

## **WILLIAM ELLIS PATTON**

*Project Consultant – Hamilton County*

*Consultant for the story... Interesting Old Settlers of Hamilton County*

**WILLIAM ELLIS PATTON**, son of John Patton and Sarah Lomas, was born on 26 May 1870 in Wapello County, Iowa.

In 1885, he was still living in Wapello County in the town of Center. He moved to Kansas in 1887. About five years later, he moved close to Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas, to a small town called Bear Creek. In late March or early April of 1904, William married **LOUISE RUGGLES**, daughter of Frederick Ruggles and Mary Rebecca Ferguson. They were married at the home of her parents in Great Bend, Kansas. Louise born on 3 July 1879 in Canada and had spent the year before her marriage living in Stanton County, Kansas, where she was the superintendent of the schools in that county. In 1912, William moved his family to Syracuse.

William Patton started as a schoolteacher but eventually had his own Insurance business, and in 1930, he was the County Clerk for Hamilton County, Kansas.

William died in 1947, and Louise died in 1976. Their burial was at the Syracuse Cemetery in Syracuse, Kansas.

Four children were born in their marriage:

**DONALD RUGGLES PATTON** was born on 18 Aug 1905 in Hamilton County, Kansas. He died in 1932 and was burial at the Syracuse Cemetery in Syracuse, Kansas.

**LOIS IRENE PATTON** was born on 6 Sep 1907. She was a devoted schoolteacher. Lois died on 5 May 1992 and buried at the Syracuse Cemetery in Syracuse, Kansas.

**LAURA FERN PATTON** was born on 23 Sep 1912 in Hamilton County, Kansas, and was married to Raymond Morris Royer, son of Morris and Maggie Royer, in October of 1945. They had two children, William Royer and Patricia Royer. Laura and Raymond were divorced, and Raymond moved to Soap Lake, Washington. Laura died on 18 Aug 2001 in Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas, and buried at the Syracuse Cemetery.

**WINIFRED LOUISE PATTON** was born on 20 Sep 1815 in Hamilton County, Kansas. On 26 May 1940, she married Edgar Howard Wilkerson, son of John Calvin Wilkerson and Hattie Z. Jones. Edgar Wilkerson was born on 7 Sep 1915 in Bucklin, Ford County, Kansas. After they were married, the couple moved to the Los Angeles area of California. They had two daughters, Laura Wilkerson and Mary Wilkerson. Winifred died on 17 May 1951 and her burial was at the Syracuse Cemetery. Edgar Wilkerson was then married to Shirley Stucker on 12 Nov 1983 in Kern County, California. He passed away on 23 Aug 1997 in Bakersfield, Kern County, California.

## Family Newspaper Articles & Photographs

WILLIAM ELLIS PATTON and LOUISE (RUGGLES) PATTON

Cemetery Headstones



SYRACUSE CEMETERY  
Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas

DONALD RUGGLES PATTON

Newspaper Article

*The Syracuse (Kansas) Journal and Republican News – Friday, 18 May 1923*

CLASS OF 1923 STUDENT

Donald Ruggles Patton is a son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Patton of Syracuse and was born 17 miles southeast of Syracuse. At the age of six years, Donald's parents moved to town so that he may have the advantage of a better school. Donald was an apt pupil and steadily advanced in the grades until he was thirteen years old when he became a freshman at Syracuse high school, which at that time enrolled about fifty freshman students. He took a prominent part in the life of the school and became one of the most brilliant stars in the athletic field. He was in the 1921-1922 football team's line-up, and as a basketball player, he strengthened the team. Don Patton was also interested in debating, orating, and other literary accomplishments. He takes an active part in Sunday School and Church work and is one of the city's most promising young men. His willingness to help and his sunny disposition has won him many friends.

Cemetery Headstone



SYRACUSE CEMETERY  
Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas

LOIS IRENE PATTON

Newspaper Article



Lois Irene Patton  
*Photograph provided by Becky Jamison*

*The Great Bend (Kansas) Tribune – Wednesday, 2 May 1973*

*Written by Bion Beebe (Staff Writer)*

THE RETIRING TEACHER WILL MISS KIDS, HAS NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Lois Patton, a first-grade teacher at Park School, is retiring from teaching, but she doesn't appear to be slowing down any. She has been around children for a long time and is still enthusiastic about the things they say and do.

