

ADOBE BUILDINGS

Haskell County, Kansas

Written by Maxine Ridge

*Consultants: Mr. W. W. (William) Wallace and Mrs. J. J. (Ninnie) Miller,
both of Sublette, Kansas*

References: Webster's Dictionary (first published in 1806) and general information

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

Adobe structures are made of sun-dried brick or a sun-dried mixture of clay or soil placed in a frame to construct a "raised adobe."

The adobe buildings constructed of sun-dried earth brick are better buildings than those made by building a foot-high frame and running the mud mixture in, then letting it dry, raising the frame, and making another layer of mud mixture on top.

When Old Santa Fe started, most of the homes were made of adobe brick or there were the raised adobes. All of the buildings were gone after Santa Fe ended and moved to Sublette and Satanta. Most of these buildings were four-room shingled roof buildings. There were a few two-story adobes.

All parts of the country have specific characteristics. In the United States areas where there are many trees, you will find log cabins are predominant. The eastern part of Kansas has many trees, so you will also see log buildings. When the settlers came to the western part of Kansas, there were no trees, and it was difficult to get lumber into the area, so that is why this part of Kansas is noted for its adobe buildings. It was discovered that in lots of ways, the adobe buildings were better than those of lumber. In the winter, they were warmer, and in the summer, they were cooler.

There are a few people constructing buildings of adobe brick now. They are just about as durable as lumber buildings and are not nearly as expensive.

Mr. William W. Wallace (*See William Wallace, His Life Story*) and his sister, Miss May Wallace, helped construct their adobe home in 1903. It was a "raised" building, and they made a frame about a foot thick and one foot and a half high. The mud mixture was poured into this frame and allowed to dry. The structure was then raised, and this continued until the building was finally complete. They planted trees around their home, and it was kept in good shape until they moved to town.

Mr. Wallace sold the building, and part of the adobe building was taken for a windbreak. All that remains are a few scattered chunks of adobe and a few trees. A lot of the trees are gone due to fires and the lack of moisture. The remains of this adobe building are located four miles west of Santa Fe.

At present, another adobe house stands, one-half mile north and one mile west of Satanta. This building was constructed about 1900 by Mr. Jacob Davis and today is in pretty good shape. A family was living in the adobe not very long ago. The house is a raised adobe with four rooms, and the roof is a shingle-type roof.

Mr. and Mrs. John Henderson lived in an adobe house for some time. It is not known whether they built the house or not. It is located five miles south and two and one-half miles west of Sublette, Kansas. The four-room structure has a shingle roof. The building has not been cared for and is in poor condition.

Mr. Bill Currey* is building an adobe brick home. He has already constructed a hen house and a garage made of adobe brick. He and his family are living in the garage until they can finish the construction of their home. It is located eighteen miles north on Highway 83 and one-half mile west.

Additional information BILL CURREY

CYRUS WILLIAM "BILL" CURREY, son of Walter Solon Currey (1878-1952) and Susan Evalen Peterson (1876-1953) was born on 29 Jun 1902 in Meade County, Kansas.

Bill married KATHERINE "IVIS" BROWN, daughter of Lucian Brown (1883-1919) and Ora May Horner (1883-1968), on 21 Jul 1925 in Minneapolis, Ottawa County, Kansas. Ivis was born on 7 Jan 1904 in Lincoln County, Kansas.

Two children were born in their marriage, DALE IVIN CURREY, and VORA LEE (CURREY) LOFLAND (1936-1996).

Bill Currey died on 11 Sep 1970. Although Bill and Ivis made their home in Sublette, Haskell County, Kansas, Bill died at a hospital in Liberal, Seward County, Kansas. Ivis passed away on 26 Apr 1997 in Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Burial for both was at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette.

Newspaper Obituaries

CYRUS WILLIAM "BILL" CURREY

The Garden City (Kansas) Telegram – Saturday, 12 Sep 1970

Cyrus William (Bill) Currey, 68 of the Sublette Pleasant Prairie Community, died yesterday afternoon at the Liberal (Kansas) Hospital after a long illness. He was born on 29 Jun 1902 in Meade County. In 1919, he moved to western Kansas. He moved to Haskell County in 1922, where he was a farmer for several years. He married Katherine Ivis Brown on 21 Jul 1925 in

Minneapolis, Kansas.

Bill was a member of the Pleasant Prairie Church of God, Farm Bureau, National Farmers Organization, and Board of Trustees of his church. He also was a member of the building committees for the Saltillo Church and the Pleasant Prairie Church of God.

Surviving is his widow, son, Dale of Pleasant Prairie; daughter, Vora Lee Lofland of Liberal; two brothers, Dr. George Currey and Walter Currey, both of Garden City; two sisters, Mrs. Edmond Groth of Satanta and Mrs. Frank Cass of Avenal, California; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Pleasant Prairie Church of God, with The Revs. Frank Courvisier, Harold Taves, and John Holman officiating. Burial was at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette.

KATHERINE IVIS (BROWN) CURREY

The Garden City (Kansas) Telegram – 30 Apr 1997

SATANTA – Katherine Ivis Brown Currey, 93, died Saturday, 26 Apr 1997, at the American Transitional Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Born on 7 Jan 1904, in Lincoln County (Kansas), she was the daughter of Lucian and Ora May (Horner) Brown. On 21 Jul 1925, she married Cyrus William “Bill” (C. W.) Currey at Minneapolis. He died on 11 Sep 1970. Her daughter, Vora Lee Lofland, also preceded her in death.

She came to Western Kansas by train in 1923 to teach school, eventually teaching in most of the country schools in Northwest Haskell County over the next several years. During the winters, her husband would go with her to start the early fireplaces in the schoolhouses.

For most of her adult life, she was a farming resident 15 miles north of Sublette, living in a sod home with a tin roof which her husband built in 1936. Her children loaned artifacts of historical value to the museum in Sublette when she moved from the homestead in 1987 to live near her daughter in Tulsa.

Mrs. Currey attended Pleasant Prairie Church of God for more than 60 years and served as a Sunday school teacher, youth sponsor, and several other capacities for many years. She enjoyed her flower, fruit, and vegetable gardens.

She is survived by a son, Dale Ivin Currey, Eaton, Colorado; a sister, Nina Shaffstall, Newton (Kansas); four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; several nephews and nieces. The funeral was at the Pleasant Prairie Church of God in Satanta, with the Rev. Fred Hauck II officiating. Burial was at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette.