

THE LAKIN CEMETERY

Kearny County, Kansas

Written by Vernon Adams

*Consultants: Francis L. Pierce, Mrs. Lenora (Boylan) Tate, and John J. Nash,
All of Lakin, Kansas*

The first cemetery in Lakin is located on what is now the C. S. Smith farm, which is on land originally owned by Jim Campbell. It was in what is now the west edge of the city of Lakin. At that time, it was just a burial place out on the prairie. Most of the people then were buried in rough pine boxes and were not embalmed. Often the corpse was not even cleaned up; they were just buried as they died. In those early days, the dead were buried just wherever the family wanted them buried or in the most convenient place. Mrs. White, who died about 1876, was one of the first to be buried in this old cemetery. She was the mother of John O'Loughlin, who is considered to be the founder of Lakin. (*Margaret {Considine} O'Loughlin's second marriage was to Patrick White. Margaret died on 8 Aug 1878.*)

A few of these bodies remain in their original resting place, but in about 1892, most of them have been moved to the present day Lakin Cemetery. It is located on a hill about a quarter of a mile northeast of the city, along Highway U.S. 50. Since it is on the higher and drier ground than the old cemetery, the people thought it would be a better resting place for their deceased friends and relatives. At that time, the Arkansas Valley Township and Land Company owned the old cemetery land. They divided the ground up into ten-acre tracts and sold it. Alice Curran bought the land which the cemetery was on. It was deeded to her in December of 1894. The graves were moved so the land could be sold.

James T. Horde's mother (*Martha Lucas Horde*) was the first to be buried in the Lakin Cemetery. The lots at that time sold for fifty cents each. Later the price was raised to a dollar and a half, and a few years later, they sold for five dollars each. At present, the lots sell for fifteen dollars each. In December of 1892, W. P. Loucks and D. H. Brown purchased the first lots to be sold. The Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellow, and Masonic Lodge bought blocks twenty by forty feet to bury their members.

At the starting of the cemetery, twelve acres of land were bought from George Henry Tate*. It was purchased by the Township Board, and there was an error in the recording of the land transfer. The land that was recorded lies just a mile east of where the cemetery actually lies. This error has never been corrected. R. B. Glass was the surveyor who laid out the cemetery. In about 1930, another extension was made on the graveyard by purchasing land from Mr. Paddock. The records of the first transfer of land were burned with the Hartland Courthouse in about 1892. Hartland was then the county seat of Kearny County.

John O'Loughlin, the son of one of the first to be buried in the cemetery, died in 1915 and is also buried there. Mr. O'Loughlin was one of the early permanent settlers of Kearny County. In 1873, he opened a trading post, which was the beginning of the city of Lakin. His store was in a dugout, about sixteen by twenty feet in dimensions. It was a general merchandise store, and it served as everything from a hardware store to a bank. His little niece was bitten by a skunk while sleeping in a tent. She had been left with the O'Loughlin's by her folks while traveling through Lakin in route to Texas. The skunk bite proved fatal to her, and she died. She was buried in the old cemetery but was later moved to the present one.

In about 1879, a saloon keeper named Birch was shot and killed in a quarrel over a claim. Mr. Bandell, who was then Lakin's blacksmith, killed him and then disappeared. Mr. Birch had to lie where he was shot until the authorities came from Dodge City to investigate the case. Birch was buried out on the prairie, but he was later moved to the cemetery.

A cowboy by the name of Jess Green was killed and buried there also. The cemetery served as a Boot Hill in those days. Green was buried in a rough wooden box that proved to be too short for this body. But, it was forced into the box and buried anyway. They were going to bury Green just as he was killed, but C. A. Loucks' mother (*Amy M. Sturtevant Loucks*) saw the body and dressed it for burial. However, no services were held before he was buried. At that time, there were no hearses or methods of motor transport. The bodies were carried to the graveyard in a spring wagon. The procession usually walked along behind the corpse. The spring wagon was sometimes too short for the coffin, and the pallbearers would walk along the side of the wagon to steady the coffin.

Another interesting character who was buried in the Lakin Cemetery is James T. Boyle. He was better known as "Prairie Dog Jimmie." He lived on a claim east of Lakin and later moved to Lakin and became Lakin's first barber.

Two cowboys, who were caught stealing horses, were hung and buried under a railroad bridge west of town.

There were about twenty-two "men who wore the blue" buried in the Lakin Cemetery. They were; William Benjamin Ferrell, William P. Loucks, Hiram M. Smith, John K. Nash, Benjamin Franklin Dye, Joseph McCoy, Joseph S. Long, William Day, Edmond S. Snow, Benjamin C. Parcells, George Henry Tate, James D. Lake, J. S. Simmons, Charles H. Longstreth, Thomas Lashmet, J. M. Whinery, A. W. Sudduth, E. E. Mitchell, and William B. Logan. These men were members of the Lakin Post GAR.

Christopher Columbus Dye* and Arthur W. Sudduth* were Spanish-American war veterans buried in the Lakin Cemetery. Soldiers of the World War who have answered the final roll call and are buried in the Lakin Cemetery are; James Tate*, Earl McConaughy, Albert Darr, Chester Ferrell, Andrew Wood Sudduth, Bert White, and

Charles B. Hart. In recent years a monument has been erected for the American Legion in the cemetery. It was completed in 1935 as a W. P. A. project.

The Lakin Cemetery has one Vault that was built in 1911 by Alvin Beaty for fifteen thousand dollars. It was copied from a vault in Wichita. The Vault has room for eight bodies. It was built for Alvin Beaty and his wife, Victoria, who are now at rest in it with their three sons and their wives. The Vault stands in the middle of the cemetery and overlooks the Arkansas River Valley below.

There are several hundred Chinese Elm and Evergreen trees planted in the cemetery. Mrs. D. H. Brown and Belle Prince carried water in buckets to the trees for several years to keep them alive. Then for about twenty years, they were watered by two windmills that were put on the grounds. The cemetery was then cared for by an association. About four years ago, another well was drilled, and an electric pumping system was put in. The three wells all pump to one cement reservoir from which the water is taken. The water is run in ditches on each side of the trees. The water is piped under the roads. The trees can be and are now watered about four times a month during the summer months. Before the electric pump was added, they could only be watered once or twice a month because of a lack of capacity and water supply. With the electric pump, water can be pumped almost as fast as needed to carry the ditches full when pumping direct. There are about fifteen acres with six to seven hundred trees needing care. The grass is not under irrigation.

Recently, a casket buried for forty years was taken up to be moved to Newton, Kansas, and it was found to be in perfect condition.

The Lakin Cemetery has a network of good graveled roads leading around and through it, with an entrance and an exit gate. About two years ago, four thousand dollars was spent on improving these roads. They were regraded, graveled, and put into excellent condition.

**Additional Information
GEORGE HENRY TATE, SR.**

GEORGE HENRY TATE, son of Henry Clay Clinton Tate (1811-1841) and Mary Lucinda Noell (1817-1895), was born on 6 Dec 1838 in Perry County, Missouri. He married SUSANNAH MORRISON, daughter of Lewis Morrison (1804-1856) and Sarah Swanwick (1815-1901), on 16 Oct 1865 in Randolph County, Illinois. Susannah was born on 31 Dec 1842 in Washington County, Illinois.

Nine children were born in their marriage; SARAH LUCINDA TATE (1866-1916), SUSAN A. TATE (1868-1948), GEORGE HENRY TATE, JR. (1869-1944), ELIZABETH MORRISON TATE (1871-1938), JOHN EDMUND TATE (1874-1922), SIDNEY SWANWICK TATE (1876-1972),

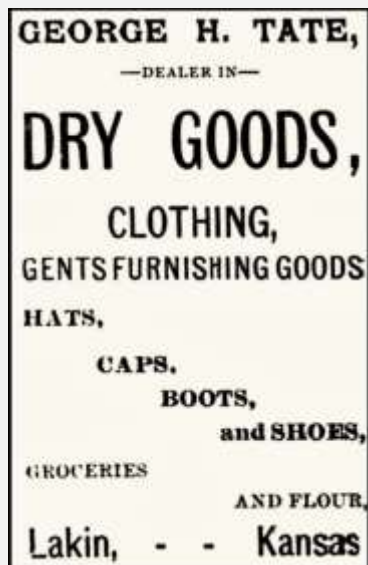
ETHEL HUTTON TATE DANLEY (1879-1964), JAMES NOELL TATE (1882-1887), and OLIVIA FRANCES TATE RAMSAY (1885-1969).

The 1870 and 1880 census reveals George and Susannah continued to live in Randolph County, and soon after 1880, they moved to Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas, where George became one of the town's merchants. In 1891, his business building measured 130 feet from front to rear, and he advertised that the store was prepared to furnish everything that is usually kept in a country store, including wheat, oats, rye, and corn. The store also had an abundance of storage room for keeping an ample supply of goods.



GEORGE HENRY TATE

Photograph provided by Kristen Burkhart Ferhati



Advertisement in the Lakin Kansas Advocate – Thursday, 7 Aug 1890

George died on 29 Jan 1917, and Susannah died on 11 June 1908. Both died in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas, and buried at the Lakin Cemetery.

**Newspaper Obituary
GEORGE HENRY TATE, SR.**

The Lakin Kansas Advocate – Friday, 2 Feb 1917

DEATH OF GEORGE H. TATE

On Monday morning, January 29th, we were called upon to record the death of one of our oldest citizens and businessmen, George H. Tate. He had been in usual health, and his death came as a shock to the community. Mr. Tate came here in the early 1880s and engaged in the mercantile business that he conducted all these years.

Funeral services were held at the home Tuesday afternoon, and the remains were followed to the Lakin Cemetery by a large concourse of his neighbors and friends. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his children in this hour of sorrow.

**Additional Information
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DYE**

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DYE, son of Benjamin Franklin Dye (1840-1916) and Mary Susan Cale (1850-1918), was born on 13 Nov 1867 in Wood County, West Virginia. Christopher went by the name "Lum." He married **HARRIET MAY PIERCE**, daughter of John Hamilton Pierce (1835-1885) and Rachel Jane Dye (1841-1923) on 30 Jul 1893. Harriet was born on 14 Sep 1875 in Worth County, Missouri. She worked as a schoolteacher.

Christopher Columbus Dye passed away on 28 Nov 1918 in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, and buried at the Lakin Cemetery in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas. Harriet went to live close to her daughter, Nina Ward, in Glendora, Los Angeles County, California. She died there on 31 Jul 1967. She was buried at the Fairview Memorial Park Cemetery in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

Christopher and Harriet had three daughters:

HELEN E. DYE was born in July of 1894 in Lakin, Kansas. She died on 27 Dec 1907 in Raton, Colfax County, New Mexico.

NINA EDITH DYE was born on 24 Sep 1896 in Lakin, Kansas. About 1914, she married Levon Ward, son of Levon Ward, Sr. (1844-1909) and Elizabeth Florence Brown (1851-1934). Levon was born in 1894 in the state of Wyoming. Nina and Levon had seven children: Robert Vilas Ward (1915-1979), Helen Elizabeth Ward (1918-1998), Levon "Donald" Ward (1920-1992), Dorothy Edith

Ward (1922-1982), James Edward Ward (1929-1992), Rachel Jane Ward (1931-2006), John David Ward (1936-2005). They lived in New Mexico until after 1940, moving to Los Angeles County, California, where Levon passed away on 25 June 1970 and Nina died on 10 Feb 1971.

ESTHER L. DYE was born in Dec of 1899 in Lakin, Kansas.

Newspaper Obituary
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DYE

The Lakin Kansas Advocate – Friday, 6 Dec 1918

“TAPS FOR CHRISTOPHER C. DYE”

Received here on Thursday was a message conveying the information of C. C. Dye's death on 28 Nov 1918, at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from an attack of influenza, at the age of 51 years. He was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, on 13 Nov 1867. He came to Kansas with his parents in 1883 and resided here until 1909, when he moved to New Mexico. He was united in marriage to Hattie Pierce in 1893, and from that union, three children were born, two of whom are living. He was elected Register of Deeds of this county in 1895, filling the office for one term, and served in the Spanish-American war with Company b, 21st Kansas.

He leaves a devoted wife, two daughters, and a mother. He also leaves four brothers, Fred and Gus Dye of Lakin, Benjamin, who resides at Mead, Kansas, and Lincoln, who lives at Coolidge, Kansas. Also, two sisters, Mrs. J. A. Sanders, of Arron Rock, Idaho, and Mrs. P. A. Boucherie, of Oklahoma City, to mourn. His remains were brought here for interment, open-air services were held, and he was laid to rest in the Lakin Cemetery.

