

DR. LORING V. MINER

Haskell County, Kansas

Written by Eva Mae Cooper

Told by Dr. Loring V. Miner

* *Additional information added about Dr. Loring V. Miner*



DR. LORING VINTON MINER

From 'The Athens News'

Following the wake of the Western Kansas boom of 1886, Dr. Miner came to Finney County, Kansas, from Athens, Ohio. Dr. Miner's words: *"After I got here, I studied the practice of medicine. Although the homesteaders had flooded the county the year before, and many were disappointed, discouraged, and returning to the east, I still went on as a young doctor with faith in the country and eager for adventure. I had a determination to win the prairies."*

The nights were never too dark or too stormy for him to get out and tend to his patients. Sometimes while on his way to a home in a two-wheeled cart, the call of a coyote would break the stillness of the night. Soon, several were circling about or trotting behind his cart.

In the fall of 1889, he was married to Lorena B. Smith. Three children were born in

Finney County, Leah, Oliver (*a doctor in Garden City, Kansas*), and Eugene (*who lived in Sublette, Kansas*).

He taught for four years at the Eminence School, where children from all over the county attended. During the summer of 1900, the country was so dry the cattle, when on an open range, would go for miles hunting water and a cane field. Little Oliver, then only six years old, would ride after them trying to keep them rounded up until he was almost over come with weariness.

Dr. Miner lived in Eminence for fourteen years and then moved to Ingalls, where he devoted most of his time to his profession. *"In my spare time, I would swap horses, at which I never made much of a gain but truly never lost anything."*

In December of 1903, I moved to Santa Fe. Unable to find a place for my family, my wife and children needed to stay in Garden City until the following August when we moved to an area at the edge of Santa Fe. It was the former bankers' home and one of the best at that time."

The Santa Fe boom had come and gone. From the thriving town of 1,600 to 1,800 folks, there were only thirty left. The only well in the city was in the street in front of the Court-Brown Hotel. The remaining families hauled their water from there to their homes. Bringing in coal and other necessities was no small job, as transportation from Garden City was on very deep roads.

Dr. Miner was the only doctor in Haskell and Finney Counties at that time. He needed to be gone away from home for two or three days on a call. He would go as far as Dighton and Ingalls. *"The first spring that I was at Santa Fe, it was unusually hot and dry in February and March. Therefore, during that time, I had eighty cases of pneumonia. Only two patients died out of the eighty."*

After going to Santa Fe, he used a team and top buggy when making his professional calls. In 1910, he bought one of the first automobiles. *"I remember a time way back before automobiles in western Kansas; a company from Iowa brought several buggies and spring wagons and sold them to the folks here like hotcakes."*

In 1911, while living in Santa Fe, we became parents of twins: a boy and a girl, Loring J. and Lorene. They were born in a house that was later moved to Sublette and where Mr. and Mrs. Jephtha McCoy now live."

Leah, the eldest child, died at the age of seventeen (*from Typhoid Fever*). Oliver and Eugene were both married and Loring became the postmaster at Sublette.

"We were among the first to move to the new city of Sublette when it was first established in 1913. Soon after coming, we established a drug store across the street south of the Deal building. Just after we moved the drug store out of that building, it burned down. Later I moved the store to a location that was one block north of there. My son, Eugene, bought it and later sold it to Simms and Pope."

Added later by Eva Mae Cooper: Dr. Miner died last spring (*in 1935*) due to an automobile accident, leaving his wife and family. Mrs. Miner still lives in Sublette.

Additional Information DR. LORING V. MINER

Reference for Influenza information: Book titled "A Standard History of Kansas," Also information written by Frederick Holmes, MD, at the University Of Kansas School Of Medicine, and a few details found on KS Gen Web.

DR. LORING VINTON MINER, son of Nathan H. Miner and Julia Brown, was born on 14 Mar 1860 near Millfield, Athens County, Ohio. He attended Ohio University at Athens, taught school for a few years, and studied at the Columbus Ohio Medical College, graduating in 1886. In 1887, he had made Eminence, Finney County, Kansas his home. (*Eminence is now a ghost town*)

On 2 Oct 1889, he married **LORENA BELLE SMITH**, daughter of Elijah F. Smith and Sarah Jane Boyd. Lorena was born on 12 Mar 1872 in Kentucky. Census records reveal they lived in Garfield, Garfield County, Kansas. They continued to live in Garfield, but Garfield County became defunct in 1893 and merged with Finney County. They were still living there in the year 1900. They moved to Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas, and lived there for two years. In 1904, they moved to Haskell County, Kansas. Dr. Miner opened his medical office in Santa Fe, Kansas. When Santa Fe lost the county seat's honors in 1912, Dr. Miner established his practice and home in Sublette, Haskell County, Kansas.

There were several articles written about Dr. Miner sending out the first public health record of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. He described it as the year's first influenza cases of 'unusual severity.' He thought it originated in Southwest Kansas during World War I when young men leaving Haskell County for military service at Camp Funston had carried with them the virus. Several months later, there were 100,000 cases and many deaths. Some thought the cause was due to the farmers' poor living conditions, such as cramped, unhealthy quarters with pigs, cattle, chickens, etc.

Dr. Miner died in an automobile crash on 30 Sep 1935. Lorena died in June of 1946. Both buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas.

Loring and Lorena Belle had five children:

LEAH J. MINER was born on 11 Dec 1890 in Eminence, Finney County, Kansas. She died in Santa Fe, Haskell County, Kansas on 5 Aug 1907, when she was only 16 years old, due to Typhoid Fever.

DR. OLIVER WILLIAM MINER was born on 12 Jun 1894 at Old Santa Fe, Haskell County, Kansas. On 12 Jun 1919, he married Ruth Caroline Swift, daughter of Henry Haven Swift and Caroline Ames Caverly. Ruth was born on 12 Jun 1894 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont. They met while Oliver was living in Boston Massachusetts. They were working in a hospital where Oliver was a medical doctor and Ruth was a nurse. Oliver and Ruth lived in Greensburg, Kiowa County, Kansas for a short time and then moved to Seattle, Washington. They soon returned to Kansas making Garden City, Finney County, Kansas their home. Oliver, along with

another doctor, Dr. Charles Rewerts, had the Rewerts-Miner Hospital built on Fifth Street in Garden City, Kansas. Years later, this hospital became the Saint Catherine Hospital. Oliver practiced medicine and was a surgeon for 35 years in Garden City. Ruth passed away on 24 Nov 1964. Oliver died on 9 Jan 1968 at the St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City. Both were buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City.

Oliver and Ruth had three daughters:

1. Mary Caroline Miner was born on 11 Jun 1920 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont. She married John William Gruenewald (1919-1945) in 1942. After the death of her first husband, Mary Caroline married Joseph Perry Kaufman (1918-1999). In 1968, they were living in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas. Mary Caroline passed away there on 3 Jul 1990 and Joseph did there on 26 Sep 1999. Both buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas.

2. Hilda Lee Miner was born on 30 May 1922 at Greensburg, Kiowa County, Kansas. In about 1944, Hilda married Donald Edward Flynn, son of Thomas and Mildred Flynn. He was born on 18 Sep 1918 in Canada. Donald passed away on 24 Aug 1996 in Homer, Kenai Peninsula County, Alaska. Hilda died there on 14 Jul 2001. Both were buried at the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery in Homer, Alaska. They had two children: Sally Ruth Flynn (1947-1993) and later, their son Mark Wesley Flynn was born (1964-1986).

3. Katherine Louise Miner, born 8 Jun 1924, at Seattle, King County, Washington. She married Dean Harvey Hart, son of Roy D. Hart and Ethel Mossbarger, on 26 Oct 1946 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. Dean was born on 6 Dec 1917. He was a pilot during the war. Katherine had a degree in business administration. Dean died on 17 Jun 1994 and Katherine passed away on 2 Feb 2020 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. She left a huge legacy in charitable work. Burial for Dean and Katherine was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas. They had four daughters: Caverly Hart, Julia (Hart) Peterson, Ruth (Hart) Spiker and Mary (Hart) Karlin.

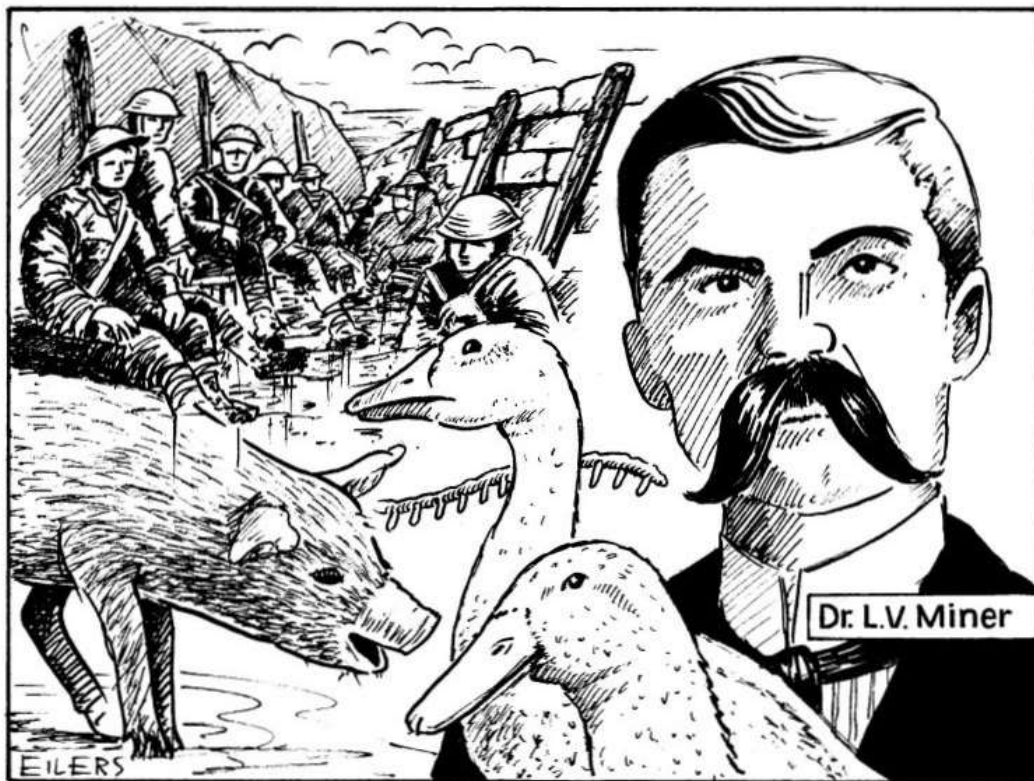
EUGENE FRANCIS MINER was born on 7 Aug 1900 in Eminence, Finney County, Kansas. In the year, 1920, when Eugene was 19 years old, he was working as a sales clerk in the Sublette, Kansas drug store. The following year on 20 Mar 1921, Eugene married Reva Fern Haley, daughter of Robert Grove Haley (1859-1940) and Laura C. Rutledge (1859-1926) in Sublette, Haskell County, Kansas. Reva was born on 27 Jan 1899 in Columbus, Adams County, Illinois. In 1930, Eugene and Reva were living on their own farm in Sublette, where Eugene worked the land. By 1940, they had moved to a house in Sublette, Kansas and Eugene was working as a "farm laborer". In 1950, they were still living in Sublette and Eugene worked as a carpenter. Reva worked as a schoolteacher. They had one son, Lawrence "Vinton" Miner, born on 9 Sep 1925. He served in the United States Army during WW I. Vinton lived in Denver, Colorado and died there on 8 Nov 1974. He never married.

Eugene passed away on 18 May 1965, at the Amarillo, Texas Veterans Hospital. He had been ill for some time. After he died, Reva moved to Denver, to be close to their son, but in 1977, she returned to Kansas, living in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas at the Trinity Manor Nursing Home. She died there on 3 Sep 1988. Eugene, Reva, and their son, Vinton were all buried at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette, Kansas.

LORING VINTON MINER, JR. (*Twin to Lorene Jane Miner*) was born on 13 Apr 1911 in Santa Fe, Kansas (*now a ghost town*). He went by his nickname, "Pill". He enlisted in the United States Army on 15 May 1942 and discharged on 14 Nov 1945. He was the Sublette Postmaster for 37 years and was manager of the local movie theater. Loring married Pauline A. Kersey, daughter of Ralph T. Kersey and Florence A. Garloch, on 13 Aug 1942 in South Carolina. Pauline was born on 22 Feb 1914 in Superior, Nuckolls County, Nebraska. Loring and Pauline had three sons and one daughter: Paul David Miner, Oliver William "Bill" Miner, Joseph Miner and Mary (Miner) Embree. Loring died in September of 1978. Pauline passed away on 31 Jan 2004. Burial was at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette, Kansas.

LORENE JANE MINER (*Twin to Loring Vinton Miner, Jr.*) was born on 13 Apr 1911 in Santa Fe, Kansas. At one time Lorene lived in Owensboro, Kentucky. In 1968, she was living in Cerrito, Contra Costa County, California. She married Ernest Victor Pederson, son of Mads Christian and Mary Elizabeth Pederson. Ernest was born on 23 Jul 1908 in Toronto, Woodson County, Kansas. He died on 19 Jul 1984 in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky. Lorene passed away on 21 Jul 2002. Both were buried at the Haskell County Cemetery in Sublette, Kansas.

"DR. MINER SENT OUT THE FIRST PUBLIC HEALTH RECORD OF THE 1918 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC."



Drawing by artist Steven Eilers. Provided by Ronald Van Stockum, Jr. and found on his internet blog site, 'Life and Landscapes' - See: <https://www.vanstockum.blog/>

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L. V. MINER, Prop.

Haskell County Clipper (Sublette, Kansas), 11 Jan 1918

DR. L. V. MINER
Physician and Surgeon
County Health Officer
SUBLETTE KANSAS

The Sublette Monitor, 27 Mar 1924

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

The Hutchinson (Kansas) News – Saturday 23 Mar 1935

DOCTOR, AT 75, ACTIVE

Sublette – Seventy-five-year-old Dr. L. V. Miner, a Sublette physician, is still actively engaged in the profession and making daily trips to call on patients. At one time, he was the only physician in two counties, Haskell and Grant. He began practice at Eminence in Finney County 48 years ago.

NEWSPAPER OBITUARIES

Provided by Laurie Oshel at the Finney County, Historical Society

Newspaper Obituary – 30 Sep 1935

**PIONEER SUBLETTE PHYSICIAN IS KILLED IN A CAR WRECK
BELIEVED TO BE ON CALL WHEN FATAL ACCIDENT OCCURRED**

Sublette, Sep 30 – Dr. L. V. Miner, 75-year-old pioneer Sublette physician, was instantly killed about 1:15 this afternoon when he lost control of his car one mile west of Sublette on highway K-45.

Dr. Miner, a practicing physician in Sublette for the past 50 years, was presumable on a call when the fatal accident occurred. He was unaccompanied at the time of the wreck, and it was thought he lost control of the car, and it overturned.

Dr. Miner was well-known throughout western Kansas and was the father of Dr. Oliver Miner of Garden City, Kansas; Gene Miner of Kingman, Kansas; Loring Miner of Sublette and Mrs. Ernest Pederson, Solomon, Kansas.

Newspaper Obituary – 1 Oct 1935

MINER SERVICES TO BE HELD TOMORROW

Funeral service for Dr. L. V. Miner, a pioneer Sublette physician who was killed in an automobile accident yesterday afternoon, will be held at the Sublette High School auditorium tomorrow at 2 p.m., central time, with Reverend Millsap of Sublette officiating. The body will be brought to Garden City for burial in Valley View Cemetery. A short service will be held at the grave in Valley View at 3:30 in the afternoon, mountain time.

Doctor Miner came to western Kansas from Ohio as a young man about 50 years ago and was married 46 years ago tomorrow at Eminence. He lived in Garfield County and Jetmore for several years, and as the country became partially deserted after the boom of the eighties broke, he made his home at Ingalls for a short time. At that time, there was no practicing physician in Haskell County, and at the request of residents there, Doctor Miner moved to Santa Fe in 1903. He moved to Sublette when it became the County seat of Haskell County and practiced there until his death.