

Ford County Historical Society  
Presents

The Second Annual

# HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR

OCTOBER 2022



IN MEMORY OF  
COMRADES  
THAT LIE IN THE  
SOUTHLAND  
IN UNMARKED  
GRAVES

C.A.R.  
CEMETERY  
1887

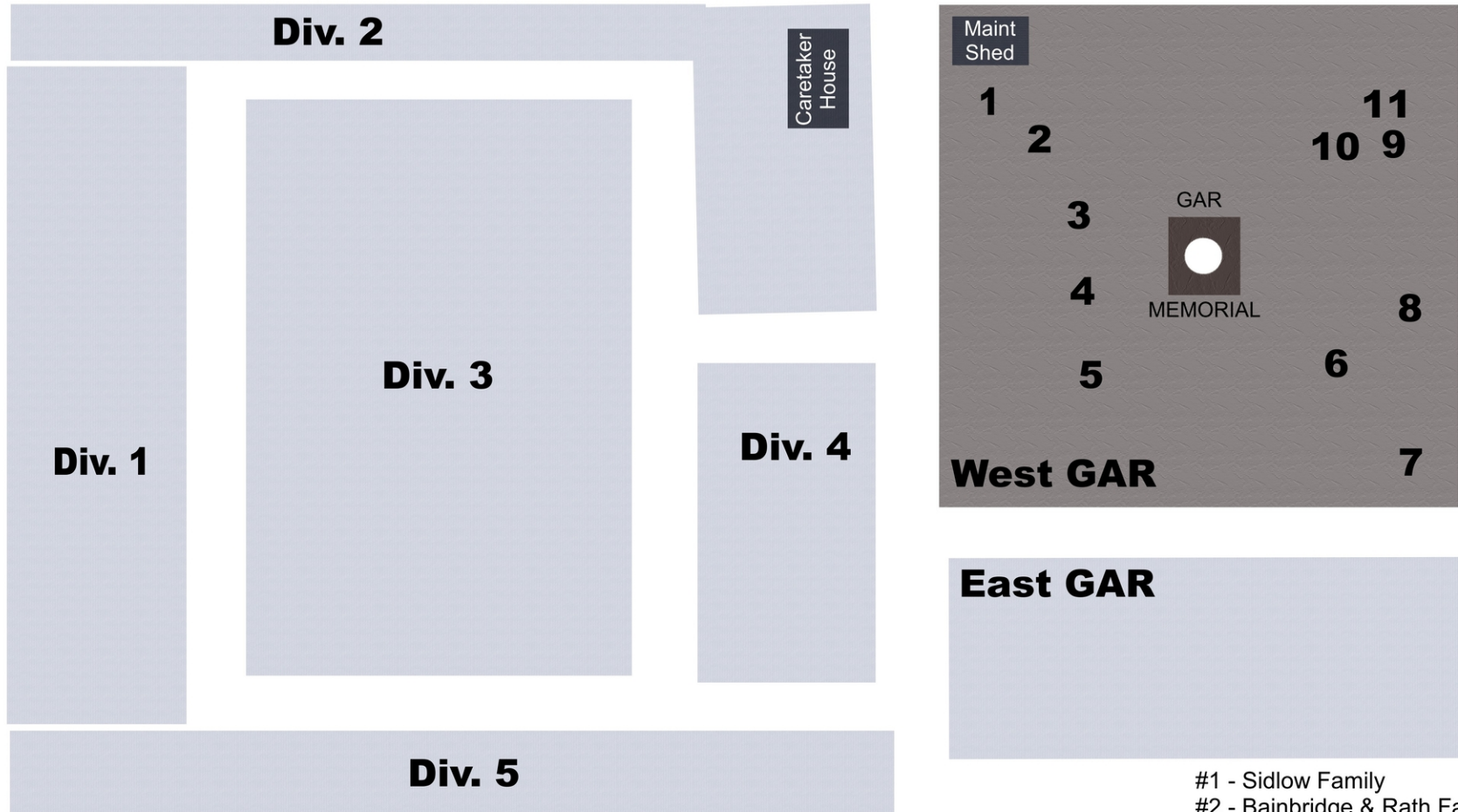
Maple Grove Cemetery  
Dodge City, Kansas



# Cemetery Tour 2022

## MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY - DODGE CITY, KS

**MATT DOWN ROAD**



The area we will focus on today was purchased by the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic (which was known as the GAR). The GAR was a social organization of Union army veterans of the Civil War and they provided this area for the burial of Northern veterans. When more space was needed, the area to the east was purchased (and burial of Southern veterans was allowed there). The two areas are now known as West GAR and East GAR and became part of Maple Grove Cemetery in 1913. In the center of the West GAR is the Grand Army of the Republic Veterans Monument. It was constructed from a pillar originally destined to be part of the new Ford County Courthouse but arrived broken. The top portion was used here and the bottom portion was used as a monument to Robert Wright which is located in Wright Park near the Band Shell. The plaque on the west side of the monument reads, "In Memory of Comrades that lie in the Southland in Unmarked Graves".

