

## POINTS OF INTEREST IN SYRACUSE

Hamilton County, Kansas

Written by Ruth Ausbun

*Consultant: Mrs. Lane, City Clerk*

*Reference: An Old Syracuse Journal, 1926*



Johnson Street in Syracuse, Kansas  
1911

The swimming pool is located on North Main Street and is in the southwest corner of the school playground and at the back of the high school building, which is located on North Main. On the south end of the swimming pool are the bath and dressing rooms, etc. It is a long building which is painted the color of orange. The proprietor sells pop and candy during the summer months, and it opens in June and closes in August. Ten cents admission is charged for swimming. It is a rather small pool, approximately fifty feet by twenty-five feet. The deepest spot is eight feet, which is at the south end of the pool. It is only about two feet deep at the north end and is used by the small children. Mostly the children use a slide that is about fifteen feet high. The pool gets deeper in the middle. There is usually one lifesaver present. The pool is cleaned once every week.

Today there are not any real parks in Syracuse. However, Samuel Yaggy's park "The Elms" used to be a beautiful place about ten years ago. It is no longer used. Most of

the elm trees are dead and there are no longer any flowers. It is located two blocks east of the high school building and one block north. It occupies a whole block. Stones and rocks are now there.

The courthouse was built in 1885. It is a stucco two-story building without any architectural beauty. It has been repaired several times but is still in poor condition. The county owns the building.

There are no factories in Syracuse, as this is not an industrial center, and there is no flour mill or sugar beet factory. Wheat is the main crop but is mostly shipped away.

Four miles east of Syracuse now stands a spring discovered by the famous French Canadian scout, Francois Xavier Aubrey. It is one mile south of Highway 50. The United States Government established Fort Aubrey there in 1865 to protect the Santa Fe Trail from Indians and renegades, but it was abandoned within a year. No major battles were ever recorded at the fort. The trail passed through the county and Colorado and ran up the river to where it turned southwest to Santa Fe via Trinidad and Raton Pass. Mr. Aubrey found the spring of water four miles east of Syracuse, in what is more familiarly known as "Fords Lake." The lake is probably a mile long, from one to six feet deep, and varies in width from fifty to two hundred feet. The springs are in the upper part of the lake and furnish plenty of water to irrigate several farms below the dam. There are several trees along the lake, which makes it an excellent hiking place.

The Uptown Camp, located on Highway 50, going through the middle of town, is a very modern camp here in Syracuse. It is the bus stop for the Santa Fe and Greyhound Busses. The camp has one filling station and a restaurant. Each camp building has a private bath with a shower, and they are gas-heated. Many of them have two furnished rooms. Sidewalks are placed around the camp. Seventy-five cents to \$1.00 is charged per night.

The Ames Hotel is also a bus depot, and various busses stop at different intervals throughout the day. The Ames Hotel is located on Main and Avenue B. It is a very convenient stopping place for tourists and travelers. At the right end of the Hotel is the United States Post Office. The coffee shop is next to the hotel lobby and is a delightful place to eat.

There are several active churches in town. All of them are rather small buildings with no architectural beauty. The Methodist Church is located on Gates Street, and the Presbyterian Church is located two blocks west of the Ames Hotel on Avenue B. The Christian Church is on North Main, just one block from the high school building. The Pilgrim Holiness Church is located one block east and one block north of the Ames Hotel.

There are grade school and high school buildings that were built in 1885. They have been remodeled and repaired several times since then. They are of no interest to

travelers as they are 'poor' buildings, especially for Syracuse. There is not a college of any kind here.

Several old buildings were built many years ago. Evelin P. Barber\* built one of the buildings in early 1873. It is a two-story building with about six rooms and is made of wood. It is located one block west of the City Drug Store, on Avenue A, and next to the Standard Oil Station.



THE FIRST HOUSE IN SYRACUSE

*Built-in 1872*

Photograph taken in 1936

There are no old sod houses in Syracuse. The present cemetery is located outside of the city limits. You go on Highway 50 to the west end of town, turn on Highway 27, go one mile north, turn west, and go a short distance to the cemetery. It was fixed up last summer by the relief workers, and trees were planted. It is the only cemetery in Syracuse and has been there for many years.

The city library is located above the Silver Moon Café on Main Street, on the corner straight across the street from the Valley State Bank. The Silver Moon Café is no longer used as a café. It is used for the Republican Headquarters. The words "Republican Headquarters" appear on the front window. It is a large brick building. The entrance to the library is up the stairs on the north side. In the last year, several new books have been placed in the library. Folks may check books out until their card is filled up. Then, one must buy a new card, which is 50 cents.

