

CITIES OF GRANT COUNTY, KANSAS

Grant County, Kansas

Written by Eunice Rumford

Consultants: Russell R. Bechtelheimer and Mrs. Helen Maxwell, both of Ulysses, Kansas

Reference: A History of Grant County & the Grant County Republican

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

For two centuries after the discovery of the new world, Grant County played a very insignificant part in national history. The only water on the Santa Fe Trail was the Wagon Bed Springs, which is located on the Cimarron River in the southern part of the county.

The topography of Grant County, generally speaking, resembles a table. The Cimarron River cuts through the northwestern corner and gives water to stock in that region at certain seasons of the year when it overflows. The north fork of the Cimarron meanders through the central portion of the county making it possible for small hay meadows to grow here and there. The sand hills obliterate the northern boundary line of the county but furnish a dry pastureland. The county over the vegetation is sparse and short. Buffalo grass is the chief pasture and although good, much of the range is necessary for even a single animal.

“The Land Boom” attracted many settlers to the territory. By the fall of 1888, there were about one hundred people in the community. Many of them had arrived in the severe blizzard which occurred in December 1886 and January 1887. They remained to make permanent homes in Grant County. The people began to feel the need for government as it was necessary to go to the adjoining county for a marriage license or to secure protection or service of the law.

During the last months of 1886 and on into the year 1887, the emigration was like a mighty wave, and the county was settled up in less than a few weeks. Some came with the idea of becoming rich. To receive a deed to the land it was necessary to live on it for six months out of the year for three consecutive years. It was possible to build a house on the lines dividing two or three claims. In many instances, members of the family lived in the same house while they “proved up” their respective claims. By 1887, several thousands of settlers had filed claims and were living in the county. There was a claim hold on nearly every quarter section.

In the year 1888, several towns made an appearance in the county. Ulysses and Cincinnati each had a population of one thousand persons and several flourishing villages throughout the county were:

ZIONVILLE was established in 1886. (*It later became extinct.*) The population was 25. Early on, Michael M. Wilson moved to Zionville and erected a store building which became the center of activity in the small town. Sunday School and Church services were held in the Wilson home. (*Michael M. Wilson (1838-1917) was appointed postmaster of the Zionville post office on 18 Aug 1886.*) The present-day site of Old Zionville presents a few weather-beaten trees and a small cemetery.

SPURGEON had a population of fifteen and was quite a flourishing place for a few years. Spurgeon was not at all significant in the history of the county and was very short-lived.

GOLDEN was established in 1888, with a population of fifty. Golden was quite a progressive town and many of the citizens have lived in that vicinity until the present day (1936). The community is still recognized as Golden and many neighborhood activities are carried on. Citizens who made early homes there were Grant Byers, David Keply*, Perry F. Raudebaugh, Dan C. Sullivan (*See Grant County story "The Sullivan's"*), and John Fort. The Golden Gazette was published for several years. The Golden Cemetery remains a landmark of the village.

SHOCKEY, located in the northwestern part of the county, was established in 1888 and grew to be quite a thriving town of about fifty inhabitants. The Shockey Plainsman newspaper was published weekly. The post office was installed in a farmhouse and served the people of the community for many years. The Shockey School District and Cemetery still identify the community as a unit apart from the rest of the county. Citizens were T. R. Hornaday, J. R. Plunkett, Alonzo W. Anderson*, David Holmes, A. W. Snyder, Frank W. Rider, George Rider, Karl E. Gall, Thomas W. Swiney, Peter Kiistner, Lemuel Binney, Peter Molz, and Judge William E. Hutchinson who is now (1936) on the Supreme Court Bench.

GOGNAC is located in the west-central part of the county. The town consisted of one building, a store. The citizens who lived in the vicinity were; Brownley Berry, W. J. Cross, and Charles C. Pell.

WATERFORD had a post office and a store established in a farmhouse to serve the people of an Irish settlement on the border of the Cimarron River in the southeastern part of the county. The small village was named after Waterford, Ireland, from which many of the settlers came. It came into being in 1888 but was soon discontinued. J. G. Lahay is the one remaining old-timer who lives near this location.

LAWSON was established in 1888. The "Lawson Leader" was the newspaper published by U. C. Coerber. It carried news and the names of the claims that were being "proved up" in the county. Many people outside the county took the paper to get the official news. The present farmstead of E. W. Stuart marks the location of Lawson. The population of the town was twenty-five and the citizens living in and around

Lawson were Dr. E. H. Burks, W. D. Pierson, J. E. Hickock, E. D. Stuart, C. H. Stain, and the Purcells.

SURPRISE, two miles northwest of Ulysses was established in 1888. Surprise suffered in population because it was very close to the two larger villages of Cincinnati and Ulysses. With the oncoming county seat election growing in intensity, Surprise moved to join Cincinnati so that it might be elected the county seat. But Surprise eventually became extinct.

CINCINNATI was very near Ulysses and was the chief contender for the county seat. Earlier it had been named Appomattox. Ulysses and Cincinnati were the most centrally located towns. Cincinnati had a population of about one thousand and several thriving business concerns. At one time it boasted a very fine opera house. The present-day site is marked by the residence of Henry Miller.

