

# Buffalo Tales

JULY/AUGUST 2010

## The Story of Olive Hayes Doty

Compiled by Mardi Anderson

*In 1878 or early in 1879 Sanford B. and Nancy Hayes moved from Michigan to Nebraska. They settled in Kearney County north of Minden, near Newark, first. Then in 1883, following Nancy's death, Sanford and his children moved to Gibbon. In 1941 or 1942 a daughter, Olive, wrote down her memories of those days of growing up. Her descriptions help us understand what life was like for homesteaders in this part of Nebraska in those early days.*

*Olive's story was copied by her daughter, Rachel Doty Stinnett, and recently came to the Buffalo County Historical Society Archives. It is reproduced here along with additional information about the family found in our archival records, in federal census records and from another of Olive's descendants, Eric Alli.*

### The Story of my Life

By Olive Hayes Doty

I was born in East Milan Michigan on Sept 17th 1874. My father and mother were Sanford Beebe Hayes and Nancy Ann Blackburn Hayes.

Father bought an 80 acre farm and worked hard one half mile from east Milan. We had to ditch the land and put planks over the ditches. We came to Nebraska when I was four years old and father took a home stead seven miles north of Minden Nebr in Kearney County. We lived in a sod house like all our neighbors and it was bleak and windy there. We brought our furniture live stock including a team. Old Charley and Fred. The neighbors were good to help as father plowed the sod and they laid it grass side down, wide windows and doors. We hung up sheets around the walls for sanitation and light. We had a floor in the bed room and (two rooms) the kitchen had a dirt floor. The cook stove kept Bert and Mary busy getting cobs for a fire, but it never froze in the house. Somelimes we went months at a time without sugar or candy but we had sorghum in the cellar and had browned barley for coffee. Mother made salt rising bread from white flour father bought in town and we had corn bread. For recreation we had singing school around the houses and literary exercises.

We used to go to church in the lumber wagon pulled by Old Charley and Fred. Then Fred died and we went with a team of steers Buck and Bright and those trips to church were awful trips to what it is now with our fine cars. We had a sermon before dinner and then had a picnic dinner and a sermon after dinner. Father was ordained in

the Harmony school house after Mother passed on.

I don't remember much about Sunday school but we must have had one. We



*Olive Doty and Family*



*Le Barre St, Gibbon, NE, 1900s*

then moved to Gibbon Nebraska in 1883. There we had a good Sunday school and a good day school. I was a little girl scarcely 8 years old. We went to a Brick Baptist Church and we enjoyed the communion of souls in the church. I left home about this time and [lived] with my sister Mary. I lived with her until I was 12 years old, then I went back to Father's place and finished the 8th grade. Then I went to high school and then to Normal school and to the same church I had gone to years before.

The Normal school moved away and my folks moved away. After a year or more I came back and had a room at the dormitory. I taught school for 5 years. One school had 65 children, mostly German and Bohemian. We had regular studies such as arithmetic Spelling reading history and geography language and physiology. We played tag or blind mans bluff and such games and they were fun. My father married again and we children had to clear out. My oldest brother went to Ann Arbor Michigan and took a law course. My brother next to me went to Highland Park pharmental College and we all did fine. Now my oldest brother is dead and my other brother is a druggist in Des Moines, Iowa. My sister Mary is in Soccoro, New Mexico and my sister Clara Barrett is in Iowa City, Iowa.

My father died Dec 8 1919.



This family is an example of how different generations of the same family moved west as our territory expanded. It is also an example of how, after one member of a family ventured into new territory, other members followed. Sanford B. Hayes and Nancy Blackburn's parents were all born in New York but had moved west to Michigan. Sanford B. was born on February 23, 1840. The 1850 census listing for the Horace and Polly Hayes family of Milford Township, Michigan has Sanford B. and his younger siblings, Alvin 9, Alfred 7, and Polly 6, all born in New York. In subsequent census inventories Sanford B. declared Michigan as his birth state. Even his obituary reported that he was born in Monroe City, Michigan.



*Sanford E. Hayes*

According to family stories, Sanford B's father, Horace, may have been a second cousin to President Rutherford B. Hayes. Sanford B's wife, Nancy Ann Blackburn, was a relative of one of the families who founded Ann Arbor, Michigan. Nancy was born in Michigan in 1842.

