

MONTEZUMA

Gray County, Kansas

Written by Iris Scott

Consultants: Mrs. Susan Bargar, Mr. and Mrs. Riley I. Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Fry, Mr. Roscoe Parks, Mr. Clifford Parks, Mrs. Alvin P. Bargar, Mr. Art Casteel, Mr. Tom Glasgow, Mr. Ellis E. McReynolds, Mr. James W. McReynolds, and Mr. Sam Nite

Reference: The Montezuma Press

** Additional information added about certain people mentioned in this story*

Montezuma, Gray County, Kansas, is located 27 miles southwest of Dodge City. It is a residential community with a population of approximately 400. There is a colony of Mennonites in the southwest part of the town and the countryside surrounding Montezuma.

Montezuma became a town in 1887 and it was named after an Indian Chief, as were the streets and avenues. There were two stores, two hotels, a café, a blacksmith shop, and a few other business houses beside the residential buildings. In 1885, the people of Gray County got Asa T. Soule, a New York millionaire (*See story "Soule Canal in Gray County"*), interested in this area. Mr. Soule started the town that is now Ingalls, and he wanted Ingalls to become the county seat of Gray County. He promised Ensign and Montezuma a railroad if they would cast their votes for Ingalls at the election, which would be in the fall of 1887. The railroad caused an increase in the population of old Montezuma. Because of trouble over the county seat election, it was taken to the Supreme Court. Justice Horton then stoutly contended that the Ingalls votes in the two southern precincts (Ensign and Montezuma) should have been thrown out because it was bought by the promise of the railroad to Montezuma and Ensign. Citing the fact that the people of Montezuma by public resolution had announced the purpose of voting for Ingalls was in return for the railroad's promise to their town. Witnesses had testified that this promise caused the transfer of 60 to 80 percent of the votes to Ingalls. Soule had given a bond for \$75,000 to assure the fulfillment of the promise. The dissenting judges' general contention was that the entire county election should be declared void on the grounds of specific acts of bribery and because there was a wholesale attempt to win by the lavish use of money. But in the end, the positions of the three justices were the same, and the county seat went to Ingalls.

The Cherokee Strip of the Indian Territory, the last great tract of free homestead land, was opened for settlement, and the land-hungry transients of Gray County went there. However, it was found that the farmers that had just come from the east did not understand the climate, and soon the unfavorable years came. The Soule railroad to Montezuma was taken up and junked for lack of business.

In recent years, as the farmers have adapted themselves to the climate and have evolved drought-resistant crops and methods, Montezuma and the surrounding countryside have become rich agricultural districts, fulfilling the dreams of those who have passed on. Montezuma, which disappeared entirely after the boom, reappeared on a newly constructed Santa Fe branch from Dodge City to Hugoton in 1912, and later the new railroad was built onto Elkhart. It follows or parallels the old Soule grade, traces of which may still be seen here and there, south of U.S. 45, between Dodge City and Old Montezuma. Nothing can be seen of Old Montezuma except the grade of the old railroad.

New Montezuma began to grow slowly in 1912 when the new railroad was laid. Very few buildings and dwellings were erected then.

In the spring of 1913, a prairie fire was started south of town, and with a very strong south wind, the fire crept toward the heart of New Montezuma. Men and boys fought with plows, sacks, coats, and anything they could get hold of and carried water from the only two hand pumps in town. The town was saved after a hard fight. The women had their most precious belongings packed, ready to leave when they saw that there would be no hope of saving the town.

In 1914, several buildings were erected, and among them were the drug store, post office, grocery stores, elevator, and several others of importance.

Mrs. Susan Bargar* is the oldest pioneer woman of Montezuma. She came in 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Riley I. Montgomery*, and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Fry* are also pioneers. They have very willingly given their knowledge and information concerning the history of Montezuma.

The Santa Fe bus stops at Nite's Drug Store, one block south of U.S. 45, on Main Street. The bus travels through Montezuma from Bucklin to Hugoton. It stops at 9:22 a.m. going west to Hugoton and at 2:22 p.m. going east to Bucklin. The charges are 1 ½ cent per mile or 55 cents from Montezuma going east to Dodge City. It carries express as well as passengers. The train fare on the Santa Fe is cheaper than the bus fare. There is a train going west at 11:11 a.m. and east at 2:11 p.m. Only two trains go through daily except during the harvest season, then between 5 and 6 trains go through.