ULYSSES was a thriving town, typically western. Until 1920, the large old brick schoolhouse remained there. The Kepley brothers bought the schoolhouse, moved it to the town of New Ulysses, and made it into a garage. Ulysses became quite a progressive town, with four hotels, twelve restaurants, twelve saloons, six gambling houses, a bank, a schoolhouse, a church, a newspaper, and an opera house.

There were also the following post offices in Grant County. Conductor was established in 1888 (*but was never developed*) and continued for a few months (*Until 1890*). Warrendale, established in 1886, was a post office in a farmhouse that continued for a few years. That community is still identified by the Warrendale name.

After the organization of the county, a heated contest ensued during which the county seat was to be decided upon. Lawlessness was paramount as officers refused to annoy any voters. Many fights occurred between individuals but no one was killed. It was decided at the election by the people on October 16, 1888, that the county seat would be Ulysses, and George W. Earp* was elected mayor. He was only twenty-one years of age, but was spirited like the typical man of the middle west and proved entirely capable of handling the progressive little town.

During the year 1893 when old Oklahoma was opened to settlement, there was also one of the extreme droughts in Grant County. Forty wagons left the county at one time bound for Guthrie, Oklahoma. But one hundred twenty-five people were left in Ulysses and the other towns practically disappeared to four hundred with less than one hundred voters. In 1894, Ulysses had one bank, one store, one hotel, and the Grant County Republican News. The population of the town was about sixty-five people. There was not a doctor within thirty miles. The town had quite a great percentage of its population made up of floaters who were merciless in voting heavy bonds onto the taxpayers. By 1908 the town had become so heavily indebted that progress was prevented. The school district suffered the heaviest debt which had been voted on when they built the schoolhouse. Crops failed, people moved away, and the

value of land went down. Most properties went to tax deeds. The citizens put their buildings on wheels and moved to a hill northwest of the old town site. A month or so later the New York firm foreclosed and nothing could be collected from the town property.

The first years of life in New Ulysses remain indelibly marked in the minds of the old-timers. Everyone went to town on Saturday afternoon to visit with others. Some families left as the years went by to widen the horizons for their growing children, while others moved in closer to town feeling that opportunity awaited them there. Ulysses continued to develop and soon the town began to progress. Finally, in the year 1921, New Ulysses was incorporated as a third-class city and Charles D. Hickok was elected the first Mayor.

Soon after the pioneers had erected their homes in Grant County they felt that one of their greatest needs was a religious service where they might worship. Michael M. Wilson organized the first Sunday School in the county on the upper floor of his store in Old Zionville. Sunday School was held there once a week, and sometimes there would be a preaching service.

In 1887, the first church was established and Sunday School was organized in every community. About 1911, a little white church was built in New Ulysses. The church was financed by subscription and was a "union" church. It served as a community gathering place and was very useful to the people. In 1927, the First Christian Church was built in Ulysses. It was erected as a monument to Reverend Albert Shelton, a famous missionary who lost his life when working in Thibet. The church is finished in buff stucco and stands at the north end of Main Street. In 1929 the Methodists, feeling the need for a church, erected a beautiful stone building in the western residential district of town. Beautiful furnishings were installed along with a pipe organ which was the first in Ulysses. The Church of God was built in 1933. It stands in the northwestern residential district of the town and is very attractive. It is finished in buff and contains a belfry. The Baptists completed a white-framed church in 1934 located in the western residential district of town and quickly acquired a dignified beauty.

Grant County was divided into school districts before it was organized. The first school was held in Hiram Storm's residence near Zionville, with six to eight pupils and he taught the school himself. The term of school classes was extended for three months. The supervision of the school was passed around among the neighbors until the schoolhouse was built. The first schoolhouse was located just across the Cimarron River near Richard Joyce's home. In 1886 ten schools were organized in what is now Grant County. A year later, fourteen were organized, and in 1888, the year the county was organized, thirty-seven districts were functioning. The first organized school was in Ulysses District #1 and was taught by Miss Emily Kittlaus. In the year 1911, the Kansas Legislature passed a bill allowing counties with less than five hundred inhabitants to establish and maintain a high school. Mr. S. M.

Alexander, the representative was very influential in passing the bill. Ulysses immediately began to request the surrounding county for funds with which the school might be established.

On September 11, 1911, the Grant County High School was opened under the instruction of Fred W. Lipper. The first students to be enrolled were;

Madison Alexander	Bertha Anderson	Nellie Findley
Carl H. Blake	Olive Pitcock	Cletur Bechtehiemer
Alice Byers	Grace Marshall	Wavie Julian
Belle Bearman	Agnes Hickock	Mary Black
Glenna Reece	Violet Fischer	Cora Reece
Ora B. Byers	Nellie Byers	

In the fourth year, the school was accredited as a Class "C" High School. The first student to graduate was Madison Alexander (*son of Samuel McKay Alexander and Nancy Cornelia Hite*). From its small beginning, it has grown to be one of the best schools in Southwest Kansas and is rated as class "A". The enrollment is about 140 and the school is housed in a new \$40,000 fireproof building. The history of the Grant County schools proves that they are very progressive.