- #1 - Sidlow Family
- #2 - Bainbridge & Rath Families
- #3 - Karl Miller
- #4 - James & Fannie Arment
- #5 - O.A. Bond & A.B. Webster
- #6 - George Reighard
- #7 - Harry Gryden
- #8 - Anderson Hall
- #9 - H.L. Sittler
- #10 - Richard Evans
- #11 - Harry Herzer

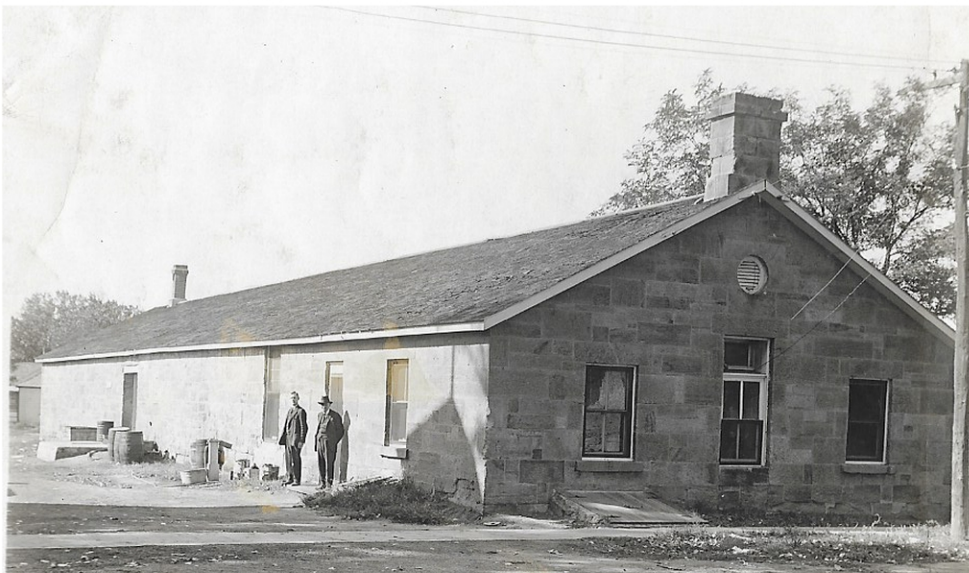
# JOHN W. & JOSEPHINE SIDLOW

John W. & Josephine Sidlow came west and settled in Ford County just west of the Edwards County line near Offerle. They had their furniture and other possessions shipped on the railroad. With instructions on their possessions to 'Ship to the End of the Railroad' - at that time the Santa Fe Railway ended at Offerle. They homesteaded on a tree claim. A tree claim required the homesteader to plant a certain number of trees on the section to "prove-up" on the homestead. Later they moved to Pleasant Valley, 18 miles south of Offerle, where they again homesteaded. It was John Sidlow that planted the first wheat in Ford County.

Later John W. Sidlow moved his family to Fort Dodge, Kansas, where he served for over 30 years as Quartermaster under both Republican and Democratic Governors of the State of Kansas. In addition, he served as Clerk of the District Court and Water Commissioner of Dodge City when the deep-water wells were dug.

John & Josephine had six children one of which was a son named Dennison A. Sidlow. He married Mertie May Gray who was a granddaughter of James C. Gray. Mr. Gray was an invalid from injuries received in the Civil War and heard about Ft. Dodge and the Kansas Soldiers Home. They traveled by covered wagon from Galena, KS (a trip that took 18 days!) and were greeted at Ft. Dodge by Quartermaster John Sidlow. He assigned them a house, issued them rations, and invited them to the upcoming Christmas Party. It was at this party that 18-yr old Dennison Sidlow first met 12-yr old Mertie May Gray.

As the story goes, Dennison went to visit school and as the students marched outside Mertie passed by him. She had a little curl in the middle of her forehead which was the style at the time. Dennison asked Mertie what the curl was. She told him it was called a "Beau Catcher". Dennison asked her if she had caught anyone, and she told him that she thought she had. This was their first conversation.



Pictured at left is the Quartermaster Building at Ft. Dodge (which now houses the Museum). John Sidlow is the man on the right.



# CARRIE RATH BAINBRIDGE



Carrie & Charles Rath

When Caroline Markley was only two years old, her father employed a young German boy of the neighborhood to watch over Caroline and her sister as they played during the summertime in the big shady yard or the nearby creek. This lad was Charles Rath who grew up, went west, and one day returned with wealth to court and marry the little charge who had grown up into a lovely young lady.

In 1870 Charles Rath went home to Ohio for a visit, while there he married 19-year-old Caroline Markely. In 1872 they came to Dodge City and Charles went into the mercantile business with Robert Wright and A. J. Anthony. Business was good and they lived a good life. However, Charles sold his interest in the mercantile business to Robert Wright and concentrated on freighting and outposts which were all located in Texas.

