

THE BCHS BUFFALO COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL BOOK

It is hard to believe that we are inching closer to Kearney's sesquicentennial in 2023! In preparation for 2023, we want to begin celebrating early in assembling *The Buffalo County Sesquicentennial* book! We hope to release this book at the end of 2023 before the Holiday Season.

What we need from YOU is your help in assembling the **Family Histories** section of the Sesquicentennial book. We understand that some family histories here in Buffalo County are longer than others, but here are some guidelines to follow and what we need from YOU!

1. Family Histories should more or less consist of 500 – 1,500 words.
2. 1 or 2 pictures are welcomed, but not necessary.
3. Name of the author at the end and bottom of the "Family History"
4. Fill out the attached "Author Release Form" or on the Trails & Rails Museum website at www.bchs.us
5. Submit YOUR Family History and "Author Release Form" to Trails & Rails Museum via email at bchs.sesquicentennialbook@hotmail.com or mail to PO Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848

1. INDEX - Similar to Samuel Bassett and the Centennial book in 1973, *The Buffalo County Sesquicentennial* book will feature historical information and pictures about Kearney and the surrounding Buffalo County communities.

The index will include:

- The History of Buffalo County and surrounding area
- Community Service and Organizations (Past and Present)
- Churches, Schools, Parks, and Cemeteries
- Buffalo County Businesses (Past and Present)
- Buffalo County Families

While there are several "sections" to *The Buffalo County Sesquicentennial* book, each "section" will be broken down even further into brief "articles". For example, there might be a section about St. James Catholic Church written by Jane Doe in the Churches section. There might also be something about Henningsen's in Ravenna in the "Businesses" section. If you are interested in adding to this section please email Broc at bchs.sesquicentennialbook@hotmail.com or call the Trails & Rails Museum at 308 – 234 – 3041.

2. FAMILY HISTORIES - Most of the book will feature the last section called "Family Histories". This will be on a first come and first serve basis in submitting items. Family Histories, short and long, are welcome and will be published as they are submitted to us. Pictures and photographs are also encouraged, but please limit to one or two pictures per family history.

Please see the back side of this page for examples from the *Hay Springs, Nebraska: The First 100 Years* book to help you get started!

Chapter FO's beginning, its philosophy have been many and varied. One philanthropic interest is for each to have an adoptive at Pioneer Manor Home. We also help there once a month with the program for the birthday of the young many needy families who have been remembered at Christmas time and clothing.

P.E.O. projects have not been neglected. FO has generously supported each year: International Peace Scholarship, Educational Loan Fund, the Home in Beatrice, Nebraska, the Home for Continuing Education and its City liberal arts junior college for at Nevada, Missouri.

Other interests include one student loan, several gifts to Cortney College, one to Continuing Education, sponsoring a Queen candidate each fall and making a savings account for P.E.O.

As two original members living in Hay Springs who are still active in the organization, namely, May DeCastro and Velma membership September 1, 1984 is 13 non-resident members.

HAY SPRINGS HELPERS 4-H CLUB

C31

Hay Springs Helpers 4-H Club was organized on March 27, 1982. We are the only club in the city of Hay Springs and include eight members. The members are: Omaha and Russell Belina, Rene and Julie and Wendy Terrell, Lynn Smith, the organizational leader, assisted by Frances and Dee Belina as project

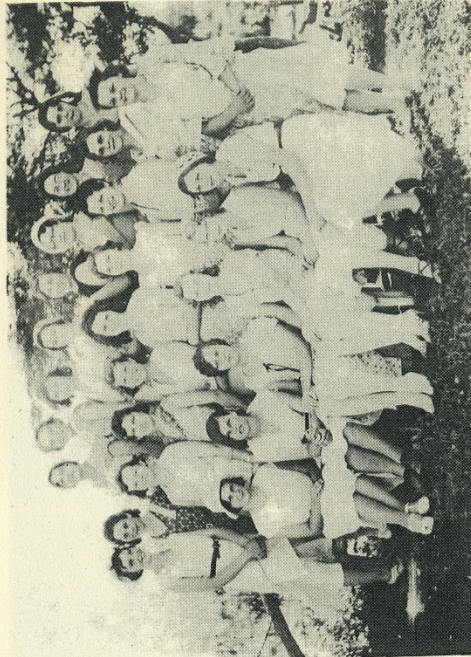
Projects are selected mainly from the economic area, including a variety of food and nutrition, clothing and environment. Our club project has been "Eat Create" and members have been making several crafts at the meetings.

