

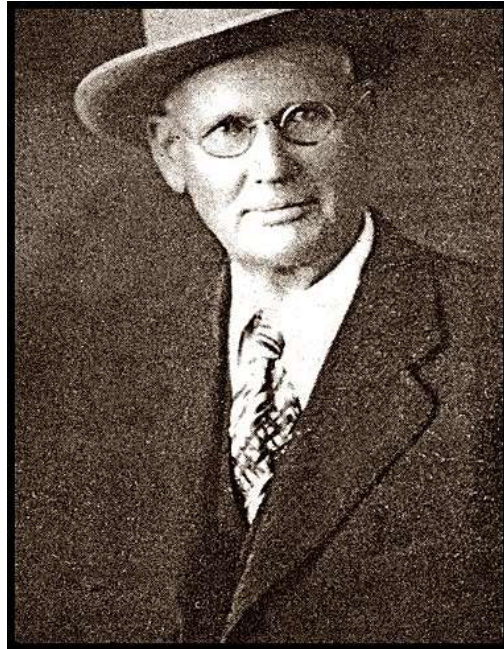
## **D. W. "DOC" BARTON REMINISCENCES**

Gray County, Kansas

Written by Juanita Trebilcock

*Consultant: D. W. (Doc) Barton of Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas*

*\* Additional information added about D. W. "Doc" Barton*



DOC BARTON

D. W. (Doc) Barton of Ingalls is one of the two brothers, by the name of Barton, to have brought the first herd of cattle into Western Kansas and established a ranch on the Arkansas River near the present town of Pierceville.

Santa Fe officials chose the Barton Ranch as a railroad site. It was named in honor of Charles and Carlos Pierce. A commissariat was established where five hundred workers were fed and bunked in boxcars. When the railroad was completed, going into Pierceville, Thomas O'Loughlin, a brother of John O'Loughlin of Lakin, started a store there. He provided everything that made the place a popular resort for hunters, cowboys, section crews, and adventurers who happened to be in that region.

In the early days, the town consisted entirely of dugouts and sod houses. There were no frame houses in Pierceville at that time. However, the town almost out-rivaled Dodge City for the title of "Cowboy Capital." Pierceville was ideally located. The prairie scene surrounding the city was beautiful. The first trail herds brought into Kansas came down the Arkansas River from the west.

The town flourished for a year, and then, on 3 Jul 1874, the word was brought to Pierceville, that bands of Indians, on the warpath, were headed that way. All of the people left town and took shelter at Bancroft's cow camp. The town was left unprotected, and when the Indians arrived, they burned what they could and looted all the rest of the buildings. Mr. Barton's ranch buildings were made of sod or dugouts, so the fire did not damage them.

When Mr. Barton first arrived in this area, an old military fort and a mail station remained where the town of Ingalls now stands. He does not know the name of the fort. Only the foundations and dugouts remained when Mr. Barton came to this part of the country. He believes the fort was established here after the old Spanish Santa Fe Trail was abandoned for a more western route. However, he is not sure. Records of the fort are probably in Washington D.C.

Mr. Barton accounts for only the basements and dugouts of the fort being left behind. He says there were millions of buffalo here at that time, and when they came to an abandoned place like a fort, they would destroy it by pushing against the buildings or rubbing up against them.

Doc Barton now owns the land where the old fort first stood. His home stands on part of that ground. He can point out the very places where the old corrals and stockade walls once stood. He says the old-timers have told him that the Mexican territory once reached as far north as the Arkansas River.

Indians first drove the Mexicans south, and when the war between the white people and the Mexicans took place, the white people drove them even further south, across the Rio Grande.

According to Mr. Barton, about 800 acres just south of the Arkansas River at Ingalls still belong to the Mexican government, given to them by a land grant at the end of the war when they signed a treaty. The land grant is in the records at Washington D.C., but they have never made any claim to the land, and probably very few know to whom it really belongs.

Mr. Barton says that the information about the Mexican war and land grant is just what other old-timers have told him, as he was not in Kansas at the time of those happenings, but he thinks the information is pretty accurate.

*See the story "Memories of the Old Santa Fe Trail," told by D. W. "Doc" Barton.*

<p>Additional Information D. W. "DOC" BARTON</p>
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**D. WELBORN “DOC” BARTON**, son of Stephen Decatur Barton (1829-1903) and Susan Katherine Hightower (1831-1914), was born on 22 Dec 1852 in Greenville County, South Carolina. Census records show the family living in Burnet, Burnet County, Texas in 1860.

Doc was one of the first white men to settle in the southwestern part of Kansas. He established a ranch in Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas, along the Arkansas River that covered 414 Square miles and was completely fenced. Doc made his first cattle drive in 1870 from Texas to the Pierceville, Kansas area. He made many more cattle drives from Texas to Southwest Kansas to a ranch headquarters in Ingalls that he and his brothers had established along the Arkansas River.