Carrie was a cultured and talented lady. She loved to play the fine piano which she had brought from the East. Mrs. Rath was trained in vocal and instrumental music, embroidery, knitting, and painting. The bright spots of her life were the shopping trips to Kansas City and Topeka, the inaugural balls at Topeka, the officers' parties at Fort Dodge, the concerts and parties among the pioneer families and the visits to Ohio. Carrie Rath possessed a lovely singing voice and sang with her friends in charity concerts and church benefits. She was one of the women who organized and helped build the first Union Church in Dodge City. In later years, she helped organize the First Christian Church of Dodge City and was one of its charter members.

Charles and Carrie had three children, two of which survived to adulthood - Robert (who was named for Robert Wright) and Bertha. Both married but had no children. Carrie was left alone with her children for long periods of time by her ambitious husband who established stores in many frontier towns. They were divorced in 1885, in Texas.

Carrie later married Thomas Bainbridge, a passenger engineer of the Santa Fe railroad. He was killed on February 3, 1899, by a mail crane near Holly, Colorado. Carrie and Thomas had a son named Roy Bainbridge.

Half-brothers - Robert Rath & Roy Bainbridge ran the Rath & Bainbridge Drug Store that Carrie built when Roy graduated from the University of

Kansas School of Pharmacy and was located at the northeast corner of First & Chestnut.

Carrie Rath Bainbridge's home was located on the present site of the Lora Locke Hotel. It was in this home that Carrie Rath Bainbridge passed away in November 1923.

The last seven years of her life had been spent traveling in Florida, Arizona, and California. She was granted her wish to spend the last months of her life in Dodge City where she could be with her old friends, her memories of rich experiences, reminiscent of days of courage, memories that all pioneer mothers possess.



Carrie Rath



Carrie Rath Bainbridge





# IDA ELLEN RATH



Ida Ellen Poorbaugh was born in Burrton, KS and received her education in the public schools of Joplin, MO, and Sedgwick & Burrton, Kansas, and attended high school at Burrton. Later she took extension courses from Emporia and Hays State Teachers College. Her first marriage to Charles Elmer Cox in 1902 produced three children - Emma, John & Arlie. Mrs. Cox and her husband lived as a dirt farmer on an eastern Colorado claim, which they proved up until his death in 1934. Besides a few years spent in Missouri and Colorado, she resided all her life in Kansas.

Mrs. Rath was also a rural schoolteacher and a public speaker and traveling saleslady for Stoddard's Lectures of Chicago. She attended Washburn Municipal University of Topeka and studied by extension courses at the University of Wisconsin and Kansas State Teachers College.

She raised son, John Cox, who needed special care his whole life. He was listed as a survivor when she died in 1971 and is also buried here. In the middle of the 1930's she realized one of her great ambitions and became the author of nine published books. Two of the most important ones are related to Ford County - "Early Ford County" (an early history of the settlement of the county) & "The Rath Trail" (a portrait of plainsman - Charles Rath).

Ida Ellen Rath founded the Dodge City Writers Guild in 1929. She was the yearbook editor of the Kansas Authors Club. She belonged to Kansas Press Women, the National Federation of Press Women, the Panhandle Pen Women of Texas, the Kansas State Historical Society, and the Ford County Historical Society.



She married Robert M. Rath late in life. She wrote books to support herself after Robert died. He passed away on March 21, 1958, in North Fort Myers, Florida while he and Ida Ellen were visiting Roy F. Bainbridge, Robert's half-brother. Her writings have appeared in numerous newspapers and periodicals, and she was represented in ten poetry anthologies and a short story collection. She was also known by her pen names, Ida Ellen Cox, Ellen Drinkwater, and Ada Lady and won many prizes and received awards for her collections of verse and story.





# JUDGE KARL MILLER



Judge Miller came to Dodge City in 1888 with his parents - Louis & Emma Miller when he was 4 years old. They purchased land east of Ft. Dodge and also owned a feed store on Trail Street. Living in Dodge City he attended school at the old Boot Hill School and attended the high school, graduating in 1901. He attended Bethany College, Lindsborg, where he studied music and prepared for a teaching career. When he completed his college studies, he returned to Boot Hill School to serve as principal for two years.

He was interested in further education and enrolled in the Leland Stanford University Law School, Palo Alto, California, which he attended one year. Karl was a great storyteller and one of his favorites to tell was his description of a San Francisco earthquake in 1912, which is why he did not finish his law studies in California. He continued his education at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Upon returning to Dodge City by train in 1920, he stopped along the way to take the bar examination in Topeka. He passed the examination and then plunged into the Kansas legislative race. He won the election and at age 26 represented Ford County as the youngest member of the Kansas House. Following his tenure in the House Karl was Ford County attorney for several terms. Known familiarly as Judge Miller, he served for years as six-county 31st District Judge upon being appointed to fill a vacancy in 1926. He was elected and then reelected, altogether serving 29 years, retiring from the bench in 1955.