Montezuma has two educational school buildings. The Montezuma Rural High School was erected in 1925 and is located three blocks south of U.S. 45 on Main Street. Also is the Montezuma Consolidated Grade School, which is located one block west of the high school. It was erected in 1929.



MONTEZUMA HIGH SCHOOL

The Montezuma High School Building was erected in 1925. It is constructed of red brick.
The High School is located three blocks south of U.S. 45 on main street.

Iris Scott

High School

The Montezuma Grade School was erected in 1929. It is one of the best and prettiest in this part of the country. It is constructed of yellow brick with green tile roof. It is located three blocks south of U.S. 45 on main street and one block west on the south side of the road.

Iris Scott

Grade School

Schoolhouse postcards with writing on the back by Iris Scott (writer of this story) were found in the box along with the National Youth Administration Writers' papers



MONTEZUMA GRADE SCHOOL

The Gold Club is the only recreation the citizens of Montezuma have, and it is outside the city limits, located southwest of town.

When entering Montezuma, you will see the White Eagle Filling Station. South of the station is one of the first buildings erected in New Montezuma. It is a wooden frame building that was used as a Real Estate Building and is now used as a Cream Station. It was built by F. M. (*Francis Marion*) Luther and his sons in 1912. Next door south is the Montezuma Mercantile Store which was also erected in 1912. It started as just a frame building, but lately, two additions were added on, and the outside is now stucco. A part of the building was used as a bank before the new bank was erected in its present location in 1913. Two doors south is the 'McCalmont and Sons Grocery Store' that was built in 1914 by W. H. Gamble. On the corner is the Nite Drug Store, a red brick building built by Dr. D. C. Munford in 1914. To the east, you will also find the Ford Garage and the Montezuma State Bank. To the east of the bank is the Montezuma Press office. The paper 'The Montezuma Chief' was first published in New Montezuma on 20 Feb 1914 by Mr. R. E. Campbell. It was first published for a short time in 1889 in Old Montezuma. The press office has been moved to several different buildings before being located in its present location.

There is a rock building that was recently built for the Boy Scouts. The plans for the building were drawn up by Mr. Tom Glasgow*, the Scoutmaster of Montezuma. Montezuma's American Legion purchased the rocks for the building from a rock quarry not far from Montezuma. The building has a toilet, laboratory, and shower installed. There is a storage space in the attic with a disappearing stairway. There is also a fireplace. Written on an archway is the Boy Scout oath. There are also twelve stones representing the scout law, 25 stones representing the boys, and six stones

representing the Scoutmaster plus the five troop committeemen. The lighting fixtures and pottery were all made by the Boy Scouts. The grounds cover approximately three-quarters of an acre and will later be made a city park. It took 14 men eight months to erect the building. It will be locked at all times but can be viewed by seeing Scoutmaster, Mr. Glasgow, at no charge.

A few blocks from the Boy Scout building, you will find the first schoolhouse built in 1912. It was originally located one mile west of Montezuma and, in 1914, was moved to town and placed north of the high school building on the same block. It was then used as the Methodist Church and Sunday School until the New Methodist Church was erected in 1930. Before the old schoolhouse was moved to Montezuma, the Sunday School was organized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Riley I. Montgomery and held at different homes in town. Later, the old schoolhouse building was made into an apartment house.

Today the only house in New Montezuma that was originally in Old Montezuma is the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Hilderbrand. It was a square-framed house and was moved in 1920. There has been an additional room and porch built on since then. When it was still in Old Montezuma, a part of the house was the post office, but that part of the house has been removed.

Montezuma has a water tower that was set up in 1929. At the foot of the tower is a stone building that is the powerhouse for the water system. There is also the city jail and the Montezuma Library. The library has been moved from two other facilities before being located in its present location. It was organized by the Montezuma Study Club in 1920. In 1932 it was voted to become a township library. It is financed by the township trustees but is sponsored by the Montezuma Study Club. Mr. R. I. Montgomery is the only charter member left in the Study Club.

Across from the library is the Farmer's Elevator. It is the first elevator in New Montezuma. It was built in 1914 by Jess Nebergall of the Hugoton and Warehouse Company. A block from there is the Western Bell Telephone building constructed in 1912, and it was first used as a restaurant. It has been reconstructed for the telephone office.

The Evans Cemetery is located one mile west on Highway 45 and six miles south of Montezuma. The land was owned by Mr. (*William*) Evans*, a pioneer of Old Montezuma. In 1890, there were only two graves there, and they were both children of Mr. Evans. There are approximately 75 graves in this cemetery, and they are mostly graves of pioneers of Old Montezuma.