Most of the people who came to Grant County arrived here in a covered wagon bringing with them all their worldly possessions. The first automobile to be seen in Grant County was owned by R. R. Wilson when it made its way down Main Street. It created quite a sensation as it whizzed past at the rate of ten miles per hour. At the present time, every farm in the county is reached daily by automobile with mail service. Distances have greatly lessened with the speed that modern automobiles provide. In 1886 the Nicol Plate Company surveyed a railroad from Garden City to Ulysses, but the line was never built. In 1912, the Dodge City, Elkhart branch was built through the south corner of the county. In 1922, a branch of the Santa Fe was built through Ulysses terminating at Manter. As a result, agriculture boomed as it was now possible to get products to market quickly and cheaply. The first airplane to visit the county was at Ulysses on August 21, 1919, during a rodeo and picnic.

Early on, it became the custom in Grant County for all the families to take basket dinners and meet in a grove to spend the entire day visiting and enjoying sports. These picnics were held once a year. They were held in the Hulbert's Grove for several years. The picnics grew and grew and today it is a large annual celebration staging a rodeo, tent show, and carnival concessions. The "area old-timers" enjoy the picnics, as they get to see and visit with other old-timers.

The climate and vast areas of buffalo grass made Grant County ideal for ranching. The railroad was built in the county during 1921 and very soon large tracts of land were planted with wheat. Early 1930s dust storms and drought were prevalent in the county and consequently, failure resulted. The spring of April 1935 was the worst in

history regarding the erosion of the soil by wind. Since 1930, farmers have engaged more extensively in the production of eggs and dairy produce.

The first sod dugout was made in 1882 at Denman Springs and Grove. It was owned by John O'Loughlin (*See story... "Mary Veronica Farrell O'Loughlin" – Kearny County, Kansas*) who had cattle in that vicinity. In 1884, Dan Sullivan Sr. (*See story... "The Sullivans" – Grant County, Kansas*) came from Colorado and made a dugout near the O'Loughlin's. Mr. O'Loughlin ranged his cattle north, while Sullivan ran his cattle south. In February 1885, Mrs. Sullivan came to Grant County as the bride to endure with her husband, the hardships of the pioneer life. She was one of the first women to make her home here. The Sullivans "proved up" in March of 1886 and went to Chicago but returned a year later.

Dick Joyce "proved up" the first claim in the county in 1885 and planted the first trees which were cottonwoods. Mrs. Sullivan brought 103 of them in gunny sacks from Colorado. She carried water to the trees every night and they all lived. Several of them are still living. Trees are not numerous here, but many are planted each year.

The first frame building was a hotel, built in Old Ulysses. The building was later torn down. Mr. George Dougherty built a frame house east of Old Ulysses. It was moved with the town and is now owned and occupied by Colyar S. Terrill and his family.

Prairie fires were one of the terrors which confronted the settlers of the plains. The fury and intensity of a prairie fire is indescribable. The last fire of any importance was one in 1920, which was started by a man dropping a box of matches from a moving truck. This fire burned northeast to the sand hills south of Garden City

The Devil's Hole located in the northeast part of the county is a sunken place 150 feet across and 100 feet deep. It has been dry only three or four times in the last forty or fifty years. During one of the dry spells many years ago, Mr. Green who was then owner of the farm upon which the hole was located, attempted to drill a well in the middle of the hole to secure water for his stock. The derrick, which helps with digging the hole, was erected and work began on the drilling. At noon the men went to the farmhouse for dinner and upon their return found the derrick and all other equipment had disappeared. After that many people were superstitious regarding this spot. The Devil's Hole was often used as a watering place for cattle and many heads of cattle were lost because of their venturing too far in.

Wagon Bed Springs is a group of springs of historic interest located on the Joyce Ranch in the southwest part of the county on the South Fork of the Cimarron. This was the first water found on the Santa Fe Trail after leaving the Arkansas River at Cimarron, a distance of forty miles and in the early days considered a long trip. It was called the "Dry Drive". Wagon Bed Springs was used by the early caravan trains crossing the prairie, heading west.

Mr. E. Towler gives the following information gained by him through Mr. William Boyd of Vandalia, now deceased, who was present when the wagon bed was sunk. The name "Wagon Bed Springs" came about when a caravan train came to the area in 1847. In order to have clear water it was necessary to dig out and case the springs. The train, before starting, arranged that each man take one extra part of a wagon. When the extra part of the wagon was assembled at the springs, the bottom was removed and it was sunk, to make a casing. It was then cleaned out leaving good pure water which was used for years by the travelers over the Santa Fe Trail. Many of them stayed three to four days to do the family washing. The springs were marked by the D. A. R. (*Daughters of the American Revolution*) marker "Wagon Bed Springs". An authentic account has been preserved of an interesting incident that occurred at the springs. A wagon train upon approaching saw a man massacred by a band of Indians as he bent down to get a drink of water at the springs. This gentleman named Mr. Smith, very probably, was the only person killed at this historic spot.