He was active in the Rotary Club, a member of St. Bernard Lodge #222, and a Shriner. Judge Karl Miller was the Master of Ceremonies during the Ham Bell Pioneer Picnic for as long as he lived. He enjoyed working with youth groups and was the financial chairman of the successful campaign to raise funds for the Boys Ranch built on 160 acres on Wilroads Gardens Road which became known as Methodist Youthville.

For a short period of time the family lived on the Coronado Ranch, one mile east of Fort Dodge, where he was just as enthusiastic about ranching and farming as he was about the law and the judicial field. Karl Miller had an extensive interest in history and his readings convinced him that Coronado's famous expedition crossed the Arkansas River in June 1541, either right at the place where he owned land east of Ft. Dodge or very close to it.



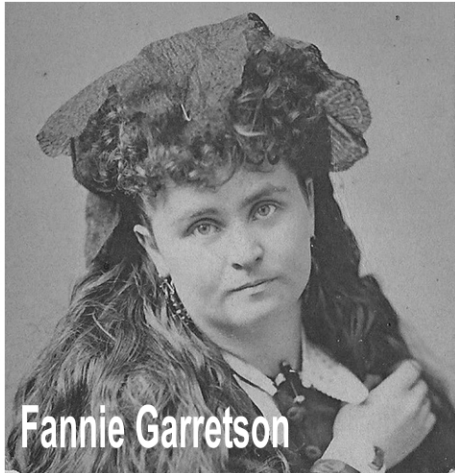
Judge Miller was the main force behind a move in the early 1940s, to erect a cross and put in a small roadside park. He wanted the state to do this in 1941, the 400th anniversary of Coronado's crossing but since it was wartime there was little interest and no funds for the project. However, Judge Karl and his son, Karl, Jr. did erect a wooden cross to mark the spot where it is believed that Father Padilla held the first Catholic Mass in what was later the United States.. Judge Miller never completely gave up the idea of a permanent marker. After Judge Miller's death in 1959, Jim Farley, member of the Knights of Columbus, who was also a member of the Ford County Historical Society, kept urging the society to do something about the cross project. In 1973 the FCHS took up the project when the Miller family donated the land on which the Coronado Cross now stands.





# JAMES & MARTHA F. ARMENT

Company H, 140th Regiment Indiana Volunteers



Fannie Garretson

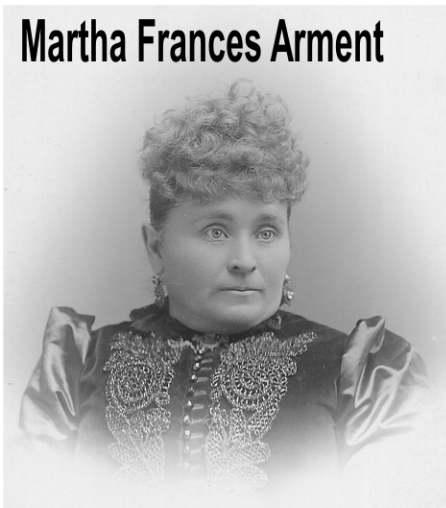
James & Martha Frances Arment moved to Dodge City in 1883 after working in theaters in Colorado - he as a manager and she as a singer. Once they moved to Dodge City, he resumed his career as house & sign painter.

But this wasn't the first time Martha Frances (or Fannie Garretson as she was known earlier) lived in Dodge City. Back in 1878, Fannie and her then husband - Dick Brown, were working in the Dodge City Varieties and other dance halls in town such as the Comique. In September of 1878, as the cattle season wound down, it was reported in the Ford County Globe that "Dick Brown and his banjo have gone to sunny southern Texas". It was soon announced that the Comique had closed for the season. Fannie was a regular performer with another Fannie - none other than Fannie Keenan (better known as Dora Hand). Fannie Garretson narrowly escaped death in one of the most storied shootings in Dodge City history. On October 4, 1878, she and fellow performer - Dora Hand - were staying at Mayor Dog Kelley's house while he was gone to Ft. Dodge. A young Texas trail driver named Spike Kenedy, harboring a grudge against Dog Kelley, rode by the house at around 4:30am shooting into the house. In this first "ride by shooting" - one shot just missed Fannie Garretson, but Dora Hand was killed instantly.



James Arment

Martha Frances Arment



When Martha Frances returned to Dodge City as Mrs. James Arment, she was part of the Dodge City's society scene and despite her colorful past, was accepted socially and frequently sang at the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), and Sacred Heart Church. Mr. Arment served as a City councilman, Ford County's Register of Deeds, and the City's Postmaster for 16 years. He was later a partner with Chalk Beeson & William Harris in the Ford County Real Estate & Loan Company.