On 7 Mar 1878, Doc married **BELLDOVERA “BELLE” VANDEVEER**, daughter of Ashberry Vandever (1801-1882) and Lida Kernes (*sometimes spelled Lydia Carnes*) (1812-1895). Belle was born on 12 Jun 1855 in the state of Kentucky. (*An obituary gives her birth year as 1851.*) The family moved to Burnet, Burnet County, Texas, shortly after her birth and later moved to Mason, Mason County, Texas. Both of Belle’s parents were buried in Mason County.

D. Welborn Barton received the nickname “Doc” after helping Belle deliver their second child out on the range.

In 1880, Doc and Belle lived in Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas, but shortly after their son, Wilson, was born in 1884, they moved to their ranch in Ingalls. In 1886, a terrible blizzard hit Southwest Kansas, and the Barton Ranch lost 11,000 head of cattle in 24 hours. Being a very independent woman, Belle drove a herd of 100 cattle from Texas to their home in Kansas that same year.

In 1889, Doc was elected as Sheriff of Gray County, Kansas. The 1900 census reveals Doc was working as a blacksmith, and by 1910, he was a butcher, working for a local meat market. Belle was working as a saleslady in a confectionery store. Doc was also involved in wheat farming.

Belle died on 13 Jan 1928 in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas and Doc died there on 12 Jan 1947. They were buried at the Ingalls-Logan Cemetery in Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas.

Nine children were born in their marriage:

**ARABELLE “WILLIE” BARTON** (*Also known as Belle*) was born on 22 Dec 1878 in Lipscomb County, Texas. On 11 Mar 1895 in Gray County, Kansas, Arabelle married James Patrick Byrne/Burns, son of Lawrence J. Byrne and Bridget Josephine Murphy. James was born on 10 Jan 1876 in Missouri. They were later divorced in 1909 in the state of Nevada. Arabelle’s death records were not found. Stories tell that she may have moved to Alaska and she may have been living in California at the time of her death. James died on 5 Apr 1941 in Maricopa County,

Arizona. His burial was at the Ingalls-Logan Cemetery in Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas. Arabelle and James had three children: Wilbur "Willie" James Byrne (1897-1933), Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Byrne) Shattuck (1900-1970), and Wanetta "Bridget" (Byrne) Hoover (1902-1975). In 1910, these three children were living with their widowed grandmother, Bridget Murphy Byrne in Ingalls, Kansas.

**LYDIA "LIDDY" MAUD BARTON** was born in about 1880 in the state of Texas. In 1928, she was living in Los Angeles, California.

**BLAKE BARTON** was born on 22 Apr 1882 in the state of Texas. Although his headstone gives his death date as 17 Apr 1896, the Ingalls, Kansas Union newspaper dated 16 Apr 1896 gives his death date as 15 Apr 1896. He died one week before his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. He died at his home in Ingalls and buried at the Ingalls-Logan Cemetery in Ingalls, Kansas.

**WILSON "WITT" BARTON** was born on 20 Mar 1884 in the state of Texas. In 1908, he was married to Eva M. Stinemetz (1887-1961). After they were married, they lived in Ingalls, Kansas, and then moved to Cimarron. By 1940, they had moved to Dodge City, Kansas. Wilson made his living as a carpenter and an engineer. He died on 29 Mar 1977 and buried at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas. Three children were born: Gordon W. Barton (1909-1980), Edna (Barton) Johnson (1911-2004), and Naoma Belle (Barton) Batman (1915-2009).

**ELIZABETH "LIZZY" BARTON** was born in 1886 in Gray County, Kansas. Lizzy's married name was Oneal. She attended college and became a registered nurse.

**CHARLES BARTON** was born on 20 Feb 1887 in Gray County, Kansas. He was married to Mary Byers, who was born on 4 Sep 1890 in Kansas. They lived in Colorado for a while, and between 1920 and 1930, they moved to Los Angeles, California. Mary died on 11 Sep 1948, and Charles died on 6 Oct 1966. Both died in Los Angeles. Their children were: Lawrence Barton, Earnest Gilbert Barton, Clarissa "Clara" Barton, Rose M. Barton, Evelyn Fay Barton, and Charles Barton, Jr.

**FREDDIE BARTON**, a daughter, was born about 1893 in Gray County, Kansas. She later married and lived in San Francisco, California.

**CLAYTON BROWNING BARTON** was born on 12 Dec 1894 in Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas. He was married to Ida (*maiden name not known*) and had one son, Bill Barton, who lived in Chandler, Arizona. Clayton was the postmaster in Ingalls for eight years. He died on 30 Apr 1945 when he slipped and fell under the wheels of a passing freight car when trying to board it. He had just finished his usual job of putting the mail on a hook just west of the depot in Ingalls. His left leg was severed at the knee, and he was dragged to the next crossing. He died on the operating table at the hospital in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas. He was buried at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City.