The cemetery is kept up by the county. Trees have been planted, plus a windmill and water storage tank have been set up to water the trees and shrubbery.

For the past few years, since the dust and sand have blown so severely, it has filled

the fences and covered some of the graves. Last year the county had the Relief Workers dig out the sand from the fences and from between the graves. Tombstones and markers have been placed before all the graves except two, which cannot be identified.

**Additional Information
SUSAN BARGAR
(Susan (Truex) Bargar)**

SUSAN TRUEX, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Truex, was born on 28 Jan 1862 in Indiana. She married ELI BARGAR, son of Samuel and Mary Bargar, on 19 Sep 1882 in Elkhart County, Indiana. Eli was born on 15 Jun 1857 in Ohio and died on 11 Sep 1933. Six children were born to this marriage. LYDIA BARGAR, EMMA BARGAR, OLIVER BARGAR, ALVIN BARGAR, DELLA BARGAR, and LULA BARGAR. Susan died on 29 Jun 1947. Both were buried at the Evan Cemetery near Montezuma in Gray County, Kansas.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

The Montezuma (Kansas) Press – Friday, 16 Sep 1932

MR. AND MRS. ELI BARGAR MARRIED 50 YEARS MONDAY

Fifty years of married life will have been completed on Monday, September 19th, for Mr. and Mrs. Eli Bargar of this city. Fifty years have been filled with joy and sadness, taking the bitter with the sweet, working side by side through many long hours. This couple came to Gray County 45 years ago and fully realized the trials and tribulations of pioneer days in the great southwest.

At one time, Mr. Bargar said there were only 12 families in this township that had an area of 12x13 miles.

Mr. and Mrs. Bargar were married on 19 Sep 1882, in Elkhart County near Goshen, Indiana. They lived for the next five years in Mount Gilead, Ohio (*Morrow County*). In 1887 on the 15th of March, they left that area on the train for Cimarron, arriving there two days later. A few weeks after their arrival, Mr. Bargar filed on a homestead in NE18-29-29. He 'proved it up' in 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Bargar sowed a crop of wheat in the fall of 1891. The grain was broadcasted by hand and plowed under with a cultivator drawn by two cows, one big white one and a small red cow. This 10-acre field yielded 467 bushels of wheat the next harvest and brought 50 cents per bushel.

Mrs. Bargar wove the tops of the children's shoes from carpet warp, and the soles were made from an old saddle girth. In the summer, the children wore no shoes. For hats, Mrs. Bargar would gather soap weed blades, peel the outside, use the flat inner part, and wove them into hats. When no money was had to buy coal during the lean years, they would go to Crooked

Creek and get a load of buffalo chips to burn. The two cows always pulled the wagon on these trips. Mr. Bargar says they burned enough cow chips to fill the Montezuma Garage.

During these trying times and in later years, Mr. and Mrs. Bargar raised six children of their own and two grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Bargar are two of the finest people in this community and are proud that they live here. The community members join the editor and his wife in congratulating them and sincerely wishing them many more years of happy married life together.

Newspaper Obituaries

ELI BARGAR

The Montezuma (Kansas) Press – Thursday, 14 Sep 1933

A PIONEER IS LAID TO REST

Eli Bargar, one of the early settlers of Gray County, died Monday afternoon at his home here. The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon at the M. E. Church with Rev. Irvin Unruh officiating. Owens Funeral Service of Cimarron is in charge.

Mr. Bargar and his wife came to Gray County and filed on a homestead on 15 Mar 1887. They lived there for many years, enduring the hardships of droughts, hard winters, and lack of conveniences. With a white cow, Mr. Bargar teamed with a horse and plowed his land with a walking plow for crops. He could tell many interesting things about how pioneers had to scheme and plan to keep body and soul together.

It is with extreme regret that we see Mr. Bargar go. But he has been in severe pain for several years, and it would be selfish to wish him back.

Eli Bargar, son of Samuel and Mary Bargar, was born on 15 Jun 1857 in Harrison County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He was united in marriage to Susan Truex on 19 Sep 1882 in Goshen, Indiana. They made their home in Morrow County, Ohio, near Mt. Gilead until March of 1887, when they came to western Kansas, arriving in Cimarron on March 15th.