# ORLANDO "BRICK" BOND



Orlando "Brick" Bond moved to Dodge City in the spring of 1872, after coming to Kansas from Minnesota in 1871. Robert Wright considered him "One of the Seven Old Timers of Dodge City". He referred to him as Col. Brick Bond. He was named Brick because of his red hair.

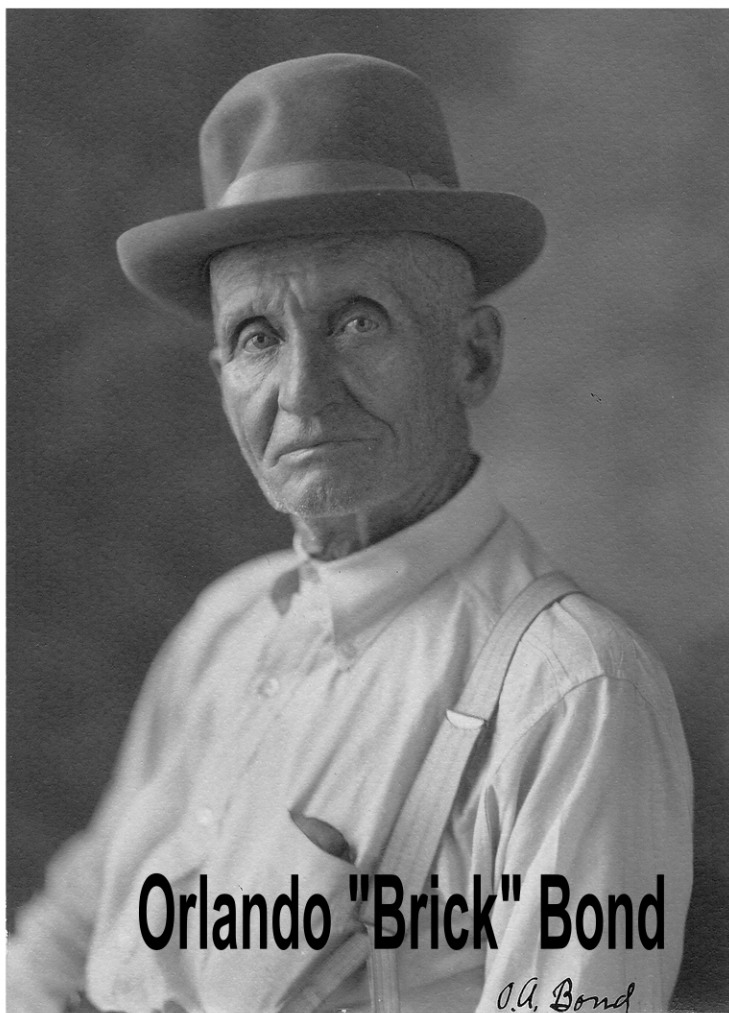
In the beginning, the new town known as 'Buffalo' started its advent as the first town in Ford County with quite a boost, population-wise. Santa Fe employees numbered around a thousand and for a period of several months were working out of 'Buffalo'. They were going ahead with all speed, rushing the grade through to the Colorado line so they would not lose the Kansas Land Grant. Freighters brought in food and other necessities for them. Brick Bond had the contract to furnish beef at 6 ½ cents a pound for the gang and sometimes the cook accepted a buffalo. So it probably helped that Brick was also a buffalo hunter and known for killing over 6,000 buffalo in a two month period from November 1, 1874 to January 1, 1875.

Brick was often spoken of as the 'Champ' and was a favorite with the rising generation who were always willing to listen to tales of his buffalo hunting days. Brick was also part of the fabled Battle of Adobe Walls. Based on Ida Ellen Rath's book "Early Ford County", the account of the battle starts on the hot sultry night of June 26, 1874 when Brick left Adobe Walls, Texas headed for Dodge City with a load of hides. When his heavy wagon load of hides became mired down in sand, he attempted to get them out. But when that proved futile, he returned to Adobe Walls. He arrived back in the midst of the Battle. When he road up, the hunters who had been under attacked beckoned him "Get in here quick, the Indians are thicker'n hell!"

Brick knew he was spared upon his return to Adobe Walls and much later, Brick talked with the Cheyenne Chief, Little Robe, and asked, "Why didn't you kill me? Didn't you see me?" To which the chief replied, "Indian no want to kill you". Brick Bond was a friend to white man and Native American alike.

Later, after Kansas Liquor Prohibition in the 1880's, Brick and A. B. Webster, Mayor of Dodge City and later bank president, established the Palace Drug store in 1883 to sell medicinal liquor which was legal. Later he was a partner with C. M. States. In later years he spent much time hunting and fishing and owned a fine farm on Buckner Creek in Hodgeman County where he took much pride in maintaining a well-stocked fishing ground.

The newspapers wrote of Orlando "Brick" Bonds death in 1927: "The sudden death of the aged freighter, buffalo hunter, peace officer, cowman, and druggist this morning brought sorrow to a community in which he was universally loved for his positive but unobtrusive personality." Bond Circle in north central Dodge City is named for Brick Bond.