Water wells were few and far between in Grant County. Water was a precious commodity to the early-day claim holders. The wells were deep and were out away from town. Hundreds of people hauled water, some stored it in their cisterns but most stored it in barrels. A well that is located in western Haskell County, served the claim holders in the eastern part of Grant County. The "box" well located at the Old Joe Garver place southeast of Ulysses served many people who walked or drove miles for water. The well was never known to go dry. Often thirty or forty wagons were waiting in line to get water. The well was also a meeting place for many folks who were "proving up" their claims.

There were three rivers in Grant County. The south Cimarron, The North Fork of the Cimarron, and Bear Creek. The south Cimarron source is in New Mexico and the river is 550 miles long. The river is almost dry except during flood season. The North Fork of the Cimarron source is in the mountains near Trinidad, Colorado. It is called the dry stream. Its sources are drainage in wet seasons. Many times when heavy rains occur in Colorado, the water comes rushing almost instantly and with a great roar that can be heard for miles. Bear Creek's source is in the foothills of the mountains of Colorado and ends in a basin in Kearney County. It is also a dry stream except when there are heavy rains in Colorado. Then it becomes a raging torrent.

During the spring of 1935, Western Kansas endured the most severe windy season in its history. While it is a characteristic of the state to have a windy season each spring, the wind was of greater intensity and the dust more profuse than it has been in the memory of any resident. The increased amount of dust was an inevitable result of the plowing of the prairie. Days and weeks of the dust culminated in a terrific storm that occurred Sunday afternoon on April 14th, 1935. The approaching cloud appeared to be doom itself swooping down to obliterate all life. After a few moments of absolute darkness, the familiar swirling continued.

A decade ago tourists approaching Ulysses, spoke of it as the city of windmills. Also,

the towering elevators are noticeable. In 1930, the Sullivans built an immense elevator which has a capacity of 205,000 bushels. The elevator is bonded and holds a federal license under the Government Warehouse Act. There are four elevators besides their large one that have a lot of activity during wheat harvesting time. Often thirty trucks stand in line waiting for their turn. As high as nineteen cars of wheat have left Ulysses in one day for eastern markets.

The old towns of Grant County have all dwindled away, giving their strength to Ulysses, the one town which remains. There are three railroad switches in the county which may eventually become towns. Hickok, Kansas is located about eight miles southeast of Ulysses. It was established in 1922 and has a population of fifty. There are three elevators, two service stations, a store, and several residences. Ryus, Kansas is located about nineteen miles southeast of Ulysses, just this side of the Haskell county line. It also was established in 1922, has about twenty inhabitants, and has a store, two elevators, and several residences.

Ulysses is a prosperous, well-arranged little town located at the approximate, geographical center of the county. Its population has increased to about eight hundred. There are three blocks of Main Street partially faced by new, brick buildings. There has been recently erected a beautiful new courthouse, a large hotel, and four churches. The telephone and the telegraph came soon after the railroad. The sewer and water were installed in 1929 and 1930, and gas was piped to the town in 1930. There are many new, attractive residences.

