



Buffalo Tales



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Buffalo County Historical Society

May-June, 1998

THE WEDDING

by Sue Hankins

If there was time travel back 100 years in Kearney, Nebraska, the wedding of Edwin Everhart Squires and Annie Marie Finch in June of 1898 would be the event I would have enjoyed witnessing.

John M. Finch and his sons, Charles B. and Ed B., migrated from Dallas City, Illinois to Kearney in 1879. They opened a general mercantile store called the *Empire Store* at 2104-06 Central Avenue. Both sons became active in the local affairs of the new City of Kearney. Charles was elected to three terms as mayor in 1887-1890. Ed was a charter member of the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department which was organized in 1883, and was a dedicated fireman for many years.

John's wife, Libby, and daughters, Laura and Annie Marie; Charles' wife, Mary Elizabeth, and daughters, Edith and Blanche, all came to Kearney a few years after the father and sons. All lived in the family home at 2120 3rd Avenue. Edith and Blanche were close to Annie in age and the three girls did many things together. Annie



Annie Marie Finch in her carriage.

WITH THE SOCIETY

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

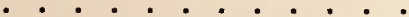
The Buffalo County Historical Society has launched into another season.

At our Annual Meeting, three new members were elected to our Board of Directors, they being Edward Anderson, Wilma Larsen and Lana Stickney. Janeen Vokoun was re-elected to serve another three years.

The first meeting in June, the Board elected the following officers for the coming year: Wilma Harder, President; Susan Underhill, Vice President and Janeen Vokoun, Secretary.

The Board Members are still working on plans for the new building. I hope our members would keep the museum in their minds for bequests and donations in the near future. For more information, contact any of the Board Members.

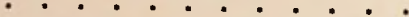
Thank you,
Wilma Harder, President



MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED:

From Dick and Eileen Mercer, Steve, Jackie, Chad and Karl Mercer, Scott and Becky Mercer, Pauline Dickson, Janet Eickmeier, Roger and Ann Severin, Max and Barbara Burroughs, D.L. and Phyllis Hovendick, Alice Howell, Velma Hazlett, Paul and Minnette Steinbrink, Alan and Germaine Oldfather, John and Andrea Lowe III, KKPR Radio, Hellman & Main, CPA, Kenneth and Veva Denton, Kathy Pierce, Carol Cope, George and JoAnn Janning, Lee and Marlene Hodges, Stella Randall, Helen Else, Roger and Susan Jasnoch, Jack Erickson, Darr Feed Lot, David Beck and Joel Randall in memory of Charles Oldfather.

From Alice Howell, in memory of Margaret Bliese.



NEW LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Patty Shefte | Ron Landstrom | Jack and Becky Wilkins |
| Dobytown Kiwanis Club | Dan and Trudy Hirschfeld | Jim Bamford |
| | All of Kearney | |
| | Leslie and Ruby Bentley, Miller | |

NEW SUPPORTING MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Brad Kernick family, Kearney | Platte Valley State Bank, Kearney |
| Kearney Floral, Kearney | Kearney Orthopedic, Kearney |
| Gary and Sharon Rouse, Gibbon | |

NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| East Lawn Mobile Home Estates | Kearney Chiropractic, Steven Engen |
| B.D. Construction | Kearney Bone & Joint Clinic |
| Sorensen Construction | Cellar Bar & Grill |
| Great Plains Asbestos | Gateway Mfg. Homes |
| Lisa's Instant Print | Nelson's Furniture |
| Gilroy Construction | Kearney Public Schools |
| | All of Kearney |
| Riverdale Ready-Mix Concrete, Riverdale | |

NEW BASIC MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| L.E. Raymond, Kearney | David and Mona Houser, Hillsboro, MO |
| Ruth Swalley, Kearney | |

had a horse and carriage and an assumed activity could be shopping for a new hat. The Millinery was owned and operated by a fellow Congregationalist, Mrs. Mary Ann Squires.

James H. Squires and wife, Mary Ann, with their son, Edwin, and daughter, Maude, had migrated from Delhi, Iowa, via Lawrence, Kansas and Tobias, Nebraska. They had heard that Kearney would be a good climate for Jim's health. They left Edwin at the University of Kansas and arrived in Kearney in 1891. When Jim passed away in 1893, Mary Ann and her daughter, Maude, chose to stay in Kearney and opened the Millinery. The shop was prosperous, providing an education for both children. Mrs. Squires had two rules in the Millinery: no gossip should come out of the shop, and there would be no dating with traveling salesmen.

After Edwin had received a law degree from the University of Nebraska, he settled in Kearney to practice law with N. P. McDonald. It was probably during this time that he became acquainted with Miss Annie Marie Finch, possibly at the Congregational Church. Both families were very active members, and Miss Finch taught Sunday School.