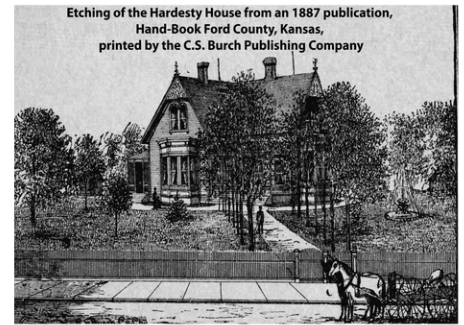
# ALONZO B. WEBSTER

Corp. Company C, 1st Michigan Cavalry



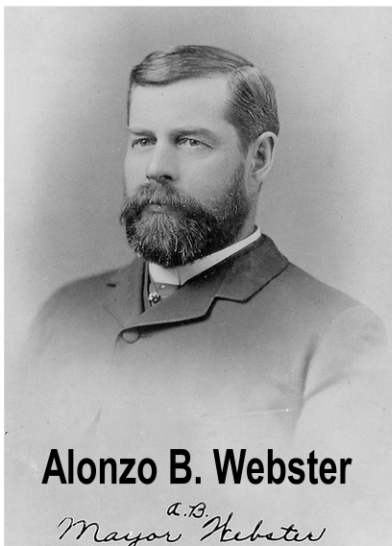
Alonzo B. Webster left his home in New York City in 1869. He served as a dispatch scout at Fort Hays between various frontier forts. He opened a general store in Hays City, Kansas where he met Larry Deger who later became Dodge City's first city marshal. Webster, with his wife Amanda, moved to Dodge City in 1872, becoming one of its first citizens. Within a short time, he was in the grocery and dry goods business on the corner of Front Street and First Avenue, opposite Beatty & Kelley's saloon, and restaurant.

In 1878, he purchased the Sitler brick yard supplying bricks for government contracts at forts in Oklahoma and for much of the building in the Dodge City area, including the first Third Ward school (we will learn more about Mr. Sitler later in the tour). Webster later opened a lumber yard. In 1879, he built a house at 811 W. Chestnut and lived there for a year before selling it to Col. R.J. Hardesty and his new bride. This home is known as Hardesty House and is now located at Boot Hill Museum.



In April 1885, following the enforcement of prohibition he formed a partnership with O. A. 'Brick' Bond and opened the Palace Drug Company. Their wines and whiskies for "medicinal, mechanical and scientific purposes" amounted to quite a stock, according to the billing in George Hoover's wholesale liquor account book, 1,340 ½ gallons of whisky plus nine cases of miscellaneous spirits were purchased for their drug store formerly known as the Stock Exchange saloon - \$2,526.90 worth of snake bite medicine!

In 1881, one month before city elections, Webster was appointed acting sheriff for the ailing George Hinkle. Webster was elected mayor of Dodge City in April 1881 ending the reign of Dog Kelley. He took office as mayor the first week of April 1881, and in less than two weeks his determination to enforce city ordinances was put to the test. He was determined to clean up Dodge and enforce city ordinances already in place. Known as the "fighting mayor", whose first act was to publish the following notice: "To all whom it may concern: All thieves, thugs, confidence men, and person without visible means of support, will take notice that the ordinance enacted for their especial benefit will be rigorously enforced on and after tomorrow, April 7th, 1881. A. B. Webster, Mayor. Dodge City, Kansas."



Webster was also involved in the saloon business. He owned the building that housed the Old House Saloon at First and Front Streets and opened the Stock Exchange Saloon in the building between Wright, Beverley & Co., and the Long Branch Saloon.

Mr. Webster suffered from rheumatic fever and died at the age of 41 in April 1887. His funeral was so large that it had to be held at McCarty Opera House and he was originally buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery but moved here when that cemetery was closed.

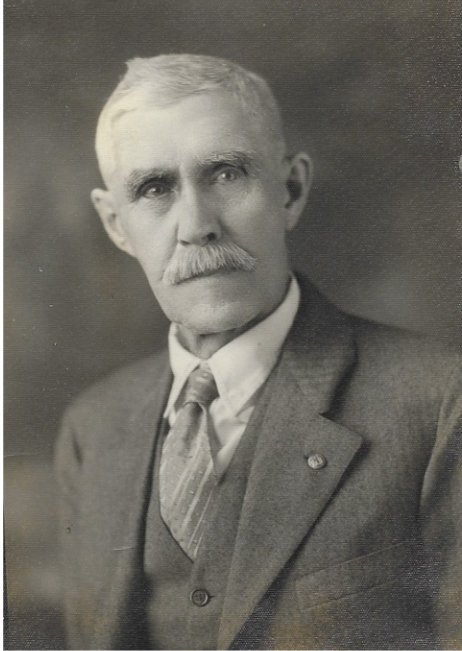
Webster was involved in many community activities besides holding public office. He helped form the Ford County Irrigation Company, the Electric Light, and Steam Heating Company, was a member of the Ingalls Town Company and served on the board of Dodge City Mining Company and helped create the Board of Health - one of the first in Kansas. He was the organizer of the Dodge City Bull Fight held on July 4th & 5th, 1884, a contest of matadors and ferocious Texas bulls.