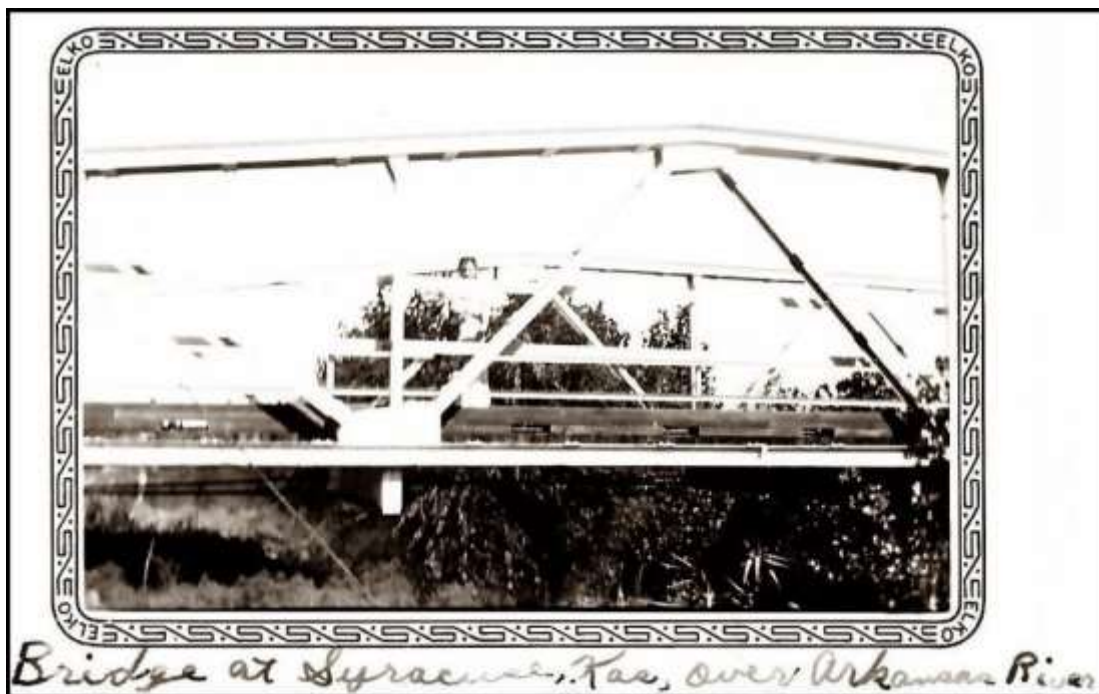
The golf grounds are about one block north of the school building, one-half mile east, and then a half mile north, outside the city limits. There is a fence around the grounds, and it is an excellent place for golf.

The baseball grounds are about four blocks north of the high school building and just a short distance east. The town team plays with the various other small towns close to Syracuse on Sundays during the summer. The school teams also use this field. The football field is next to the schoolyard, and it is at all times level, smooth, and kept in good condition.

The Northup Theater is a neat-looking building. It is built of tile with the front finished in brick. It is located on Main Street and is open from 7:00 to 12:00 every night, including Sundays and Saturday afternoons. The admission charge is 15 cents for children of school age and 35 cents for adults plus 25 cents for balcony seats.

The two strongest banking institutions in Western Kansas are located in Syracuse, with deposits of over a half million. The Valley State Bank is a large brick building located on the corner of Main Street, across from the Ames Hotel on Avenue B. The National Bank is one of the best-known financial institutions in the city and has aided in no small measure to the development of the surrounding area. It is located on Main Street, two blocks from the Valley State Bank on the same side of the street, next to the Syracuse Café.

Jerry D. Hendrickson\*, a tailor, has his dry cleaner business on Main Street about a half-block south of the Rexall Drug Store on Ave. A. He has served the people of Syracuse for twenty years. He has one of the most up-to-date plants in this area. They remodel and refinish to please the customer's taste and form. They repair snags, reline, add material, add pockets, and buttons to prolong the life of the apparel.



The Bridge Crossing the Arkansas River

The bridge across the Arkansas River, south of Syracuse, was first built in 1885. It was 528 feet long and had a concrete sub-foundation three and a half feet beneath the water's surface. It was capable of sustaining a pressure of 63 tons per mile. In 1930, C. Beadslee remodeled it.

In the early days, the Arkansas River was narrower and deeper. Mr. Evelin P. Barber says there used to be an abundance of fish in the river. In the winter, Syracuse citizens used to cut ice on the river and store it for summer use. *(There were a few different ways of keeping food cool before the days of refrigerators, such as iceboxes, cooled by using actual ice. People also had ice houses where ice could be stored and kept cold for close to a year.)*

The Herndon and Sons Groceries have been in Syracuse for 35 years. It is one of the leading grocery and market companies in the city and features at all times a large assortment of staple and fancy groceries and fresh vegetables in and out of season. There are also fresh and cured meats at reasonable prices. This grocery market is modern and up-to-date in every way.

