it became known as Finney County, had a population of approximately 568 people. The first step toward the organization of Finney County was made in 1884 when Governor George Washington Glick of Kansas appointed John J. Munger as an official census taker. At that time, the law required that a county had to become organized and had to have 1,500 inhabitants and more than 250 actual householders. Munger's report stated that he had found 1,569 inhabitants and 373 genuine householders in the county. His investigation also showed that there were approximately 2,905 acres of cultivated land in the county.

On October 1, 1884, H. N. Wheeler, A. B. Kramer, and John Speer\* were temporarily appointed county commissioners by the Governor. Their first meeting was held in the Metropolitan Hotel in Garden City, Kansas, on October 2, 1884.

On November 4, 1884, an election was held for the permanent county seat of Finney County, along with the county and township officers. Garden City received 264 votes for the county seat, Sherlock 61, Lakin 20, Pierceville 5, Deerfield 1, and Bullards Ranch 1.

The County commissioners became a regular elected board from October 2, 1884, until January 1, 1885. On block 37, on the east side of Main Street, was a small frame building rented for courthouse purposes.

The Commissioners Journal on August 3, 1885 records a contract made between C. J. (Buffalo) Jones\* and the county commissioners. Jones agreed to build a courthouse on the present courthouse site known as block A. There was also an agreement that the commissioners were to pay \$1.00 a year, and, beginning on 4 Nov 1885, they were to keep the public records in the courthouse for two years.

Since Jones was a popular man during this time, they held a grand celebration, and on September 10, 1885, they laid a cornerstone for the new courthouse. The building was 40X40 feet, two stories in height, and contained seven rooms. They chose one of the larger rooms for the courtroom but soon found it had inadequate space.

Therefore, the courtroom needed to be moved to a larger place.

The county outgrew the Jones courthouse, and in the summer of 1901, the commissioners decided that county offices would require larger headquarters. So the Jones Courthouse was occupied from February 1886 until February 1902.

Further investigation into a series of warranty deeds and a chain of conveyances dated between July 3, 1901, and October 19, 1915, found the county in possession of Block 36 of the original plot of Garden City between the Santa Fe tracks and Fulton Street on the west side of Main Street. The courthouse and all county offices moved into this site starting in February 1902 until April 1929.

Some of the town folks acquired 'lots' on the Finnup block, and George W. Finnup donated a building, which stood on lot 12 for courthouse purposes. That building was the county courthouse for more than a quarter of a century. The other lots on this same block formed a park.

In the early 1890s, the county courtroom and the court clerk's office were on the second story of the old Herald building on North Eighth Street. In 1892 a fire forced them to move to the old First National Building. Both offices remained there until 1902 when they moved to the Finnup Building.

The Finnup family still owns the Finnup Building, and it is still in active use today. George W. Finnup retains his office there. Other organizations are also located there, such as Pate Studio, The Garden Press, and Finnup Seed Store. At the time, it was being used as a courthouse, and the whole building measured two stories high and about 50x100 feet. The remodeling cost to the county was about \$4,303, and total investments to the county were about \$10,000.

By 1928, the county had again outgrown its space, and plans were pushed forward for a new and larger courthouse. The cornerstone for a new courthouse was laid on November 29, 1928, and the structure in April of 1929. The cost to build it was estimated at \$186,323. This courthouse today is 76x107 feet and four stories high.

Formerly the city clerk's office and the fire department had occupied the building, which has recently been torn down to make way for the new city building. Crowded quarters made it so that a new city building was necessary. In May of 1936, a lot was bought from Robert Lawrence on block 22, and so local labor began tearing down the old building and putting up the new one. The new city building is one of the finest and most modern buildings ever built in Garden City, Kansas. Greeting the New Year, it opened for public inspection on January 1, 1937. Measuring approximately, 140 feet by 162½ feet, with red brick and white marble trimming, the one-story building was built in the foundation to add another story later if necessary. Across the street and set upon another facility, there is a large floodlight, so placed that the light covers the entire front of the courthouse building, showing it off during the night and in the daytime.

Entering the building, the first door to the right is the City Clerk's office. The larger

office in the City Clerk's department is the headquarters for the public to pay their utility bills. The city owns the public utilities. In this department, the City Clerk has his own private office, and at one end of his office is a fireproof vault for keeping his records. Since the City Clerk's office is the headquarters for utilities, they are connected with different departments by a system of lights for orders and buzzers for telephone calls. When an order comes in to turn off or turn on the water and the lights, a small red light comes on in the department's main office. It is the signal for the men concerned to go to the main office to receive their orders.