GILBERT "JACK" BARTON was born on 22 Dec 1896 in Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas. In his early years, he was the owner of the local blacksmith shop in Ingalls. On 19 Dec 1920, he was married to Opal E. Nickelson, daughter of James Arthur Nickelson and Katie Knise, at Kinsley, Edwards County, Kansas. (A newspaper article gives their marriage date as 20 Aug 1920 and was kept secret for a few months.) Opal was born on 1 Oct 1900 in Larned, Pawnee County, Kansas. In 1906, she left Larned with her parents in a covered wagon and settled in Montezuma, Kansas. After they were married, Gilbert and Opal lived in Ingalls, Kansas, until 1950, when they moved to Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, where Gilbert became a doctor and opened a medical practice. Opal helped by working in the office. Gilbert died on 10 Jan 1964 in Wichita, Kansas. Opal died there on 29 Dec 1997. Both were buried at the Ingalls-Logan Cemetery in Ingalls, Kansas. Five children were born in their marriage: Kathryn (Barton) Stafford (1921-1995), Margaret Barton (1922-1924), James G. Barton (1928-2014), Richard Lee Barton (1929-2002), and Delbert W. Barton.

### NEWSPAPER OBITUARIES

The following are two obituaries for  
BELLE (VANDEVEER) BARTON, wife of Doc Barton.

*The following obituary was provided by Dave Webb, at the Kansas Heritage Center in  
Dodge City, Kansas*

*The Dodge City (Kansas) Globe – 17 Jan 1928*

#### EARLY KANSAS WOMAN BURIED

#### MRS. D. W. BARTON, INGALLS, WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS IN THE SOUTHWEST

Ingalls, January 17 – Funeral services were held at the high school auditorium here yesterday afternoon for Mrs. D. W. Barton, an early pioneer of this vicinity, who died Friday night. Rev. Smith of Cimarron was in charge of the services. Burial was made in the Ingalls Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, four sons, four daughters, and a large number of other relatives. Mr. Barton moved to Gray County from Texas in 1872, at which time this section of the state was nothing more than barren prairie with very few white settlers. Buffalo and deer roamed freely over the territory, and bands of Indians still inhabited portions of the county. Dodge City, at that time, was the terminus of the Santa Fe Railway.

Mr. and Mrs. Barton were married in 1878. He had already established himself in the cattle business in this district, bringing in the first herd for shipment on the Santa Fe in 1872. Mr. Barton wanted his wife to make the northern trip from Texas by rail, but she preferred the purer route, "horseback" across the plains while her dowry (*her own herd of cattle*) was driven northward

to join the herds of her husband. Their camp followed the herds for several years before they finally settled in Cimarron and later in Ingalls.

Mrs. Barton displayed her spirit when after the blizzard of 1886 had ruined the cattlemen and the Barton's lost 12,000 head of cattle. She made the trip to Texas with two small boys and drove a herd of 100 cattle back to Kansas.

*Newspaper obituary provided by Sara McFarland, Research Librarian  
at the Cimarron (Kansas) Town Library.*

*The Cimarron (Kansas) Jacksonian – 19 Jan 1928*

MRS. BARTON DIED AT HER HOME AT THE AGE OF 76 YEARS, SEVEN MONTHS, AND ONE DAY

With Mrs. D. W. Barton of Ingalls, passing on Friday, January 13, Gray County's pioneer passed to her reward.

Mrs. Barton came to Kansas as a young wife, back in 1872, and during the first few years remained with her husband in his travels over the southwest looking after his large herd of cattle. In 1876, they settled in Gray County, later coming to Cimarron and in 1892 moving to Ingalls, where they have since resided. Mrs. Barton was an old-timer when the other "old-timers" first came to Gray County. She was probably the only woman west of Dodge City during the first few years of her married life on the southwest plains. She reveled in the rigors and hardships endured by the old plainsmen, for she was young, had her husband, family, and life ahead that held "golden opportunities". She returned to her native home in Texas at times but was always glad to get back to Kansas after each visit.

In 1885, in the blizzard the old-timers say "was the worst ever seen" in this country, Doc & Belle Barton lost practically their entire herd of cattle in the neighborhood of 12,000 head. Mrs. Barton has lived to see her children grow up and prosper around her. She has lived to see the fruits of her efforts ripen and develop as the years passed by. Grandma Barton has a niche carved in the hearts of her friends, which will remain always – with thoughts of her cheerfulness, her kindness, and her lovable spirit.

Belle Vandever was born on 12 Jun 1851 (1855). In 1872, she was married to D. W. Barton in Mason County, Texas, and shortly afterward, they came north with their herd of cattle to Kansas, settling in Gray County in 1876, 52 years ago. They were blessed with nine children, eight of whom are still living. Mrs. Barton died at her home at the age of 76 years, seven months, and one day. Funeral services were held on Monday afternoon from the school auditorium, with Rev. A. N. Smith in charge. The large crowd gathered for the service attested to the high esteem in which she was held. Interment was made in the Ingalls Cemetery.

Cemetery Headstone



INGALLS-LOGAN CEMETERY  
Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas  
*Photograph provided by Leon Barton*