TILLIES 4-H CLUB

C32

Tillies was a 4-H Club, centered at school but took in the area from south of Hay Springs. We learned sewing and personal grooming. I had my animal projects at that time.

by Clarabel Hunter



1952-1957 Tilling Tillies. Back row: Anita Koehnke, Thelma Johansen, Ruth Marie Armbrust, Helene Lurvey, Rachel Coleman, Helen White, Marie Coleman, Alice Mendenhall. Second row: Lillian Lurvey, Eileen Merrill, Merna Walgren, Clarabel Brownell, Hazel White, Zulu Johnson, Elma Brownell, Sylvia Koehnke, Leona Jacobson, Margaret Heaton. Front row: Arlene Alcorn, Gladys Elwood, Rose and Ida Kerchberger, Viola Kasdorf, Kathryn Andrews. Members not pictured: Bertina Ertler, Dorothy Bailey and Lillian Bailey, Marie Kutschera, a couple of Thresher Bill Meyers girls, and probably others I don't recall.

GARDEN CLUB MEMOIRS

C33

Beautiful Flower, Lawns, Gardens and Trees and Birds were the goals of the Nine Garden Clubs organized in the Hay Springs Area, in 1949 to 1962. Lots of precious memories, the study of flowers and trees and birds, fun laughter, Flower Shows and Garden Tours remain. Most of the Clubs were federated with Dist. 11, of Nebraska Federation, and put on flower shows and made floats for the Hay Springs Festival.

The First Iris show was put on by the "Forget Me Not Club." Some Clubs put on flower shows of their own to learn how to arrange flowers, etc. Such as "Laisy Daisy, Sunny Border and Sand Valley." The Hay Springs Club Members were the most active with the 9 clubs, but by one as members moved away or were disinterested, they were terminated, so that now only two clubs remain active. The Forget Me Not with 10 members and Everblooming, with 16 members.

The First Club to organize was the "Sunny Border", down by the Banner School, May 18, 1949-1967. Charter members were: Aitha Williams, Blanche Kieffe, Margory Burrows, Mrs. Milton Burrows, Ruth Huntington, Grace Schildhauser. Others to join later were: Mrs. Wm. Ainslie, Zalda Aspenden, Mrs. Mike Dinkler, numerous other members joined in later years.

They had many projects, tree planting at the school, garden and park tours, flower shows and floats for the Hay Springs Festival. This club terminated some time after 1967.

Frances started working for Stiehl's General Merchandise Store, working for Stiehl's for six and half years.

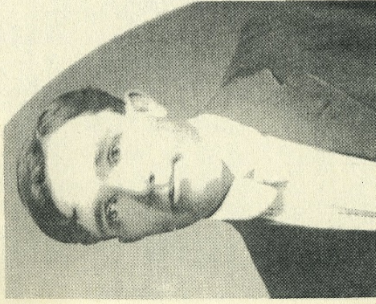
On March 5, 1953, she was united in marriage to Allen Young. Making their home in Mirage for two years. Then moving to my father's farm.

To this union two sons were born, Bryan and Dale. Started to work in Preble Nursing Home to help make expenditures meet. After two the children and Frances were left to run a farm and still trying to work at home, after three years, sold live stock and machinery, and moved to Hay Springs. Renting an apartment at Helen Eisbe, later buying the home. Continued to work in nursing homes, clerking in stores, keeping high school boys and girls.

by Frances I. Young

ANDERSON, OTTO

F19



Otto Anderson

Otto Anderson, son of Anders Karlsson Anderson and Augusta America Andersdatter in 1889, the seventh child of nine children. In 1908, a lad in his teens came to America with his uncle, Charles Anderson and brother, Conrad, who were visiting in Sweden. After arriving in America he made his headquarters with his uncle, working on farms until he secured work at the Herman Peters ranch. Not knowing the English language and with nothing much but youth, health and determination, he went to work, health and determination, he called him, calling him a "male driver" and "horse trader". In 1911 he became a naturalized citizen and in 1913 he filed on a homestead in the Sandhills. In 1918 he was called to report for Army duty, but the Armistice was signed so he didn't go. In 1919 he was married to Alice Staab and moved on a farm along the Niobrara River, where he lived for many years and their daughter Betty (Mrs. R.C. Parkes) was born.

While checking his pastures one day on horseback, Otto's horse was knocked out

from under him by lightning and killed. Otto was shaken but o.k.