The next door on the right side is the judge and commissioner's office. Still on the right side is the office of the Chief of Police. A door from his room leads to the police headquarters. The police headquarters is equipped with a particular police broadcasting station for their broadcasts. On the south side of the room, there is what they call the "Muggin Room," which is for taking photographs of prisoners. Going further back in this department, you will find the jail. It is made up of two large iron cell blocks with several small compartments for swinging canvas bunks. There is an area next to the cellblocks where the city zoo is keeping its alligators. They have a special cage of their own, all during the wintertime. The whole jail is kept immaculately clean, and the rooms are kept at an even temperature at all times.

The basement contains the 50-watt short-wave radio transmitter for the police station. On one end is the automatic Gas Furnace Steam Plant with steam heat. It is one of the finest systems of its kind in Western Kansas. The heat for the whole building is controlled by four different zones. If the heat is turned on in one part of the building, it does not affect the other parts. There is a thermostat for controlling the heat in each individual room. At another end of the basement is the police station's vault, where they keep their evidence.

A tunnel dug beneath the foundation of the building includes the target for the rifle range. At the beginning of the left side, the first door to the left leads to the fire engine room where the two 50-horsepower engines face a rising electric door leading to the street. The LaFrance Fire Engines are equipped with pumps that run a 500-gallon-a-minute stream and 250 pounds of pressure.

The next room is the fire department's assembly room. Then, the next room is the public relations and inspector's office. The fourth door is for the Superintendent of the Utilities. The fifth door is the electric meter room for overhauling, plus testing and cleaning meters. The meters are tested against a standard meter for their correction.

The large garage for storing the city trucks is located at the Water Meter Repair Room entrance. The city storage area is a room on one side of the garage. The garage is equipped with an electric swinging door leading to the alley. There is a water meter room equipped to test the correctness of the water meters. The building is a very up-to-date one with modern equipment.

In recent years, a case that came before the Supreme Court reflexes the question of ownership of the plot of ground now known as Steven's Park. In the middle part of the 1880s, John Stevens donated the block used to build a courthouse, and C. J. (Buffalo) Jones donated the land. But it was never used for the purpose for which it was intended. It is now a lovely tree-covered park with a recently built bandshell.

There are three suits involved in this case, one of which promises to be settled out of court, one which is to be heard by the District Court judge Fred Evans, and one which will probably be transferred to Judge Hindom of Liberal, Kansas. For some time now, the argument has been, "which of the two should pay the taxes, the city or the county"?

At the ceremony of laying the cornerstone to the Jones courthouse, people turned out from many surrounding counties. They came in covered wagons and by horseback. A large crowd of around 2,000 people watched the ceremony, which was a tremendous amount of people for those days.

Alexander C. McKeever\*, a land agent and preacher, was the main speaker of the day. They spoke from a lumber-built platform with flags waving from around it and placed on the courthouse land. Judge Abijah J. Abbott,\* the first district judge of Finney County, also made a speech, and there were others to make speeches, such as Jones, the most important man of the day. He stated that "progress of the country had been made within such a short time," and he predicted that someday Garden City would be as big as Chicago. He also said that the Nickel Plate Railroad would help progress toward that goal. The town thought the Nickel Plate Railroad, with Jones as one of its big boosters, would bring untold wealth to the country, but it eventually folded up.

At the ceremony, everyone brought their dinners, and they all enjoyed eating on the courthouse grounds. There was much cheering, shouting, and enthusiasm.

\* *For details about C. J. (Buffalo) Jones, See Finney County story... "Celebrations and Occurrences of Interest".*

\* *Judge Abijah J. Abbott... the father of George O. Abbott. See Finney County story... "George O. Abbott, an Old Settler and Personal Friend of Buffalo Jones and John Stevens."*

### Additional Information

#### JOHN SPEER

JOHN LOWERY SPEER, son of Robert Speer (1791-1880) and Barbara Lowrey (1791-1834) was born on 27 Dec 1817 in Kittanning, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

When John Speer was only 12 years old, he began working on horseback as a United States Mail

Carrier. Then, in 1835, he became a printer's apprentice with the "Indiana Register Newspaper" in Indiana, Pennsylvania. He did this for 3 years. For a short time, he published his own "Whig Paper" and then in 1840 he worked for the Portsmouth (Ohio) Tribune.