He filed on a homestead in Gray County, southwest of Montezuma. Here they lived through the early pioneer days. In the spring of 1896, they moved to a farm on Crooked Creek one mile east of the old homestead where they resided until moving to Montezuma in March of 1917, living here until the time of his death on 11 Sep 1933 at the age of 76 years, two months and 26 days.

He was converted and united with the M. E. Church about seventeen years ago. He has been a constant sufferer for the past six years. He was always a loving husband and father, a faithful friend, and a helpful neighbor with a kind word and a smile for everyone.

He and his faithful wife reared to manhood and womanhood two sons and four daughters and two granddaughters, Mrs. Letha Crenshaw and Mrs. Velma Snodgrass, daughters of Mrs. Emma Imhoff, the daughter who preceded him in death.

Those left to mourn his loss are his faithful wife and five children: Mrs. Lydia Tillery, of Fowler, Kansas, Oliver C. Bargar, of Springfield, Colorado, Alvin P. Bargar and Mrs. Delia Rexford of Montezuma, Mrs. Lula Pullins, of Urbana, Ohio, fifteen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren besides a host of other relatives and friends.

SUSAN (TRUEX) BARGAR

Obituary provided by Rhonda at the Kansas Heritage Center in Dodge City, Kansas

Dodge City (Kansas) Daily Globe – Monday, 30 Jun 1947

GRAY COUNTY RESIDENT FOR 65 YEARS DIES

Mrs. Susan Bargar, a resident of Gray County for 65 years, died Sunday at the age of 85. She is survived by four children, Mrs. Lula Pullins, of Denver, Colorado; Oliver C. Bargar, of Canon City, Colorado; Mrs. Delia Rexford and Alvin Bargar of Montezuma; 15 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be at the Methodist Church in Montezuma on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

Additional Information

MR. AND MRS. RILEY I. MONTGOMERY

RILEY I. MONTGOMERY, son of Michael Montgomery (1846-1936) and Mary Catherine Turner (1846-1875), was born 10 Sep 1873 in Eastern Kansas but lived much of his youth in Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri. There he met and married **ADA H. HECK** in the year 1900. Ada was born on 19 May 1878. They lived in Carthage, Missouri, until 1904, moving to Oklahoma. There, their son, **JOE E. MONTGOMERY**, was born on 20 Sep 1904. In 1906, they moved to Cimarron, Gray County, Kansas, where Riley worked for the Luther Realty Company. By 1913, they had moved to Montezuma, Gray County, Kansas, where Riley and Ada owned their own farm. Riley served three terms in the Kansas Legislature and was also active in real estate. After Ada died on 29 Jul 1949, Riley married **MRS. MYRTLE EDWARDS**. Riley and Myrtle moved to Dodge City, Kansas, in 1952. There, Riley died on 9 Mar 1959. Riley and his first wife, Ada, were both buried at the Fairview Cemetery in Montezuma, Kansas.

In 1926, their son, Joe, married Hazel Hargett, daughter of William R. Hargett (1874-1961) and Fannie Richardson (1882-1956). Hazel was born in Kansas on 23 Nov 1905. Joe and Hazel lived in Montezuma, Kansas, until about 1950, when they moved to Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas.

Joe retired from Wichita's Beech Aircraft Corporation. Two children were born to their marriage, Joe E. Montgomery, Jr., and Myra Hazel (Montgomery) Jonkers.

Hazel died on 31 Aug 1985 and Joe, Sr. died on 11 Sep 1987. They, along with their son, Joe Montgomery Jr., were buried at the White Chapel Memorial Gardens in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas.

**Additional Information
MR. AND MRS. MARTIN FRY**

MARTIN LUTHER FRY, son of Albertus Fry (1841-1911) and Margretha Fuchs (1859-1887), was born on 6 Feb 1880 in Bates County, Missouri. He was married to **ESTELLA "STELLA" FLOY FISHER**, daughter of John Riley Fisher (1855-1923) and Frances Isabelle Smith (1857-1942), on 19 Jun 1901 in Gray County, Kansas. Stella was born on 1 Apr 1881 in Wilson County, Kansas.

Three children were born in their marriage; **RALPH AUBREY FRY**, **WANDA FRY**, and **EARL LEE FRY**.

Martin Luther Fry passed away on 10 Oct 1945 in Montezuma, Gray County, Kansas. Stella died in June of 1980. Both were buried at the Fairview Cemetery in Montezuma.