Additional information
DAVID KEPLEY

Photographs provided by Ken Keusler

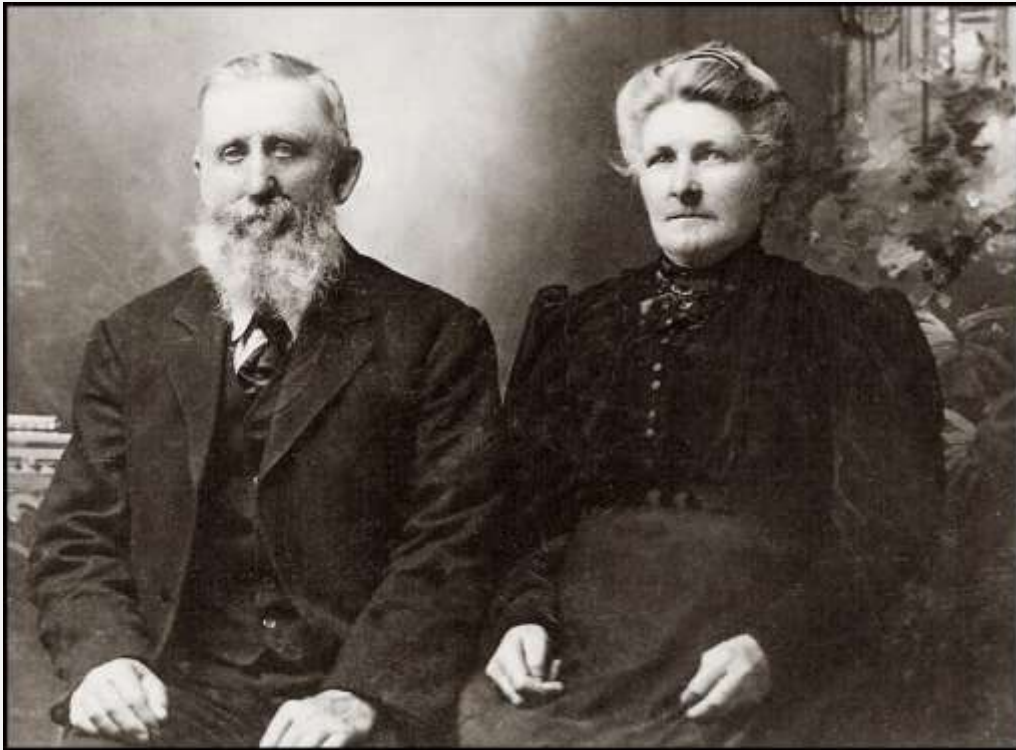


DAVID R. KEPLEY

DAVID R. KEPLEY, son of Leonard Kepley (1814-1902) and Elizabeth Grimes (1813-1899), was born on 25 Mar 1845 in Davidson County, North Carolina. David joined the Confederate Army in early 1863 at the age of 18, with Company B, 35th Infantry Regiment in North Carolina. He served until just after the war, with General Lee in Virginia.

By 1870, David had moved to Russell, Putnam County, Indiana. There he married **AMANDA ELLEN LOOKABILL**, the daughter of George Lookabill (1803-1881) and Elizabeth Clodfelter (1810-1889), on 8 Nov 1871. Amanda (“Mandy”) was born on 29 Feb 1848 in Indiana. About 1888, David and Amanda Kepley moved to Grant County, Kansas where they lived on their homestead called “Tanglewood Grove”.

In 1923, they bought a house in Ulysses, living there until they died. Amanda died on 17 Mar 1929 and David died on 5 Oct 1932 in Grant County, Kansas. Burial for both was at the Old Golden Cemetery, in Grant County, Kansas.



DAVID & AMANDA (LOOKABILL) KEPLEY

Eleven children were born in their marriage:

CARRIE “BELLE” KEPLEY (1873-1948), a practical nurse, was first married to Clem Bechtelheimer in about 1897. They lived in the Malachite region of Colorado and had one son, Glen Earl, who was born on 18 Oct 1898. He died on 12 Dec 1898 was burial at the

Gardener Cemetery in Gardner, Huerfano County, Colorado. Clem and Belle were divorced in about 1920. In 1928, Belle married Millard Fillmore Dew (1860-1934), a Grant County, Kansas farmer.

ANNA CATHERINE KEPLEY (1874-1911), a schoolteacher, was married to Clinton Jacob Brollier (1877-1953), a rancher from Cimarron, Kansas. They had five children; May, Glen, Ada, Guy, and Raymond. After Anna passed away in 1911, her three youngest children, (Ada, Guy, and Raymond), were raised by Anna's parents, David and Mandy Kepley.

LIDA ADELINE KEPLEY (1876-1971), a schoolteacher, was married to John A. Meyer (1872-1956), a Huerfano County, Colorado rancher. They had two children: Howard Earl (1905-1906) and Clarence A. (1908-1967). Burial for the whole family was at the Gardner Cemetery in Gardner, Huerfano County, Colorado.

EDWARD "AUSTIN" KEPLEY (1878-1955), a farmer in Grant County, Kansas, married Nellie Burr Reynolds (1882-1920), daughter of Isaac Reynolds and Mary Katherine Herron. They had six children. One infant son was born and died in 1912. The other children were Ralph (1907-1999), Ray (1908-2007), Bernice (1909-1993), Edward (1914-2008), and Nellie Lattimore (1920-2007).

FRANKLIN WINFIELD KEPLEY (1880-1963), a farmer and businessman in Grant County, Kansas, married Barbara McGillivray (1889-1973), daughter of John McGillivray and Mary Ethel Rummel, on 8 Oct 1906. Four children were born to this marriage, Ethyl Hutchison (1907-2002), Eva Marie Scranton-Keusler (1909-1996), Myrton Franklin (1915-1915), and Merle Edwin (1917-1997).

STELLA ELIZABETH KEPLEY (1882-1973), a schoolteacher, married Guy F. McGillivray (1877-1956) son of John McGillivray and Mary Ethel Rummel, on 25 Dec 1901. Five children were born in this marriage, Gladys Mariellen Hacker (1903-1982), Hazel Gumm (1904-1977), Gerald Guy (1905-1967), Argyle David (1909-1998), and Kenneth (1914-2010).

EMMA MAY KEPLEY (1884-1971), married John O'Dea (1876-1948) in 1907 and they had one son, John Dale O'Dea (1913-1971). Family records reveal Emma was a schoolteacher, storekeeper, bookkeeper, and postmaster in Moscow, Kansas.

CLARENCE DUMONT KEPLEY (1886-1971), was a local businessman with his brother Franklin, and employed by the State Highway Department. In 1910, he married Vera Mae Bechtelheimer (1891-1936), daughter of William Bechtelheimer and Lucinda Hoyle. They had four children: Beatrice Ramsey, Everett "Pete", Lucille Gaynor, and Cecil Demont. Clarence and Vera were buried at the Ulysses Cemetery in Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas.