William C. Daugherty established his drug store in 1906 (*See story... "Interesting Old Settlers of Hamilton County"*) and it was located in what was known as the N. J. Sawyer building next to the First National Bank. On February 3, 1907, the Santa Fe Station, Harvey House, and several other buildings burned, including the drug store. A part of the stock was saved, and business was resumed in a building north of the Scranton Lumber Yard occupied by George Blanchat. Also in February of 1907, Mr. Daugherty purchased the stock and then opened in the new Schroll building. Syracuse has several buildings, but the new Daugherty drugstore on the corner of Main Street and Avenue A is beyond a doubt the best in appearance. It is of pressed brick, two stories in height, with clear plate glass in front and wide windows on its second story. Mr. Daugherty and his pharmacy business occupy the entire store. He has added a considerable amount of new equipment and fixtures. The store has always kept a well-assorted stock of medicine, sundaes, books, etc. Everything that is kept in a first-class drug store, you will find there.

**Additional Information  
EVELIN P. BARBER**

EVELIN PAUL BARBER, son of Gay P. Barber (1818-1883) and Diantha Clark (1830-1916), was born 14 Feb 1840 in Marcellus, Onondaga County, New York. in Onondaga County, New York. In 1860, Evelin was still living in Marcellus, New York. He worked with his father in his lumber mill, and on 28 Dec 1861, in Syracuse, New York, he enlisted in the Union Army to fight during the Civil War.

Evelin married CAROLINE E. LESTER, daughter of Murry B. and Matilda Lester, in 1868, in



Onondaga County, New York. She was born in New York on 17 Nov 1830. Caroline's first marriage was to Burritt G. Johnson on 16 Oct 1856, and he died the following year on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Evelin was president of the colonizing group that was to leave Syracuse (New York). Along with a few other men, he was first sent to Southwest Kansas to find land for the colony settlement. They found it in Hamilton County. They started their move to Kansas in 1872. There were thirty families. Caroline's brothers, Henry N. Lester, and John Lester, were a part of the group.

They arrived in Hamilton County in March of 1873 at what they called "a station". The Santa Fe Railroad officials had named it Hollidaysburg after C. K. Holliday, president of the railroad, but with the help of Evelin Barber, it was changed to Syracuse. He was the first station agent president and appointed Postmaster of the Syracuse Post Office on 23 May 1873. He started in the cattle business right away and built the first house in Syracuse, which still stands today. Later, he started raising sheep and opened the first store in Syracuse.

Caroline was beside her husband, doing the necessary things to make the town productive and beautiful. Together, they planted trees, bushes, and flowers. She was active in church and school activities.



EVELIN PAUL BARBER



CAROLINE (LESTER JOHNSON) BARBER

*Photographs provided by Joalice Jantz, from the Hamilton County, Kansas Historical Society*

Caroline died in February of 1924, and Eveline passed away on 10 Aug 1928, both in Syracuse, Kansas. Although Evelin and Caroline did not have any children, many people thought of Evelin Barber as the “Father of Syracuse” and Caroline as the “Mother of Syracuse”.



Syracuse Cemetery, Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas  
*Photograph provided by Debra Dennis*

#### Additional Information JERRY D. HENDRICKSON

**JERRY DORIAN HENDRICKSON**, son of William Hendrickson (1843-1917) and Lydia “Liddie” Jane Reece (1852-1940) was born on 21 Jan 1888 in Putnam County, Missouri. His first marriage was to **LOTTIE CALVERT**, daughter of Theodore Amos Calvert (1846-1913) and Amanda Scrimsher (1852-1941). She was born on 18 Apr 1895.

Jerry and Lottie had one daughter, **GERALDINE HENDRICKSON**, born on 1 Oct 1914 in Winfield, Cowley County, Kansas. Geraldine married Gordon Morris White. She died on 18 Oct 2007 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Jerry and Lottie were later divorced, and Lottie’s next marriage was to Robert Lee Sprinkel.

On 9 Jan 1933, Jerry married **MAUDE MAE OSBORN**, daughter of George Washington Osborn (1851 -1907) and Louisa Ann Reed (1856 -1898). Maude was born on 5 Jun 1882 in Clinton County, Missouri. Her first marriage was to Allison John “Jack” Virden, who died on 13 Nov 1929.

Jerry started the Hendrickson Brothers dry cleaner business at a young age in Newton, Kansas, with his brother. However, in 1909, their partnership dissolved, and Jerry continued with the successful dry cleaning business on his own. The 1917 records indicate he had moved to Syracuse, Kansas, worked as a tailor, and opened a dry-cleaning shop there. About 1942, Jerry had moved to Sedgwick, Harvey County, Kansas. He opened another dry-cleaning shop in Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas, not far from Sedgwick.

Maude died on 26 Jul 1953 in Sedgwick County, Kansas, and buried at the Wichita Park Cemetery and Mausoleum in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Jerry Hendrickson died on 14 Jun 1986 in Newton, Harvey County, Kansas, at the Kansas Christian Home. His body was donated to Medical Science.