In 1842, he moved to Corydon, Harrison County, Indiana, and established the Harrison Gazette. There he married ELIZABETH DUPLESSIS MCMAHAN, daughter of John McMahan (1788-1865) and Martha Patsy Withers (1785-1848), on 14 Jul 1842. Elizabeth was born on 17 Dec 1820 in Corydon, Indiana.



John Lowery Speer



Elizabeth Duplessis (McMahan) Speer

John and Elizabeth had eight children: John M., Robert, William, Mary Elizabeth, Eva, Joseph, Hardin, and Rose.

John Speer was a Whig Party member and an Abolitionist, staying very active throughout his life, in the "anti-slavery" movement. In about 1843, the family moved to Medina, Medina County, Ohio, and then moved to Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas in about 1855. There, John and his family (plus his newspaper, the Lawrence Republican) were targeted by William Quantrill and his raiders on 21 Aug 1863. John and Robert, the two youngest children of John and Elizabeth, were killed and it was reported that 170 to 200 people died in Lawrence that day. Three newspapers were destroyed, the Journal, the Republican, and the Tribune. Most of the safes in town were robbed, and about one hundred and twenty-five houses were burned to the ground.

Elizabeth died in Lawrence, of cancer, on 9 Apr 1876. John moved to Garden City, Finney

County, Kansas in about 1880. He also lived a short time in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas before moving to Denver, Denver County, Colorado. He died there at his daughter's (Eva) home on 15 Dec 1906.

John and Elizabeth were both buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence, Kansas.

## Newspaper Obituary

### JOHN L. SPEER

*The Denver Colorado Republican, 16 Dec 1906*

#### FAMOUS OLD ABOLITIONIST ENDS LONG STRENUOUS LIFE

After a life-long battle, waged for the principles in which he believed, and for which he never hesitated to wield the pen and sword, Gen. John Speer, the leader of the Kansas Abolitionists and editor of the Lawrence Tribune for 16 years, died in Denver yesterday morning.

Gen. Speer had been living recently at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Bradford Dubois, 1386 Corona Street. He would have been 89 years old on December 27 and death was due to old age. The body will be sent to Lawrence, Kansas. The funeral will be held there under the direction of the I.O.O.F.

As an Abolitionist, John Speer was an equal to Gen. James Lane and John Brown. He was one of the participants in the series of bloody skirmishes just preceding the Civil War, which gave his territory the title "Bleeding Kansas". In 1817, he was born in Pennsylvania. He became a printer in Ohio, and in 1854, he moved to Lawrence, Kansas, starting the Kansas Pioneer. He immediately became interested in the question of the admission of Kansas to the Union and did his best to prevent the pro-slavery party from gaining ascendancy in the territory. He became such a leader among the Abolitionists that he overshadowed even John Brown of Osawatomie.

During the Quantrill raid, Speer's house and newspaper plant were burned, two of his sons were murdered and Speer himself escaped death by chance. Gen. Speer held office frequently after the war, as a United States collector of Internal Revenue and as a member of the state legislature. The two children that survive are Mrs. Dubois and Hardin Speer, both living in Denver.

## Additional Information

### THE CHILDREN OF JOHN L. AND ELIZABETH SPEER

1.) **JOHN M. SPEER** was born on 1 Oct 1843 in Medina, Ohio. He was killed in Lawrence, Kansas on 21 Aug 1863 by Quantrill's raid. His body was found in the street. Burial was at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence, Kansas.



John M. Speer, when a young boy

2.) **ROBERT SPEER** was born on 20 Aug 1845 in Medina, Ohio. He was also killed in Lawrence, during Quantrill's Raid on 21 Aug 1863. His body was burned in the ruins and never found. A memorial stone was added to the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence.

3.) **WILLIAM "BILLY" SPEER** was born on 27 Nov 1847 in Medina, Medina County, Ohio. During the Quantrill's Raid that killed his two older brothers, Billy was only 15 years old. He was sleeping in a store and when trying to leave, one of the Quantrill men stopped him and asked him his name. Luckily, he gave the name Smith and that saved his life. It was later learned that the name Speer meant death to anyone with that name. Billy later returned home, got a rifle, and shot the "only Quantrill" killed that day.