DOLPHA RAY KEPLEY was born on 13 Apr 1888 in Ulysses, Kansas. He died on 20 Dec 1971 in Colorado and buried at the Ulysses Cemetery. Dolpha was a farmer, rancher, and cowboy. He married Edith Smith in San Luis Valley, Colorado.

NEATA VIOLA KEPLEY was born in the year 1890 in Grant County. She died on 22 May 1902 in Ulysses, Kansas, and buried at the Golden Cemetery.

ELODIE ELLEN KEPLEY (1892-1895).

**Additional information
ALONZO W. ANDERSON**

Photographs and extra family details provided by Jim and Deanna Peterson

ALONZO WHITCOMB ANDERSON, son of George M. Anderson (1842-1930) and Margaret Ellen Terhune (1839-1920) He was born on 13 Feb 1868 in Jackson, Brown County, Indiana.

He married HATTIE EUDORA STAPLES, daughter of George Staples (1820-1877) and Ann Elmyra Maxwell (1838-1921), on 1 Jan 1889 in Brown County, Indiana. Hattie was born there on 30 Aug 1870.



ALONZO & HATTIE (STAPLES) ANDERSON
Married 31 Dec 1888 in Brown County, Indiana

Alonzo, Hattie, and their children left Indiana about 1907, moving to Kansas where Alonzo farmed and raised cattle, mules, and horses on their ranch in the northern part of Grant County. Alonzo was elected Grant County Treasurer in 1910. He passed away on 22 July 1920. Hattie moved to Ulysses in 1927, living there until poor health made it necessary for her to move in with

her daughter, Bertha Carter, and family, at Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas. Hattie died on 29 Dec 1952 in Lakin. Burial for Alonzo and Hattie was at the Shockey Cemetery in Grant County.



THE ALONZO ANDERSON FAMILY

About 1905

Brown County, Indiana

*Back row, left to right: Charles, Bertha, and Maggie
Front row, left to right: Joe, Alonzo, Hattie, and Alta
(Two children, Mary and Allen, were born later)*

Seven children were born in their marriage:

CHARLEY BRYON ANDERSON (1889-1960) was born in Morgan County, Indiana. He married Pearl M. Rider (1892-1968) on 17 Aug 1911 in Grant County, Kansas. Three children were born in their marriage, George, Frances, and Eva. Charles died in Lamar, Colorado. Burial for Charles and Pearl was at the Holly Cemetery in Holly, Prowers County, Colorado.

MAGGIE ELMIRA ANDERSON was born on 13 Jul 1891 in Brown County, Indiana. She married Peter C. Kiistner on 23 May 1914. Two children were born into their marriage, Floyd Albert and Margaret Irene. Maggie died on 6 Mar 1923 in Grant County, Kansas and buried at

the Shockey Cemetery in Grant County. Peter married again, to Dorothy Spencer Rider on 15 Mar 1938. He died on 15 May 1981 in Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas, and buried at the Lakin Cemetery in Lakin, Kansas.

BERTHA BELLE ANDERSON was born 31 Dec 1893 in Jackson, Brown County, Indiana. Bertha married Leoran "Ora" Carter on 25 Mar 1916 in Ulysses, Kansas. Twin daughters were born in their marriage, Laura and Laretta. Bertha died on 28 Mar 1963 in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas. Ora Carter married again to Mrs. Alice (Byers) Gillespie on 11 Oct 1964 at Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado. He died there on 19 May 1970. Ora and Bertha were both buried at the Lakin Cemetery in Lakin, Kansas.

JOSEPH "JOE" JENNINGS ANDERSON was born on 11 Aug 1896 in Morgan County, Indiana. Joe married Hazel Marie Rogers on 4 Jul 1923 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. They made their home on a farm near Kendall, Kearny County, Kansas. They had five daughters: Lois, Doris, Twila, June, and Neva Jo. Hazel died on 15 Jun 1987. Joe passed away on 26 Oct 1997 in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas. Both buried at the Lakin Cemetery in Lakin, Kansas.

ALTA JEANETTE ANDERSON was born on 25 Aug 1900 in Indiana. She was married to Allen H. Ogilvie. Allen was born on 8 Feb 1902 in Illinois. Allen and Alta lived in Lexington, Kentucky, and Fort Worth, Texas before moving to California. Alta died on 6 Feb 1989 in Orange County, California. Allen died there on 30 Jul 1989.

MARY SAMANTHA ANDERSON was born on 16 Jan 1906 in Brown County, Indiana. Mary was married to Irvin Donald Davis on 30 Jun 1925 in Kearny County, Kansas. Six children were born in their marriage: Donald, Dorothy, David, Darrell, Doris, and Dennis. Irvin died on 22 May 1979 at Fair Oaks, Sacramento County, California. Mary died there on 12 Jan 1992. Both were buried at the Fair Oaks Cemetery.