# GEORGE W. REIGHARD

Company A, 184th Pennsylvania Infantry



In addition to being a buffalo hunter, freighter, and rancher, George Reighard also was a resident of Dodge City for 64 years. He was a Pennsylvania Veteran of the Civil War and came west in February 1867 at the age of 20 as a government employee - driving a reserve wagon train with supplies for General Custer and the Seventh Cavalry.

He began hunting buffalo south of Dodge City in 1872, and was employed as a U. S. Government teamster, delivering freight in trains of thirty, six-mule teams to Ft. Dodge, Camp Supply, and Ft. Sill. Reighard said he could see "the whole country to where sky and earth merged in a purplish haze covered with one mass of buffalos." He claimed that the "sound of buffaloes on the march could be heard a mile and more away like the roll of distant thunder."

In June of 1872, contractors for the Santa Fe railroad moved their headquarters westward, setting up camp on the site of a proposed new town. George Reighard was one of the six men from Ft. Dodge who was interested in looking over the tract of land that was to become Dodge City. He was one of the first men to bring his family to the area before it was a settlement. While many of the early men in Dodge City were still living at Ft. Dodge, George Reighard recalls his first attempt to sell lots in the city. He found some fellows in the fort who thought of investing in lots in what was to be the new town and drove them in. Robert Wright said the lots weren't surveyed yet, but in a few days there would be plenty of lots for sale. George Reighard always regretted that he did not keep a list of these prospective clients. However, there was an air of expectancy in the people and again Mr. Reighard brought prospective buyers into town. The head of this list was George M. Hoover, and lots were sold on this occasion.

The first bridge was built in 1873. This toll bridge was the only bridge over the Arkansas River between Hutchinson and the Colorado state line. The city knew they needed to provide a bridge over the Arkansas River to permit traffic into the city. A meeting was held to remedy this situation and one of the attendees included George Reighard. Friction developed as to where to locate the bridge. One faction wanted to cross the river at what is now 14th Avenue, and the other faction lobbied for a Second Avenue crossing. They began bidding against each other. Finally, when the Second Avenue faction made an extra heavy bid, the 14th Street faction surrendered, saying "You fellows have the money on your side, we can't compete with you." So, the bridge was built on Second Avenue, just west of the present bridge. Passage over the bridge was set at \$1.50 for a team and wagon, \$2.00 for a four to six horse team, and \$0.25 for a man on horseback or pedestrian. The bridge was operated as a toll bridge until 1885 and was operated by John T. Riney (who was one of characters on last year's tour).

George W. Reighard's mule teams, coming from Camp Supply, were the first to cross the bridge. Mr. Reighard and his brother-in-law William States operated their stable and hotel at the south end of the bridge in 1880. The hotel was known as the 'South Side Hotel'. The site was headquarters for those who did not wish to pay the toll to cross the bridge into Dodge City proper for supplies. Freighters began to try to evade payment of the toll. New freight wagons were designed to cross rivers without getting their merchandise wet, and they would avoid payment of the toll on the Dodge City Bridge.

Reighard was never a man to boast and, although he could tell hair-raising stories, he preferred to state things matter-of-factly, as they really happened. Unless he was asked a specific question, he seldom talked about his buffalo hunting days.



# HARRY GRYDEN



Dodge City has long been known for its Wickedest City in the West - but from August 1873 through 1875 apparently no violent deaths occurred, and from early 1876 through 1886 (Dodge's cattle-trading period and during its ban on the open carry of sidearms), the known body count averaged less than two violent deaths per year, hardly shocking.

Still, the cultural influence of that infamous first year has colored perceptions of the settlement's frontier days ever since. Part of the reason was a Swedish immigrant, Harry Gryden, who arrived in Dodge City in 1876, established a law practice, inserted himself into the local sporting crowd, and within two years began penning sensationalist articles about the town for the nation's leading men's magazine, New York's National Police Gazette, known as the "barbershop bible."

In 1883 a Dodge City reform faction briefly assumed control at City Hall and threatened to start a shooting war with professional gamblers. Alarmist dispatches, including some by Gryden, circulated as Associated Press stories in at least 44 newspapers from Sacramento to New York City. The Kansas governor was preparing to send in the state militia when Wyatt Earp, arriving from Colorado, brokered a peace before anyone got shot. Gryden, having already introduced both Earp and his friend Bat Masterson to a national readership, penned a colorful wrap-up for the Police Gazette.