Sanford B. Hayes and Nancy Blackburn married in 1859 and had five children, Sanford E., Alfred, Mary, Olive and Governor, before moving west to Nebraska. When they moved to Nebraska Alfred was 11, Mary was 9, Olive was 4 and Governor was a baby about a year old. A fifth child, Clara was born in the latter part of the year 1880 in Nebraska.

The oldest son, Sanford E. had married Amelia Cole on Christmas Day, 1878. She was 15 and he was 18. The following March they came to Minden where they homesteaded, living there in a sod house for four years. His father, Sanford B., and family joined them a month later and lived about three miles away.

So far we have not found a record of Nancy's death but it occurred sometime between 1880 and 1883, possibly in December 1882. It was at that time that son, Sanford E., and his wife moved to Gibbon. They took his father, Sanford B., and family with them. Both Sanfords, father and son, took classes at the Gibbon Baptist Seminary. Sanford E and his family moved to the basement of the seminary while waiting for a new house to be completed. The elder Sanford and family lived in his son's house.

In the same year as he moved his family to Gibbon, 1883. Sanford B. married Cornelia M. French. Cornelia was also born in Michigan. At the time of their marriage she was 30 years old and Sanford B. was 43.

Olive said at one point in her story that when she was 8 she went to live with her sister, Mary for about four years until she was 12. In another place she says "My father married again and we children had to clear out." However, when the school census was taken in the summer of 1885, the S[anford]. B. and C[ornelia]. M. Hayes family consisted of Alfred 17, Mary E. 15, Olive C. 11, Govener R. 6, and George L. Watson 7. There is no information on George. He appears to have been a child the family was caring for at the time the census was taken. About a year and a half later Mary, now 17, married Frank D Eddy, 25, on the last day of December 1886.



*George and Clara  
Barrett Family,  
1909*

On March 28, 1898 Olive married George Doty in Gibbon. Olive was 24; George was 38 and a widower. He had been born in Indiana and was living in Kearney at the time of their marriage. Mary and Frank Eddy were the witnesses at this wedding. Olive's father, Sanford B., performed the ceremony.

About five months earlier, on October 16, 1897, Rev. Hayes had performed the marriage ceremony for his daughter, Clara. She was 17 and married George Barrett, 24, who also lived in Gibbon. Again Frank Eddy was a witness. The other witness was Clara's brother, Governor.

Meanwhile, in Sanford's second marriage six children were born. One died as a baby. A son, Glen, was born in March 1885 followed by a daughter, Joy, in February, 1888. In June 1889 Lottie was born. Then came two more boys, Sanford B., Jr. in April 1891 and John in 1893. In that same year Alfred, who was now 25, died of typhoid fever in a Denver hospital. He was brought back to Gibbon and buried in Riverside Cemetery.

According to his obituary, Sanford B., Sr. received his education at the Gibbon Academy before being ordained. He then served in several places in Nebraska. Although he retired on February 1, 1897, he continued to serve in temporary vacancies until the end of March 1910. Then he retired completely from ministerial service and he and Cornelia moved to Des Moines, Iowa, to live out their years. Cornelia died April 10, 1919. Sanford died December 12 of the same year following two years of partial invalidism. Both were buried in Riverside Cemetery at Gibbon.

#### Sources

- Alli, Eric, letter in Archives family file undated; email message 7-6-2009  
 Federal Census, 1850 Milford Township, Oakland County, Michigan, Horace Hayes  
 Federal Census, 1880 Newark, Kearney County, Nebraska, 5 & 7 June, 1880, Sanford Hayes  
 Federal Census, 1900 Gibbon, Gibbon Township, Buffalo County, Nebraska, Sanford Hayes  
 Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925, <ancestry.com>  
 Marriage applications and licenses in Buffalo County, BCHS Archives  
 Mary E. Hayes and Frank D. Eddy, 31 Dec 1886  
 Clara E Hayes and George Barrett, 16 Oct 1897  
 Olive Hayes and George Doty, 28 March 1898  
 The Golden Record, Vol. I, Obituaries from the Gibbon Reporter & Shelton Clipper newspapers,  
 Alfred Hayes, p. 33, Cornelia Hayes, p 274, Rev. Sanford Hayes, p 281,  
 U. S. and International Marriage Records, 1560 – 1900, <ancestry.com>

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Fiddlin' Round the Trails & Rails

The 4th Annual Fiddlin' Round the Trails & Rails Contest will be on July 10th during our 25th Annual Wagons West Celebration! Registration for the contest will begin at 10:00 and the contest will begin at 10:30. Contact Katherine at bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com or the Trails & Rails Museum at (308) 234-3041 for information and pre-registration.