On 5 Nov 1877, William married Sadie L. Jones in the state of Texas. They had four children: May B. (Speer) Wilson, John Lopez Speer, Sybil Speer, and Sidney Speer. Sadie was born on 23 Feb 1860 in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas.

William was well known as the "Railroad Man in the West". For many years, he was a prominent railroad man in Texas. He was also connected with the Missouri Pacific for twenty or more years. He held many positions in the transportation department and most of that time he was a passenger conductor. William passed away on 2 Nov 1899 in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Sadie died on 24 May 1917 in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, while visiting a niece there. William and Sadie were buried at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas.

4. **MARY ELIZABETH SPEER** was born on 7 Oct 1850 in Medina, Medina County, Ohio. She married Elwood "Wood" Wallace Neff, son of Edwin Wallace Neff and Lavinia Dorland, on 22 Oct 1873 in Lawrence, Kansas. Elwood was born on 22 May 1850 in Bedford County,

Pennsylvania. They began their married life in Topeka, Kansas. Records reveal that Mary worked as a clerk for the Secretary of State in Kansas.

Elwood Wallace Neff was killed in a Texas Pacific railroad train accident on 22 Oct 1876, seven miles east of Longview, Texas. He was on a business trip and was only 26 years old. It was on the day of their third anniversary. He left behind a two-year-old son and a newborn son he had never seen. Mary Elizabeth (Speer) Neff passed away in Lawrence, Kansas on 6 Dec 1886. Both were buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence, Kansas.

Elwood and Mary's oldest child was William Newton Neff, born on 11 Aug 1874 in Lawrence, Kansas. William died of arteriosclerotic heart disease on 27 Feb 1939 in Marin County, California. His body was cremated and a stone was added to the Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, San Mateo County, California.

Their second son, Elwood May Neff, was born on 2 Oct 1876 in Lawrence, Kansas. He married Perl (*Pearl*) Dubell on 16 Oct 1900 in Leadville, Colorado. Perl was born on 28 Jun 1881 in Bloomington, Grant County, Wisconsin. Elwood died on 24 Apr 1944 in Creed, Mineral County, Colorado and Perl passed away on 17 May 1968 in Black Hawk, Gilpin County, Colorado. They were buried in Black Hawk, at the Dory Hill Cemetery. Elwood and Perl had three children: Elwood Newton Neff (1902-1982), Cole Dubell Neff (1907-1995), and Alfred May Neff (1911-1990).

5.) **EVA SPEER** was born on 28 Mar 1856 in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. She was the first girl to be born in Lawrence.



Eva Speer  
Photograph provided by Jim Swanson

Eva Speer married Charles Dare Moore, son of Edward Burt Moore and Isabella Gunn Broch, on 5 Apr 1881 in Douglas County, Kansas. Charles was born on 28 Jul 1854 in Bridgeton,



Cumberland County, New Jersey. He was very successful in the mining business. In September of 1886, Charles was thought to be in great health and was about to take on an active role in the up-and-coming political campaign, when he was stricken with paralysis of the brain. He remained speechless and unconscious for more than a month. He died of a broken blood vessel on 22 Oct 1886 in Leadville, Lake County, Colorado.

Eva and Charles had one daughter, Edna Speer Moore, who was born on 29 Jan 1882 in Moffat County, Colorado. She died at an early age of 21 ½ years on 4 Nov 1903.

Eva Speer Moore married again after the death of her husband, Charles Dare Moore. She married Bradford DuBois, the son of John Bogardus DuBois and Mary Hand, on 26 Nov 1895 in Arapahoe County, Colorado. Bradford was born on 2 May 1855 in Libertyville, Ulster County, New York. He was very successful in the mining business. Bradford died on 19 Nov 1919.

Eva, Charles, Edna, and Bradford were all buried at the Fairmount Cemetery in Denver, Denver County, Colorado.

6.) **JOSEPH “JOE” SPEER** was born on 9 Sep 1858 in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. His playmate accidentally shot him on 3 Aug 1865. He died the next morning on 4 Aug 1865 in Lawrence. He was only six years old. Burial was at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence.

#### **ADDITIONAL NEWSPAPER DETAILS ABOUT THE DEATH OF LITTLE JOSEPH SPEER**

*The Atchison (Kansas) Daily Free Press 14 Aug 1865*

**JOHN SPEER, EDITOR OF THE LAWRENCE TRIBUNE NARRATES THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH OF HIS LITTLE BOY, JOSEPH:**

“The tragic death of our little son, Joseph, has been published before, but neither the short hurried notices in our own newspaper nor the other news journals... were accurate. Here we give the facts. David Sholes, about ten years old, was frequently at our house, but he never lived with us or employed by us.