ALLEN STAPLES ANDERSON was born on 11 Apr 1913 in Grant County, Kansas. He married Norma Nichols on 28 Nov 1934 in Lakin, Kansas. Norma was born there on 10 Mar 1914. They made Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas their home where Allen made his living as a farmer. In 1946, a daughter, Mary R. Anderson, was born. Allen passed away on 27 Dec 1990 and Norma died on 26 Apr 2013, in Ulysses, Kansas. Burial for both was at the Shockey Cemetery in Grant County.

Additional information GEORGE W. EARP

GEORGE WASHINGTON EARP, son of Jonathan Douglas Earp (1824-1900) and Dorcas Anne Cox (1826-1916), was born 13 Dec 1864. Although some records give his place of birth as Lamar, Barton County, Missouri, his death certificate gives Montgomery County, Missouri. Stories reveal that President Abraham Lincoln named him. His father, Jonathan Earp, was a chaplain in

the Confederate Army and while meeting with the President, he mentioned that his son had just been born, but not named. The president suggested they name him “George Washington”.



GEORGE WASHINGTON EARP

As a child, George had dreamed of becoming a cowboy. So when the opportunity came up for him to spend time with his famous first cousin Wyatt Earp in Dodge City, he jumped at the chance. Marshal Earp taught him how to handle a gun, shoot from the hip, and fire two pistols at a time at a moving target. Wyatt soon sent George to live in Garden City, Kansas, about 50 miles from Dodge. There George worked as a cowboy until moving to Ulysses, Kansas. He helped organize and survey the town of Ulysses in 1885. On 25 Sep 1886, he became the first postmaster in Ulysses. He was only 21 years old. Two years later, he was elected their mayor and constable.

George married **ANNA MAXWELL**, daughter of Hugh Maxwell (1835-1911) and Sarah Stouffer (1838-1880), on 1 Jun 1883 in Marion County, Kansas. Anna was born on 5 May 1864 in Pennsylvania.

The three children born in the marriage of George Earp and Anna (Maxwell) Earp were:

MABEL EARP was born on 4 May 1884 in Marion County, Kansas. She married Oscar Winslow Hoop on 19 Oct 1904 in Sedgwick County, Kansas. Some records indicate Mabel died in 1937. Oscar moved to California and remarried.

WALTER LATEN EARP was born on 26 Nov 1886 and died on 2 Apr 1889.

STANLEY MAXWELL EARP was born on 1 Nov 1890 in Ulysses, Kansas, and died on 7 Mar 1967 in Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan. Stanley was married twice to Marion H. Judd, daughter of Charles Judd and Julia Grump. The first time was about 1919 and they divorced on 8 Oct 1925. On 16 Oct 1936 in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, they married again. Marion was born in about 1899 in the state of Colorado.



STANLEY MAXWELL EARP

At the time of his death, Stanley was a retired President and Board Chairman of the Citizens Mortgage Corporation in Detroit, Michigan. Stanley and Marion were buried at the Acacia Park Cemetery in Beverly Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

In 1893, George W. Earp and his wife, Anna, along with their two children, Mabel and Stanley, left Ulysses and moved to Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas where George was appointed the U.S. Marshal. There, Anna became sick with Pneumonia and died on 8 Nov 1898. Burial was on November 10 at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Wichita, Kansas.

George then married **MARY "HARRIET" PIRTLE** (1889-1971) on 1 Aug 1909 in Wichita, Kansas. They divorced in about 1918.

George educated himself in the law and for many years, he worked for the United States Internal Revenue Service as a chief field officer. In 1933, he moved to Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri where he worked as an income tax consultant, working well into his 90s.

George W. Earp had been living in a nursing home in the Joplin area for about a year when he suffered a stroke and died on 21 Dec 1960 in Mineral Township, Jasper County, Missouri. His burial was at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Wichita, Kansas alongside his wife, Anna.

**Newspaper Article
GEORGE W. EARP**

The Kansas City Times – Friday, 26 Aug 1955

A MEMBER OF THE FAMOUS EARP FAMILY RECALLS THE DAYS OF SIX-GUN JUSTICE IN KANSAS

GEORGE W. EARP OF JOPLIN, NOW 90, A COUSIN OF WYATT EARP – STILL PRIZES THE WEAPONS WITH WHICH HE HELPED PRESERVE ORDER IN FRONTIER TOWNS – TWO STATES HONOR ONE-TIME MARSHAL NEXT WEEK.

As the states of Missouri and Kansas celebrate Wyatt Earp Week starting tomorrow, honoring the famous frontier marshal who made the law respected along the Chisholm Trail. One of the most interested persons in the two-state area will be a 90-year-old Joplin man, George W. Earp, Wyatt's first cousin and protégé.

"Cousin Wyatt taught me all I knew about the West, including how to handle a six-gun, and how to win a fight," George recalled. Still well and strong despite his years, he said he anticipated eagerly the forth-coming celebration because he had been interested in Wyatt's life and career since he was a young boy.

George Earp was born in the little town of Lamar, Missouri, in 1865, as it was being rebuilt after being destroyed by fire during the border campaigns of the Civil War. His family had moved to Lamar from central Missouri and had homesteaded a 160-acre tract, in what was then the wilderness.