**Additional Information
TOM GLASGOW**



THOMAS JOHN GLASGOW

Photographs of Thomas Glasgow provided by Don & Joan Glasgow

THOMAS JOHN GLASGOW, son of John Henry Glasgow (1876-1916) and Susan Mable Schultz (1885-1971), was born on 22 Dec 1906 in Marshall County, Kansas. In December of 1927, he married **MARY ANN MCNULTY** (1911-2003) in Jefferson County, Nebraska. Mary was the daughter of Oscar Gilbert McNulty (1884-1961) and Mattie Swift (1891-1937).

In 1930, they were living in Greenleaf, Washington County, Kansas. Thomas was working in the banking business at that time. They moved to Montezuma, Gray County, Kansas, in about 1935. Their son, **DONALD GLASGOW**, was born there in 1937. Sometime after 1940, the family moved to the Denver, Colorado area, where Tom Glasgow continued in the banking business. At the time of his death, he was the vice president and trust officer of the Mountain State Banks located in Denver.

Tom Glasgow died on 21 Sep 1956. He was flying with two other men to Lake DeSmet, located in Northern Wyoming near Sheridan, for a fishing trip. He was the pilot and owner of the small private aircraft. The crash happened in Tie Siding, Wyoming, in Albany County, not far from the Colorado line. All men were killed.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT THE DEATH OF TOM GLASGOW

The Casper (Wyoming) Morning Star – Sunday, 23 Sep 1956



THOMAS JOHN GLASGOW

DENVER MEN ARE KILLED IN CRASH

BANKER'S CRAFT DEBRIS IS FOUND NEAR TIE SIDING

Laramie, Wyoming – The charred bodies of three Denver businessmen were killed when the single-engine plane they were using for a fishing trip to Northern Wyoming crashed and burned.

Their bodies were taken to Fort Collins on Saturday.

They were Thomas J. Glasgow, vice president and trust officer of the Mountain States Bank in Denver; Forrest W. Luff, retired Army captain and president of Western Empire Realty Company; and Ralph W. Hellman, retired regional manager of General Motors Acceptance Corporation, all of Denver.

The ill-fated trio left Englewood Airport Friday at 2:40 p.m. on a fishing trip to Lake Desmet, between Sheridan and Buffalo.

CRASH STARTS FIRE

The four-place Stinson owned and piloted by Glasgow crashed Friday evening. The wreckage was spotted four miles west of Tie Siding, a community in the mountains on U.S. 287 south of Laramie by Civil Air Patrol search planes. A fire started in the timber by the burning plane, seared three acres of timber, and officials called for 25 men Saturday to help put out the blaze.

Civilian and military pilots in Colorado and Wyoming took to the air Saturday morning when the plane was reported missing. The wreckage was finally spotted by a group of Laramie, Wyoming, and Walden, Colorado, Civil Air Patrol fliers. The wreckage was also spotted earlier by 15-year-old Roger Vass of Laramie, who was with his parents visiting a cabin near Tie Siding.

Deputy Sheriff Murray Noble led a ground party into the area, accessible to Jeeps, where they found the three men still in the plane's cabin.

Additional Information WILLIAM H. EVANS

WILLIAM H. EVANS was born on 17 Feb 1818 in the state of Kentucky. Records reveal Mr. Evans worked as a farmer and a broom maker.

He married **MARGARET ANN NOSLER** on 7 Mar 1839 in Putnam County, Indiana. Margaret was born in 1818 in Tennessee. They made Indiana their home until about 1850, when they moved on to Wapello, Louisa County, Iowa. The 1860 and 1880 census records reveal the family had moved to Winterset, Madison County, Iowa. Margaret passed away there on 6 Feb 1878. She is buried at the Winterset City Cemetery.

By 1887, William Evans had moved to Montezuma, Gray County, Kansas, where he located on a claim on Crooked Creek and spent the last 27 years of his life.

He was blessed to have made many friends there, one being Robert Derry and his family. Mr. Derry had taken care of Mr. Evans when he was ill. The Derry's cared for him as though he was their own father.

William H. Evans died on 21 Oct 1912 in Gray County, Kansas. He was buried at Evans Cemetery, located on his farm in Gray County.

William and Margaret Evans had five children:

JESSE BURTON EVANS (30 Jul 1841-19 Feb 1921) Jesse enlisted in the Union Army in 1861. He was twice mayor of Princeton and served one term as justice of the Peace for Morgan Township, both in Mercer County, Missouri. Jesse married Teresa O. Marre (*sometimes spelled Moore*) in about 1864. Four daughters were born in their marriage; Carrie Stepp, Aimee Lomax, Jessie Neill, and Ella Sheldon. Jesse's wife died in 1905. He then married Ada Ballew in 1907. All were buried at the Princeton Cemetery in Princeton, Mercer County, Missouri.