A short time before the accident, he came and asked our son William to give him a quarter-dollar, which he had promised David for holding some boards while William nailed them. At first, he said he had not the change, but on looking in his pocket, found it and handed it to him, though he neither knew nor inquired into the use to which he intended to apply it. David then went to a neighbor’s house a half mile from our place and bought a common little single-barreled pistol from another boy, with which he soon returned to show his purchase. It was loaded when he came to our house and we presume it was loaded before he purchased it. William Speer aged eighteen, and well accustomed to and careful with firearms, was present. David proposed to fire it off, and William told him to step away from the two little children. David walked away holding the pistol in the opposite direction. He pulled the trigger two or three times without

breaking the cap. He then took off the cap and said... "Joe, this cap ain't good, go in and get me one;" but Joseph stood still, looking at the weapon which David held in his hand. Because Joe was pleased with it, he said to his brother "Billy (*William*), won't you buy me one?" And... almost that instant it went off, striking Joseph just above the right ear. David jumped with fright and dropped the weapon, and Joseph fell instantly to the ground. William did not see him pull the trigger, and has doubts whether the hammer struck the tube at all, but has the impression that the pistol "hung fire," - that is, the fire produced by the boy's efforts to discharge it only reached the powder at the instant when it finally did its terrible work.

Little Joseph never spoke after he was shot, though he cried violently for a few minutes, then he became spasmodic, breathing hard until he expired. The accident occurred at five o'clock on the afternoon of Thursday, the third of August, and he died at half past eight o'clock the next morning.

Joseph was six years, eleven months, and four days old.

He had never handled firearms and was never permitted to touch them. An impression has gone abroad that the weapon was an old one that the children were playing with, but that is wholly incorrect. The utmost care was taken to keep weapons from the reach of children, and the father, then absent, had carried with him the only revolver kept about the house, merely to be sure that no accident could occur where children could reach it.

To the family remaining, it is a terrible shock. Joseph was the third son who met a violent death - his two brothers having fallen at the hands of Quantrill's murderers - John, aged nearly twenty, and Robert, eighteen years - the body of the latter was never found and was supposed to have been consumed by fire.

At the time of this tragic affair, the father and writer of this sketch was absent but was telegraphed, and arrived at home yesterday morning, in time to see his dear boy, whose body was soon preserved and moved to its last resting place, in the cold grave.

The dear boy has gone forever. His joyous shout of welcome as the father ascends the hill to a beautiful home will no longer be heard. A mother's cherished child's sweet voice is hushed in death."

7.) **HARDIN SPEER** was born on 16 Oct 1861 in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. He married Florence H. VanDusen, daughter of David T. VanDusen and Harriet Eaton, on 16 Nov 1896 in Golden, Jefferson County, Colorado. Florence was only 16 ½ years old at the time. She was born on 6 Nov 1879 in Michigan. They had three children... Lillian Edna Speer was born on 4 Sep 1897 in Denver, Arapahoe County, Colorado, and died on 8 Dec 1984 in White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington: Ruth Marian Speer was born on 6 Apr 1901 in Denver, Arapahoe County, Colorado. She passed away on 3 Apr 1904 at the age of 3 years. She was buried at the Fairmount Cemetery in Denver, Denver County, Colorado: and Robert Alan Speer was born on

7 Mar 1903 in Denver, Arapahoe County, Colorado, and died in Riverside County, California on 25 Apr 1989.

Hardin passed away on 26 Feb 1909 in Denver, Denver County, Colorado. Florence then moved to California and worked as a Stenographer. She married again to William Lierle in about 1921. William died in about 1930 and Florence died on 18 Feb 1966. Hardin was buried at the Fairmount Cemetery in Denver, Colorado.

8.) **ROSE SPEER** was born on 29 Feb 1864 in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. She passed away due to consumption on 25 Apr 1889 in Denver, Denver County, Colorado. Burial was at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence.

### Newspaper obituary

#### ROSE SPEER

*The Evening Tribune (Lawrence, Kansas), 29 Apr 1889*

The remains of Rose Speer arrived from Denver, Colorado, yesterday morning at sunrise, to the residence of Mrs. Charles Garrett. Her aged father, Hon. John Speer, Mrs. Eva Speer Moore, and Hardin Speer accompanied the body to this city.