Otto often told of the times he went on the hill south of the house and would shoot geese flying overhead. He shot four times and four geese fell from the sky.

After a number of years, they moved to Hay Springs and later (in 1947) enjoyed a trip to Sweden. Otto often mentions one of the greatest thrills of the trip was when they sighted the Statue of Liberty from the ship. Some years later, in 1964, his wife, Alice, passed away.

After moving to town Otto was still interested in his farms and made daily trips to one of them, watching the crops and the calves grow. He was active in the affairs of Hay Springs, being an active member of the Masonic Lodge, the Knight Templar and the Marine, also the Chamber of Commerce. He served as Mayor and on the Board of Directors of the North Western State Bank until it was sold to the First National Bank.

He was married to Dorothy Marshall in 1967. Otto enjoyed his retirement and got pleasure from the visits of Betty and Dick, the grandchildren Pennie and Gary Norton, and David and Lynne Parkes. His great grandchildren, Sean and Scott Norton, and Ben and Adam Parkes were his pride and joy. Otto passed away October 26, 1978, but his family and friends remember him well.

by Dorothy Anderson

ANDERSON, WALLACE AND MYRTLE I. (MOORE)

F20

Wallace Anderson was the eldest son of Charles and Laura Anderson born November 2, 1890, on his father's homestead, fifteen miles southwest of Hay Springs. The home at that time was a dugout, a year later a new wooden frame house was built. Wallace had two sisters, Jennie and Emma, one brother, Francis.

He attended school in a little frame schoolhouse about one mile from their home. Later his father moved his family closer to Hay Springs, where all four children attended school. The new home was built south of town, where Michael Raymer now lives. The first house burned down, in which a canary saved their lives by singing so loud he woke them, but the bird was not saved. A new house built the same design as the first one.

My father later quit school, his father sent him back out onto the ranch, where he helped the man who was running the ranch, he stayed there for a few years helping. Later he hired to Herman Peters, known as this ranch Herman Peters Ranch, working on this ranch a number of years. Then in 1913, his father had him come back to the home ranch to run, in which he batched and ran for four years. Myrtle Iva Moore was born August 19, 1892, to Leach and Bertha Moore, in a log house on their father's homestead on Antelope Creek, now owned by Rex Kutschera. At the age of seven, her father sold the home, aged and moved the family down near Tryon, NE. Where a sod house was built on some dry land, in the spring this low spot filled with water, the family had to move.

Another sod house was built on another later this house burned down. The family had another move to make.

Iva, as she was better known, attended schools in Sturgis, So. Dak. as her father was there. Then attended school in Miles and Alliance as there were no schools near her home. She later taught schools for four years. She had one half brother, Aubur, and one half sister, Eva.

On June 18, 1917, Wallace and Iva were married in the home of Charles Anderson. They made their home on the homestead until he retired in 1946, moving to Hay Springs. Six children were born to this union, three daughters, Frances, Myrtle and Len (who passed away December, 1937) and two sons, Charles, Donald and Iva. Wallace passed away on August 30, 1983.

by Frances I. Young

ARMBRUST, HENRY PAUL AND ADELLA (HAGEDORN)

F11



Wedding picture of Henry and Adella Armbrust.

Henry "Hank" Armbrust was born January 15, 1891 at Pilger, Nebraska in Steno County to Henry and Anna Marie Armbrust. He spent his youth there farming and at the age of 21, he and his partner, Tom Johnson came West. They arrived in Hay Springs April 13, 1913 and moved to a ranch, eight miles south of Hay Springs, Nebraska. They then both decided "batching" was for them and sold cattle for a couple of years. So Tom left for Tilden, Nebraska and married Bess Vambuskirk and Henry married Adella Hagedorn on February 3, 1915. To this union one daughter was born, Ruth Marie (Dorothy).

Henry continued ranching until 1933 when the family moved to Hay Springs. He operated a trucking service for several years, his son-in-law, Don Philpott, helping him

Buffalo County Historical Society Release Form

I hereby grant permission to the Buffalo County Historical Society/Trails & Rails Museum to share my memories, recollections, stories, etc. by making them available in their archives, printing them in their newsletter, and/or any way else they see fit. (We cite our sources, so your name will be attached to the information.)

Furthermore, I pledge these memories, recollections, stories, etc. are true to the very best of my knowledge.

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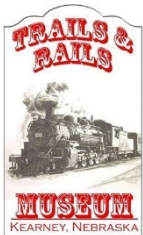
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