MARY ANN "POLLY" EVANS (24 Oct 1842-16 Oct 1875) Mary Ann "Polly" was married to John Gowin (20 Sep 1837-21 May 1888). He was the son of Stephan S. Gowin and Elizabeth Walton. John and Polly were buried at the Winterset City Cemetery in Winterset, Madison County, Iowa.

JAMES L. EVANS (26 Feb 1849-14 May 1890) James was buried at the Evans Cemetery in Gray County, Kansas. He married Emma Downer on 2 Aug 1874 in Bedford, Taylor County, Iowa. They had two children, Frank B. Evans and Fay Evans. After James passed away, Emma married James A. Corey, and they were buried at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas.

NANCY ANGELINE EVANS (1851-1941) Nancy was married to Dennis H. Sutter (1849-1920). Nancy died in Los Angeles County, California. Both are buried at the Mount Zion Cemetery in Tabor, Fremont County, Iowa.

MARY "JENNIE" VALERE EVANS (12 Jul 1857-1 Jul 1887) Jennie was buried at the Evans Cemetery in Gray County, Kansas.

Newspaper Obituary WILLIAM H. EVANS

The (Cimarron, Kansas) Jacksonian – Thursday, 24 Oct 1912

"GRANDPA" EVANS DEAD

Gray County has lost one of its most respected aged citizens. William H. Evans, known by his host of friends as "Grandpa" Evans, died last Monday morning, October 21st after his health failed steadily for several weeks from paralysis.

R. V. Derry, who has taken care of Mr. Evans for a great many years, was in town Monday to look after some of the funeral details, and as he was in a hurry, we were unable to get the full obituary, but it has been promised for next week.

It was expected that the funeral would be held the next day, Tuesday, and that interment would be made in the Evans Cemetery on the farm belonging to the deceased.

The deceased had a son and a daughter, but neither one was at his bedside when he died, although they had visited him during his sickness. His son's name is Jesse B. Evans, of Trenton, Missouri.

"Grandpa" Evans was 94 years, 8 months, and 4 days old at the time of his death. His friends were hoping that he could live to around the century mark, but he had been failing quite rapidly during the past few months. His birthday anniversary has been celebrated regularly by the people of south Gray County for many years, and great crowds of his friends would come to his place and show their esteem and goodwill toward the older man. A couple of years ago, the Jacksonian printed a halftone picture of one of the gatherings on his birthday.

Second Newspaper Obituary
WILLIAM H. EVANS
(Written by a friend)

Provided by Sara McFarland, Research Librarian at the Cimarron (Kansas) City Library

The (Cimarron, Kansas) Jacksonian - 7 Nov 1912

William H. Evans was born in Bath County, Kentucky, on 17 Feb 1818. He died at his home in Gray County, Kansas, on 21 Oct 1912, aged 94 years, 8 months, and 4 days. Mr. Evans moved with his parents when but a child to Putman County, Indiana, where he grew to manhood and where on the 7th day of March 1839, he married Miss Margaret A. Nosler.

The union was blessed with an offspring of seven children, five girls and two boys. Two of the girls died in infancy and two of them were married, and raised families of their own one of whom is still living, Mrs. Nancy Sutter, of Taber, Iowa. Another daughter, Miss Jane (*her name was Jenny*) Evans, accompanied her father to Gray County and has died since coming here and was the first to be interred in the Evans Cemetery. The sons both grew to manhood. One of them, Jesse B. Evans, lives in Trenton, Missouri. The other son, James L. Evans, died on his homestead in this neighborhood and was laid to rest in the Evans Cemetery. His widow, Mrs. Emma Evans, married James A. Corey of Dodge City and still lives there today.

Grandpa Evans, as he was usually called, moved from his home in Indiana to Iowa while yet young and lived a great many years on a farm near Winterset, Iowa. His children mostly grew up there, and it is where his beloved wife departed this life on 6 Feb 1878. With his daughter Jane (Jenny) and son James L. and family, he moved to Gray County, Kansas, where he has since resided until his death. There are only two surviving children to mourn his loss, J. B. Evans of Trenton, Missouri, and Mrs. Nancy Sutter of Taber, Iowa, besides a whole generation of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.