As a child, he knew the James boys, Jesse and Frank, and on several occasions had conversations with them. One time, riding with his father (who was a circuit preacher), Jesse and Frank emerged from the woods along the trail, and rode with them for a distance, until they reached the place where the elder Earp was scheduled to preach. "I guess you could really say... I rode with the James boys," George said.

George recalled the popularity of the James brothers in Southwest Missouri during the 1870s, saying that almost everyone in the area was a friend of the brothers, and aided them when possible. "However, that was before they were really considered outlaws." He added.

George left the log house in which he was born, reared, and educated, at the age of 18, and fulfilled his lifelong ambition to be a cowboy, by going West to visit his cousin, Wyatt, at Dodge City. Wyatt had already built himself a reputation, as a peace officer and gunslinger, and George Earp's family was a little hesitant to send him into the savage country of Kansas, he recalled, but his insistence won out, and off he went.

Dodge, as he always called it, was a typical frontier community, with one street, Front Street, lined with houses built of the only readily available building material... sod. Buildings built of

lumber were rare, as wood shipped in from Missouri by rail and wagon, made the cost prohibitive.

“Cousin Wyatt” welcomed George with some misgivings, but allowed him to stay for a while, and appointed him a deputy marshal. He taught him the tricks of the trade, such as shooting from the hip and firing two pistols at a time at a moving target.

Some of the “characters” at Dodge, who were to influence young Earp, were Bill Tilgeman, also a famous U.S. marshal, Doc Holiday, known for his prowess with a 45, and Bob Wright who was also a well-known gunman. Dodge at the time was one of the great “stations” on the old Chisholm Trail, from Texas to the Kansas railroads, and the cowboys from the plains rode into town with “money in their pockets and fire in their eyes,” Earp said.

Finally, “Cousin Wyatt” decided that Dodge was a little too rough for young George, and packed him off to Garden City, which had more than one street, and more frame buildings, and was therefore considered more “civilized”.

There young George was able to get a job as a cowboy and began the life that he had always dreamed of having. However, he said, a cowboy’s life was not all riding and roping – there was quite a bit of “dirty work” to be done, too, and it soon made a man of young Earp. Between the work and the harassment of the other cowboys on the ranch, who made fun, at first, of the “kid from Missouri”, Earp soon matured.

In the spring of 1885, the town of Ulysses was being formed with the Town Company, chartered to organize the settlement, formed in Garden City. This was for staking out the town. George got a job with the surveyors and worked for some time surveying the plan for the town of Ulysses – the old town, and moved to a new location in 1909.

The town site was located on the north fork of the Cimarron River, a stream made famous by the wars of the cattle drivers getting their herds from Texas to the magic railroads.

When he was 21, George was appointed postmaster of the new town, and at 23, he was elected mayor, a job that involved complications since the mayor was also the constable. At this time, he was not only the youngest but also the only postmaster and mayor of Grant County. He was also the first notary public in Ulysses (he has held his notary’s commission since 1886, and is still active as a notary) and the first county clerk of Grant County.

As constable of Ulysses, Earp had perhaps his greatest experiences on the frontier, most notable of which, perhaps, was the “William Tell” shooting of two Kansas bad-men. He tells it like this:

“There was at the time in Ulysses a man by the name of Ed Prather, who operated a saloon, and who had a reputation for being rather quick on the trigger, and not too law-abiding.”

“One day a stranger from the East came into town on the stage. This stranger, wearing a silk plug hat, went into Prather’s saloon to have a drink.”

“Grant Wells a local desperado, passing the saloon and seeing the hat, apparently couldn’t resist the temptation, and shot the hat from the stranger’s head while he was downing his drink.”

“The stranger left the saloon abruptly, and took the next stage back east.”

“Wells put the stranger’s hat on his own head, and this time Prather came in attracted by the sound of shooting in his saloon, and shot Wells through the ear.”

“The Coroner was called from Hugoton, thirty miles away, and since Wells did not die immediately, the coroner waited for him to die. Prather and his friends treated the coroner to the “best in the house” and when the death occurred the befuddled coroner was only too happy to oblige his newly-found friends by calling it accidental.”

Prather, a little later, accompanied by a “lady” friend showed up at a hotel that George operated on the side, and both being drunk, the waitress at the hotel refused to serve them. Prather pulled his guns and drove all the employees and guests from the hotel. Then... George had to drive him out of the hotel. George returned Prather’s guns, placed him and his friends in a buckboard, and told them to leave town. Prather went to Leoti, Kansas where he was killed in a gun duel with Tilgeman, who was marshal there.

George was reticent about most of his exploits, and would not answer the question, “How many men have you shot in your career?” One can only guess at this, but the number claimed by the two long-barreled pistols that are among his most treasured possessions may be impressive.

George left Ulysses in 1893 when he was appointed U.S. Marshal in Wichita. He educated himself in the law, and for many years worked in the Internal Revenue office at Wichita, retiring from there in 1933. He then moved to Joplin and began the practice of income-tax law. George retired last year. His formula for longevity is, “Obey the laws of God and man.” It seems to have worked in the case of George Earp, one of the last of the old frontiersmen.