Additional Information
ARTHUR W. SUDDUTH

ARTHUR WASHINGTON SUDDUTH, son of Simon Sudduth (1810-1872) and Elizabeth Waters (1808-1888) was born on 11 Jul 1839 in Washington, Rappahannock County, Virginia. He left Virginia and moved to Missouri, living on his farm near St. Louis. In 1864, he joined the first Missouri Infantry when the Civil War broke out. After the war in 1865, he spent a lot of time in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, but returned to Missouri and worked as a Railroad Engineer.

In 1872, Arthur married SARAH “MELISSA” MOORE (1851-1884). They had four children: HUGH B. SUDDUTH (1874-1906), FRANK SUDDUTH (1875-), CHARLES ROBERT SUDDUTH (1879-1945), and ANDREW WOOD SUDDUTH (1882-1924).

In 1880, Arthur and Melissa were living in Helvetia, Madison County, Illinois. After Melissa passed away in 1884, Arthur moved to Grant County, Kansas. There, he married his second wife,

LILLIE GORDON SLADE. She was born in about 1848. Lillie died in Grant County, just before Arthur moved to Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas.

In 1895, Arthur married his third wife, RACHAEL JANE DYE (1841-1923). (Rachael was first married to John Hamilton Pierce (1835-1885) in 1862. They had five children.) In 1905, Arthur and Rachael Sudduth were still living in Lakin, but by 1910, they had moved to Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico and Arthur was working as a "Nurseryman" for a local Nursery.

On 14 Jul 1917, Arthur died at the home of his son, Charles Sudduth, in Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado. Arthur was buried at the Lakin Cemetery in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas. Rachael passed away in 1923.

Newspaper Obituary
ARTHUR W. SUDDUTH

The Pueblo (Colorado) Chieftain – Monday, 15 Jan 1917

ARTHUR W. SUDDUTH SUCCUMBS IN THIS CITY AT HOME OF HIS SON

Arthur W. Sudduth, age 78, said to be the oldest Mason in the state of New Mexico, died yesterday at the home of his son, Charles R. Sudduth, following an illness of several months. Failing in health, he came to Pueblo from home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, five months ago. He was unable to improve, and his death came yesterday.

The deceased was born in Virginia in 1838. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined Company K of the second Missouri Artillery and moved to Kansas at the close of the war, later going to New Mexico. He became a Mason at the age of 21 and affiliated with the organization for 57 years. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias and the G. A. R.

He is survived by two sons, Charles R. Sudduth of this city and Andrew W. Sudduth, Quartermaster's Sergeant U. S. A. at Fort Logan, Colorado, and three grandchildren, Ethel, Arthur, and Mary Sudduth of Pueblo.

The body will lie in state at McCarthy's Chapel and will be sent to Lakin, Kansas, for interment this afternoon. The two sons will accompany the body to Lakin, where the funeral will be under the auspices of the Masonic organizations of which he was a member.

Additional Information

JAMES NOELL TATE

*See Project Consultant - Kearny County: Mrs. George H. Tate Jr.
(Lenora Victoria Boylan Tate)*

JAMES NOELL TATE, son of George Henry Tate Jr. and Lenora Victoria Boylan, was born on 26 Jan 1897 in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas. He died 28 Oct 1918 in Lawrence, Douglas

County, Kansas, at the University of Kansas Army training corps infirmary. He became ill with influenza, which then turned into severe pneumonia. His body was taken to the Lakin Cemetery for burial.

Newspaper Obituary
JAMES NOELL TATE

Lawrence (Kansas) Daily Journal-World – Tuesday, 29 Oct 1918

SERVICE FOR K. U. STUDENT IS OBSERVED BY THE MEMBERS OF HIS FRATERNITY

A short funeral service was held at the Pi Upsilon fraternity house at 2:30 this afternoon for James Tate of Lakin, who died of pneumonia at the university hospital at 6:35 last evening. Chaplain Jennings of the S. A. T. C. officiated. Mr. Tate's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Tate, who arrived last evening a short while before his death, were the only relatives present. A military escort will accompany the body to Lakin at 11 o'clock this evening.

Mr. Tate was 21 years old and a junior in the school of mining engineering. He was a member of the Pi Upsilon and Sigma Gamma Epsilon, honorary mining engineering fraternities. He enlisted in the navy last June and was sent to the Great Lakes Training school this summer but was sent back to the naval section of the S. A. T. C. of the university this fall. Mr. Tate was acting as desk sergeant at barracks No. 4 when he contracted the influenza, which resulted in his death.