Ghost Hunting

The ghost hunting classes will run through the spring and summer on the last Friday of the month until September. The next sessions are on July 30th and August 27th. Bill Sinnard and Jacob Sikes, the founding members of Midwest Paranormal Investigators (MPI), will be teaching a 1-1 1/2 hour class followed by 4-5 hours of supervised ghost hunting in the buildings at the Trails & Rails museum. Volunteers from the community and other members of MPI will be escorting each group of beginner ghost hunters. The classes are \$50 per person. Contact Jen or Lyn at Trails & Rails (308) 234-3041 or by e-mail bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com for more information and registration.

BUFFALO TALES is the official publication of the Buffalo County Historical Society, a non-profit organization, whose address is P.O. Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848-0523. Phone: 308.234.3041 Email: bchs.us@hotmail.com

Dr. Mark R. Ellis, Editor  
 Katherine Wielechowski, Production Manager  
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Individual .....	\$35.00
Family .....	\$40.00
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Supporting Membership .....	\$75.00

\*\*We have replaced the word 'Basic' to 'Family'.\*\*

Directors

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 Term expiring June 1, 2012: Bernie Hascall, Janice Martin, Dan Speirs, Gary Straatmann  
 Term expiring June 1, 2013: Vicki Bissell, Chad Henning, Lynn Rauner, Jim Cudaback

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## 2010 Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 18th from 1-3 pm: BCHS Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 13th: 3rd Annual 1/2 Marathon: Buffalo County Stampede—Reg. @ 6 am, Race begins @ 7 am

Tuesday, June 15th from 6:30-9:30 pm: 4th Annual Trivia Contest & Soup Dinner

Saturday, July 3rd from 9-10:30 pm: Members Only Night (watch city fireworks)

Saturday, July 10: 25th Annual Wagons West Celebration—Music and Exhibitors from 10-6 pm

\*\*Includes fiddle contest and "What is it?" portion\*\*

Saturday, August 7th from 10:30-1:30 pm: Genealogy Open House with spotlight on One-Room School w/ a picnic!

Saturday, December 4th from 12-1pm: Members Only Preview of the 23rd Annual Christmas Tree Walk

Saturday, December 4th-Sunday, December 12th from 1-5 pm daily: Open to the public: 23rd Annual Christmas Tree Walk

Volunteers and sponsors are still needed for these events. Please contact any staff member to help!

Volunteers, chairpersons, and sponsors are still needed. Please contact the office for more information on supporting your Buffalo County Historical Society!

PO Box 523, 710 W. 11th St., Kearney, NE 68845  
(308) 234-3041 www.bchs.us bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com

We hope you enjoy these stories about Buffalo County. We would love to have a stock pile of Buffalo Tales ready, so they can go out in a more timely manner. Please submit your memories and stories to us by e-mailing them to [bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com](mailto:bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com) or sending them to the post office box: BCHS, PO Box 523 Kearney NE 68848.

**We appreciate your support!**

## Director's Report

- Versatile Roofing finished the Freighter's Hotel roof and it looks great.
- BCHS helped at the Ft. Kearny's 150th Anniversary of the Pony Express. They had a good attendance and we got our name out there while helping out one of our best supporters.
- 509 people attended the 25th Annual Wagons West Celebration.
- Janice Martin deserves a huge pat on the back for all of her hard work to make the One Room School Reunion event a BIG success. She created a great committee that went above and beyond.
  - brought in \$387 (dep. 8/11/10) and had 111 people
  - rec'd numerous documents for the archive's school records
  - Jennifer Harvey collected oral history
  - Corene Phillips created and paid for an amazing booklet and performed a schoolteacher with historical stories (additional booklets are available for a \$5 suggested donation to the archives)
  - Joan Williams donated \$200 for advertising, with the remaining cost being donated by Janice Martin
  - Duane Muhlbach brought in two tents and set them up and tore them down in the heat!
  - Mardi Anderson brought her laptop and scanner to assist guests.
  - Bob Stubblefield helped guide guests to the 120 district folders (plus one for general Buffalo County info.).

**Be sure to Join the Buffalo County Historical Society group or the Buffalo County Historical Society/Trails & Rails Museum fan page on Facebook!**



**Trails & Rails Museum**  
Buffalo County Historical Society  
710 West 11th Street Box 523  
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[www.bchs.us](http://www.bchs.us)

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