A courtship evolved. Even though her family called her "Anna" Ed would call her "Annie", and, because her brother was Ed, "Annie" would call Edwin "Ted". The wedding date was set. Annie and her nieces probably visited her future mother-in-law, Mary Ann.

The Squires home was a modest one at 117 West Lincoln Way. The living room had a fireplace. On the mantel was an elaborate brass clock with a statue of George Washington—a castoff of a pioneer family lightening their wagonload. Aside it was a fragrant ginger jar. Across the room was a piano which Mary Ann played, and on which her future granddaughter (my mother) would practice. Prominently displayed would be her father's big family Bible and a red velvet photograph album Edwin had received



The Millinery, Mrs. Mary Ann Squires, owner, at right.

upon graduation. Mary Ann would greet her guests in her best dress adorned with a Battenburg lace collar that she had made.

In a reciprocal visit Mary Ann, and possibly daughter Maude, would likely be served coffee in demitasse cups of white china, and cake from a white china plate depicting a scene of Dallas City, Illinois. The wedding gifts were probably prominently displayed. Among them was a complete set of Haviland china with a soft pink carnation design, a cut glass water jug with matching glasses, the Rogers silverware, and an original snow scene pastel. Annie Marie might just model her wedding dress of black silk. The fitted bodice had small pink rose buds embroidered on it. The square yoke was bound with black 1½ inch pleats. It had a high collar and mutton chop sleeves. The rather full skirt had a scalloped hemline with kick pleats that allowed a soft pink gather to show with each step.

The wedding day finally arrived. The ceremony would take place in the Finch home at eleven o'clock in the morning. The Congregational minister, the Reverend J. P. Burling would officiate. The wedding was a very quiet affair. It was held in the parlor and was witnessed by a few intimate friends and relatives. The parlor had been decorated in white. Edith Finch was her aunt's attendant, and Ed B. Finch would be the groom's attendant. The oldest brother, Charles, would give the bride away. After the vows Edwin would slip a plain gold ring on Annie's finger, inscribed on the inside "Edwin & Annie June 15th, 1898."

Following the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served in the dining room, which had been decorated in pink, after which the couple left on the train for a trip to Denver.



**Home of Finch family, 1898
2120 3rd Avenue, Kearney**

Announcements sent to relatives and friends read as follows:*

*Mr. Edwin Eberhart Squires
Miss Anna Marie Finch
Married
Wednesday, June fifteenth,
Eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.*

*At home
after July the first,
1904 Eighth Ave.,
Kearney, Neb.*

*For some unknown reason the spelling of Edwin's middle name is Eberhart instead of Everhart, the family's spelling.

Such a gala affair I would love to have witnessed on June 15, 1898—one hundred years ago—the wedding of Ed and Annie Marie Squires, my maternal grandparents!



**Annie Marie Finch
the bride**



**Edwin E. Squires
the groom**

COMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

Family Day—August 15, 1998

Cornhusk dolls, quilting lessons, rope making and old fashioned games for Dad and the kids.

Christmas Tree Walk—December 5-13, 1998

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.

1998 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

- Basic Membership \$15.00
- Institutional Membership \$20.00
- Supporting Membership \$30.00 +

Life memberships are \$150.00 for an individual; \$200.00 husband and wife.

Directors

Term expiring June 1, 1999: Wilma Harder, Helen Kinnaman, Margaret Hohnholt and a vacancy to be appointed by the board.

Term expiring June 1, 2000: Minnette Steinbrink, Susan Underhill, Pauline Wells, Dale Wright.

Term expiring June 1, 2001: Edward Anderson, Wilma Larsen, Lana Stickney, Janeen Vokoun.

Officers (1 year term)

- President Wilma Harder
- Vice-President Susan Underhill
- Secretary Janeen Vokoun
- Treasurer (to be appointed)

TRAILS & RAILS MUSEUM

Already it is midyear on the calendar and also in the basic Museum summer year. Our attendance is good. We have nearly as many out of state visitors as we have had in state. We are also finding that the guests are staying longer and enjoying the displays. Many have their own tales to tell and the guides say they are learning much.

We are planning a family day on August 15. We will have a special display of Cornhusk Dolls, you'll be surprised at the uniqueness of these dolls, quilting lessons, rope making for Dad, old fashioned games for Dad and the kids.

We could not operate without the volunteers who help us each day. THANK YOU!! You are a valuable asset. If for some reason you have not been called or can volunteer again, do call Wilma Larsen or me at the Museum or at home.

We have received the large mural painted by Robert Kerby which was in the old Platte Valley State Bank. It is on display and will make a nice addition to the new building.

We are continuously adding new displays, so do come see what we are doing.

—Margaret Hohnholt, Volunteer Director

Trails & Rails Museum 706 West 11th Street (308) 234-3041

Buffalo County Historical Society

Box 523

Kearney, NE 68848-0523

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Bulk Rate

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