The hour, the day was befitting that she should arrive at her old home, the place of her birth, just as the quiet Sabbath began to dawn. Her two requests that she "should be buried at Lawrence" and on Sunday were fulfilled yesterday. Rev. Dr. Marvin conducted the funeral services at the Methodist Church.

Dr. Marvin bore testimony to her excellent qualities and the large attendance of friends attests to the esteem in which she was held by the acquaintances of her childhood.

The family has the sympathy of the entire community in this, their affliction. Rose was laid to rest beside her mother, sister (Mrs. Neff), and three brothers.

By her death, another blow has fallen upon the aged father, a man who has heretofore withstood many similar sorrows. When Mr. Speer and his family left here in 1883 and settled near Garden City, and took up a claim, Miss Rose was desirous of having a school. Through her efforts, the neighbors furnished the lumber and raised the framework for the first school building in the county, and she put on the shingles and siding with her own hands and taught the first school in Finney County.

### Additional Information

ALEXANDER C. MCKEEVER

**DR. REV. ALEXANDER CAMPBELL MCKEEVER**, son of Thomas Campbell McKeever and Martha McAyle, was born in April 1854 in Pennsylvania. In 1876, he became a minister of the Christian Church, and in 1880, he was single and living in Platte City, Platte County, Missouri. He married **ETHEL BALLINGER**, daughter of John and Mary Ballinger, on 18 Oct 1882 in Daviess County, Missouri. Ethel was born on 14 Jul 1861 in the state of Missouri. She passed away on 8 Jun 1895 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas.

Rev. McKeever and his wife, Ethel, had one son, **CAMPBELL BALLINGER MCKEEVER**, born on 16 Jan 1884 in Pueblo County, Colorado. Campbell married Pearl Edna Taylor on 18 Dec 1907. He passed away in 1977 and buried at the Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

On 25 Jan 1898, Rev. Alexander Campbell McKeever married **OLIVIA "OLLIE" BALLINGER**, the sister of his first wife, Ethel Ballinger. Ollie was born on 11 Sep 1858, in Gallatin, Daviess County, Missouri. In 1910, Rev. McKeever and his wife, Ollie, were living in Honolulu, Honolulu, Hawaii Territory. By 1920, they had moved to Garden City, Kansas, and in 1930, they were found living in Minneola, Clark County, Kansas. There, Rev McKeever passed away on 5 Apr 1939 and Olivia died on 29 Jan 1959. Both were buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas.

### Newspaper obituaries

#### **DR. REV. ALEXANDER C. MCKEEVER**

*Beatrice Nebraska Daily Sun, 13 Apr 1939*

#### **DR. A. C. MCKEEVER DIES IN KANSAS**

An announcement was received here today of the death of Dr. A. C. McKeever, 85, founder of the First Christian Church in this city, which occurred last week at his home in Minneola, Kansas.

The aged pastor had served in western Kansas pulpits for the past 50 years. His first, pastorate was at Olathe, Kansas, in 1876. In years later, he held pastorates in California, Oregon, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio, including the Christian Church here in Nebraska. Recently he preached his final sermon on "The Duties of a Christian." In his years of preaching, he recently estimated that he had converted almost 100,000 persons.

His widow, and his son, Campbell McKeever of Kansas, survive Dr. Rev. McKeever. Funeral services were held in Minneola, and the burial was at Garden City (*the Valley View Cemetery*).

#### **OLIVIA "OLLIE" (BALLINGER) MCKEEVER**

*Garden City Kansas Telegram, 30 Jan 1959*

OLIVIA MCKEEVER DIES; WAS 100

Olivia McKeever longtime resident of Garden City and one of Finney County's first school superintendents, died yesterday at a rest home in Minneola.

Mrs. McKeever was 100 years old. She was born on 11 Sep 1858 in Gallatin, Missouri. In 1886, she started teaching school in Garden City and was serving her second term as county superintendent when she married Dr. Alexander McKeever in 1898.

Dr. McKeever earlier had organized the first Christian Church in Garden City. Mrs. McKeever was a member of the Christian Church. She was well known throughout the Southwest part of Kansas as a teacher and musician.

Her husband preceded her in death in 1939. There are no survivors.

A graveside service will be held Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at the Valley View Cemetery. Phillips Chapel is in charge.