Ms. Patton is a native of Kansas but graduated from high school in Umatilla, Florida, in 1925 and began teaching with a Kansas State Normal Training Certificate. She later received her B. S. from Sterling College. Her first job was in rural western Kansas, where she taught for one year. After that, she taught in Tribune for one year, Spearville for two years, Syracuse, her hometown, for eight years, and Hoisington for four years. Then she applied for a job as an Army Hostess with the U. S. Department of War. She was told that only 99 people out of 3,000 applicants would be accepted for positions and was surprised when they notified her that she had been accepted. She began that job in the spring of 1941 and was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas on Pearl Harbor Day. During her five years in military service, she was also stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

As a social hostess, she lived on the base and was in charge of entertainment and social activities for the men and their women visitors.

"It was a highlight of my career," she said recently. "It was the only thing that ever wooed me away from teaching." But there was a sad aspect to this job, and that was seeing the men shipped out for overseas duty.

After she left the military, she went back to teaching, came to Great Bend in the fall of 1947, and has been teaching first grade here for the past 26 years.

"I have found a happy, rewarding, and busy career in teaching," she stated. For 42 years, she has been taking care of other people's children, which has given her great satisfaction. In her class this year, she has children of the children she taught during her first years in Great Bend.

Over the years, she has also kept busy with other things besides teaching. She is the past matron of the O.E.S. in Syracuse and the past president of the Business and Professional Women's Club in Syracuse. She has been very active in the Methodist Church.

In 1970, she was awarded an honor that she considers to be one of the special events of her career. That was when she was named by the Kansas State Teachers' College in Emporia as one of the seven outstanding teachers in the state and received a Kansas Master Teacher Award.

Following her retirement, she plans to return to her family home in Syracuse. "I regret leaving the children. I love the many friends I have here in Great Bend," she said.

When she is back in Syracuse, she plans to help take care of her mother and work in the Patton Insurance Agency owned and operated by her sister. She has a license to sell insurance.

Lois Patton also has another project in mind. "I may get around to writing my book. It will be

called ‘Out of the Mouths of Babes’ and will be about the happy, sad, and funny things children say,” she said. Retirement does not mean an end to activity for her.

## LAURA FERN (PATTON) ROYER

### Cemetery Headstone



SYRACUSE CEMETERY  
Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas

### Newspaper Obituary

*The Garden City (Kansas) Telegram – Monday, 20 Aug 2001*

SYRACUSE – The funeral for Laura Fern Royer, 88, of Syracuse, will be at 2 p.m. MST on Tuesday at the Methodist Church in Syracuse, with the Rev. William Fitzgerald officiating. Graveside service will follow in Syracuse Cemetery.

Laura Royer died Saturday, 18 Aug 2001, at Hamilton County Hospital in Syracuse. She was born on 23 Sep 1912, in Syracuse, the daughter of William Ellis and Louise (Ruggles) Patton. She attended Syracuse High School, graduating in 1919.

Mrs. Royer had been a lifetime resident of Syracuse, except from 1925 to 1927 when the family lived in Umatilla, (Lake County) Florida. She took over her father’s family business, Patton Insurance Agency in Syracuse, which she operated for more than 50 years before retiring in 1977. She also worked for the World War II Selective Service for Hamilton County and served as the Syracuse City Treasurer for 38 years.

She was a past chairman of the Hamilton County Democratic Party, the Hamilton County delegate to the Silver Haired Legislature, and a member of the Syracuse Methodist Church for

more than 60 years. Mrs. Royer also belonged to the Methodist Wesleyan Guild, was a lifetime member of the Eastern Star, where she was a past worthy matron, and was a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. She was on the Hamilton County Swimming Pool Board, the Hamilton County Extended Care Facility Board, and the Mental Health Board. She enjoyed singing, gardening, playing bridge, reading, and spending time with her family.

She married Raymond Morris Royer in October 1945.

Survivors include her twin son and daughter, William Morris Royer, Arcadia, California, and Patricia Popejoy, Johnson City; a granddaughter; two step-grandsons; and two nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Don Patton, and two sisters, Lois Patton, and Winifred Wilkerson.

### WINIFRED LOUISE (PATTON) WILKERSON

#### Cemetery Headstone



SYRACUSE CEMETERY  
Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas