

**GRANT BURGESS**  
(Amos "Grant" Burgess)  
Haskell County, Kansas

Written by Eva Mae Cooper

*Told by Grant Burgess*

*\* Additional information added about Grant Burgess*

Grant Burgess was born on December 24, 1866, to Amos and Esther Burgess, near Moberly, Harrison County, Indiana. He spent nearly twenty-six years on a farm near Moberly. He was married to Lula (*Martha Lucella*) Schoonover on May 3, 1891, at the M.E. Church (*Methodist Church*) at Moberly. To this union, seven children (*four boys and three girls*) were born. The oldest boy died in infancy.

In Indiana, the wheat was not ruined by the drought but by the Hessian Fly. Also, in preparing the wheat, farmers would have workers running away due to painful encounters with bumblebees and yellowjackets.

When they planted their small cornfields, they could always see forward to a good yield because the seasons were usually excellent. But, what about health, water, and climate? In those days before the deep well drills came into use, so many had to depend upon cistern water. The idea of saving rainwater for drinking water seemed like the only option at the time, but the result was Typhoid Fever for many.

In August 1892, they moved to Flora, Illinois. There they lost their first crop due to the drought. Then the chinch bugs destroyed the next two crops. They stayed there for seventeen years, hoping to gain what they had lost, but the crop failure, together with the Malaria caused by bad water, held them down financially. Therefore, when they left there for Oxford, Kansas, in 1910, they left a \$22.00 doctor bill, which they were able to pay in about sixty days after arriving in Kansas. Mrs. Burgess was extremely weak from Malaria but was soon in good health again at Oxford. After spending six years at Oxford and Winfield, they heard the great call of the West, and on March 3, 1916, they landed in Sublette. It was a little town in its infancy with good streets. (*Some paved, and many of them were later graveled.*) They were glad to call it their home.

They saw Southwest Kansas when it was mostly in buffalo grass and at its best when the golden wheat was ripening and piling up. They were proud to be a resident of Haskell County then, as they are now. They did not like the dust storms, but many farmers were convinced that the machinery and the burning of the stubbles caused the dust.

Grant Burgess stated... *“We will always have the wind, but if this part of the country gets rain, we should see every acre of wheat that we planted earlier bring us a profitable fall growth. With the oiled and gravel roads, we will have a minimum amount of dust. Those folks who stay here will be among the healthiest and happiest people on the globe.*

*We have the soil, the climate, cool nights, good water, and big-hearted neighborly citizens. We now own the Old Santa Fe Townsite and are engaged in the filling station business.*

*All of our children are married now but one. Lyman is a minister, and he is the manager of a hotel in Pratt. Firman is working at a furniture store in Pratt. Hattie, at present, is living in Manhattan. Hazel lives in Garden City. Isel lives in Argonia, Kansas, and Floyd is at home.”*

#### Additional Information AMOS “GRANT” BURGESS

**GRANT BURGESS**, son of Amos J. Burgess (1826-1902) and Esther Ellen Haas (1824-1891), was born on 24 Dec 1866 in Harrison County, Indiana. In 1880, the family was living in Spencer, Harrison County, Indiana.

Grant married **MARTHA “LUCELLA” SCHOONOVER**, daughter of Marquis De Lafayette Schoonover (1832-1882) and Margaret A. Panky (1836-1919), on 3 May 1891, in Harrison County, Indiana. Lucella went by the names Maggie and Lula.

They soon moved to Clay County, Illinois, to a small town named Flora. About 1910, they moved on to Kansas, and in early 1916, they settled in Sublette, Haskell County, Kansas, where Grant farmed the land. In 1924, Grant lost a small part of one of his fingers, while working with a Cog Wheel. In 1925, they moved to town and set up a filling station in the Sublette area.

Lucella died in Sublette, on 9 Jan 1937, and Grant passed away on 10 Dec 1950 in Argonia, Sumner County, Kansas. Both were buried at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette.

Seven children were born in their marriage:

**ISEL FERN BURGESS** was born on 30 Jan 1892 in Harrison County, Indiana. In 1909, she married William Homer Van Winkle, son of David Van Winkle (1850-1918) and Mary Catherine Agnes Mason (1863-1953). William was born on 9 Oct 1884 in Illinois. He passed away on 6 Dec 1963 in Wellington, Sumner County, Kansas. Isel Fern died there on 31 Oct 1966. Both buried at the Argonia Cemetery in Argonia, Sumner County, Kansas. Four children were born in their marriage: Denzel Ferman Van Winkle (1910-1990), Pearl (Van Winkle) Baird (1912-1969), Bernice “B. C.” Corbin Van Winkle (1914-1986), and Merle Grant Van Winkle (1917-1998).

**HAZEL LUCELLA BURGESS** was born on 20 Jan 1896 in Flora, Clay County, Illinois. She married John "Conrad" Knief, son of Heinrich "Henry" Knief (1835-1899) and Margaret Buckman (1840-1928), on 6 Sep 1917 in Haskell County, Kansas. John Conrad was born on 30 Jan 1887 in Jackson County, Iowa. In 1920, they continued to make their home in Haskell County, Kansas. In 1930, they were living in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas where Conrad was working for a company called "Raleigh Goods" as a salesman. In 1950, he was working as a custodian for the Finney County City Hall. John Conrad Knief passed away on 12 April 1961, and Hazel died on 29 Aug 1985 in Garden City, Kansas. Both were buried there at the Valley View Cemetery. Their children were Dwight Lyman Knief (1918-1984), Claude Maynard Knief (1920-2000), Ellis Arnold Knief (1921-2004), Chester Leroy Knief (1924-2014), and Richard "Duane" Knief (1931 -).

**INFANT SON** was born and died on the same day in September of 1898 in Flora, Clay County, Illinois.

**LYMAN GRANVILLE BURGESS** was born on 17 Aug 1900 in Flora, Illinois. On 3 Sep 1925, Lyman married Ruby Marie Day, daughter of Patrick Haley Day (1873-1952) and Mayme Dean Cobbs (1884-1985), in Blue Mound, Linn County, Kansas. Ruby was born there on 4 Nov 1906. Lyman and Ruby served as Methodist Ministers in Kansas and Oklahoma. Lyman worked in hotel management, credit management for a State Hospital, and college business management. He was the founding member of the Winfield State Hospital Credit Union. Ruby, at one time, worked as a cafeteria manager, a bookkeeper, a newspaper proofreader, and a department store bookkeeper. She passed away on 15 Nov 1995 and Lyman died on 1 Feb 1997. Both passed away in Winfield, Cowley County, Kansas and buried at the Dudley Township Cemetery in Satanta, Haskell County, Kansas. They had one son, Ronald D. Burgess, born in 1935.

**HATTIE ESTHER BURGESS** was born on 2 Mar 1905 in Flora, Illinois. Hattie was married to Albert Joseph Brubaker, son of Harry Benjamin Brubaker (1875-1958) and Anna Rabus (1876-1908), on 20 Nov 1926 in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. Albert was born on 1 Oct 1895 in Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas. He passed away on 9 Sep 1946. Hattie died on 23 Nov 1990 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. Burial for both was at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette, Haskell County, Kansas. Hattie's married name at the time of her death was Bryant.

**FIRMAN WESLEY BURGESS** was born on 13 Feb 1912 in Kansas. He was first married to Cassie Mildred Hager in about 1931. Cassie was the daughter of Franklin Sylvester Hager (1883-1955) and Lottie M. Braddock (1899-1935). She was born on 17 Jun 1911. They had four children: LeRoy Glenn Burgess (1931-2013), Dorothy Lee (Burgess) Brueggeman (1935-2023), Carol Jean (Burgess) Jamison (1936-1981), and Larry Wayne Burgess (1939-). After the death of Cassie on 29 May 1970, Firman married again to Edith Gertrude Garrett on 23 Apr 1971, in San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, California. Edith, the daughter of James Albert Garrett and Susie Keener, was born on 29 Nov 1908 in Waldron, Scott County, Arkansas. She was first married to

Leonard Sturgis in about 1949. They were divorced in 1968. Firman Wesley Burgess died on 31 Dec 1980 in San Bernardino County, California. Edith died on 13 Jul 2001 in Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas. Burial for both was at the Mountain View Memorial Park Cemetery in Barstow, San Bernardino County, California.

FLOYD VINCENT BURGESS (*nickname "Toad"*) was born on 28 May 1914 in Oxford, Sumner County, Kansas. On 24 Aug 1940, he was married to Velma Rachel Stimpert in Sublette, Haskell County, Kansas. Velma was the daughter of Alvin Waldo Stimpert and Rena Hoffman. She was born on 29 May 1918 on a farm near Bucklin, Ford County, Kansas. Floyd died on 2 Nov 1985 in Sublette, Kansas, and Velma passed away on 1 May 2010 in Greeley, Weld County, Colorado. They were buried at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette. Two children were born in their marriage, Steve Burgess and Sandra Burgess.

### Newspaper Obituary AMOS "GRANT" BURGESS

*The Hutchinson (Kansas) News - Tuesday, 12 Dec 1950*

Ulysses - GRANT BURGESS, 83, resident of Haskell County since 1916 and former merchant and farmer here, died in Argonia, Kansas, at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Homer Van Winkle. Mr. Burgess was born in Indiana in 1867 (*He was born in 1866*). Survivors include three daughters, Mrs. Van Winkle, Mrs. Conrad Knief, from Garden City, Kansas, and Mrs. Hattie Brubaker, from Junction City, Kansas; three sons, Lyman Burgess from Macksville, Kansas, Firman Burgess from Hoisington, Kansas, and Floyd Burgess from Sublette, Kansas; 16 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Methodist Church. Burial will be at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette, Kansas.

### Cemetery Headstone



HASKELL COUNTY CEMETERY  
Sublette, Haskell County, Kansas  
*Headstone photograph provided by Leon Barton*