# ANDERSON HALL

## Company H, 150th Illinois Infantry



After several moves recorded in the family Bible, Anderson Hall settled in Kansas - 18 miles Southwest of Dodge City in Ford County. He listed his occupation as farmer and owned farms in both Ford & Gray counties. He served as a Justice of the Peace in Gray County, and besides farming, he also sold land while living in Ford County and in Dodge City where he moved in 1900. Hall was a veteran of the Civil War being mustered out of the army on January 16, 1866.

He married his first wife, Margaret Crowson in 1869 but she died from tuberculosis not too long after their move to Kansas. They had eight children and two of their children died in Dodge City - Jacob Wesley Hall and Jules Alva Hall who are both buried here. He remarried in 1890 to Lottie Braucher (they eloped to Meade, KS). Lottie and Anderson had three children.

In the late 1890's Anderson's health began to fail due to injuries incurred during the Civil War, he and his family were admitted to the Kansas State Soldiers Home at Ft. Dodge in February 1901 where he lived until his death in 1919.

Benjamin Fred Hall, son of Anderson W. & Lottie Hall was named after his maternal grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Braucher, and his maternal uncle, Frederick Alan Braucher. He grew up in and around Dodge City and Ft. Dodge, Kansas, attending school in Ft. Dodge until the age of 14 when rules required that he leave the Soldier's Home and reside somewhere else.

The name Fred Hall, Governor of Kansas was mentioned in Fredric Young's book "Dodge City Up Through a Century in Story and Pictures", however, they are not the same person. The Fred Hall related to Anderson W. Hall worked in the engineering department of Dodge City, and as an automobile refinisher, a farm laborer, and a painting and decorating contractor.

No.	NAME	Age	Birthplace	Residence	Occupation	ENTRY INTO THE SERVICE				FINAL DISCHARGE				Length of Service	Cause of Discharge
						Date	Rank	Co.	Regiment	Date	Rank	Co.	Regiment		
126	John Hubbard	73	Ireland	Ft Dodge	Farmer	June 1-63	Private	A	14 Cal	June 4-65					
127	Wm. Toles	61	N. Y.	"	Blk Smith	61	"	A	31 Mass	May 25-63					
128	Wm. Fitzgerald	67	England	"	Farmer	July 20-61	"	"	1st Kan	Feb 11-64					
129	R. F. Harmon	50	Ohio	Woods Blk	Builder	July 61	Sergeant	E	17 Ill	June 65	Sergeant	K	1st Ill	50 Mo	Clear
130	Jos. H. Reed			Dodge City	Farmer	July 52	Sergeant	K	18 Ind	Jan 22-63	Sergeant	K	18 Ind	2 mo	Clear
131	Wm. Sela	68	Arizona	Dodge City	Farmer	Aug 53	Private	C	15 Kans	Oct 25-65	Private	C	15 Kans		
132	Andrew Smith	49	Ohio	Dodge City	Farmer	Sept 54	Private	F	16 Ohio	Aug 65	Company	F	16 Ohio	3 years	Clear
133	Levi Martin	57	Ohio	Dodge City	Farmer	Oct 61	Private	J	55 Ohio	Oct 68	Private	J	55 Ohio	3 years	Clear
134	Andrew W. Hall	53	Illinois	"	Farmer	Jul 63	Private	H	20 Ill	Jul 66	"	H	20 Ill	3 "	Clear
135	Mrs. H. Preator	58	England	"	"	Aug 64	"	"	22 Ill	Aug 65	"	"	22 Ill	3 "	Clear
136	Samuel Dwyer	76	Ohio	"	"	Aug 64	"	"	22 Ill	Aug 65	"	"	22 Ill	16 Mo	Clear
137	John J. Harmon	62	Kansas	"	"	Aug 64	"	"	22 Ill	Aug 65	"	"	22 Ill	20 "	Clear
138	Amiel Russell	66	Illinois	"	"	Sept 64	Sergeant	K	37 Ill	Sept 65	Sergeant	K	37 Ill	20 "	Clear
139	Thomas M. Harmon	61	N. Y.	Ft Dodge	Lab	Oct 64	Corporal	C	16 U.S.	Sept 65	Corporal	C	16 U.S.	2 yrs	Clear
140	Wm. S. M. Harmon	61	Ohio	"	Farmer	Oct 64	Private	H	11 Ill	Sept 65	Private	H	11 Ill	3 yrs	Clear
141	John M. Barber	52	Ind	Dodge City	Farmer	Nov 64	"	"	16 Ind	Aug 65	"	"	16 Ind	3 yrs	Clear
142	Wm. Barber	56	Ind	"	"	Oct 64	Sergeant	H	16 Ind	Sept 65	Sergeant	H	16 Ind	3 yrs	Clear
143	Samuel Ott	57	Illinois	"	Farmer	Feb 65	Private	H	17 Ind	July 65	Private	H	17 Ind	5 mo	Clear

## Anderson Hall's GAR listing Lewis Post #294

# HENRY L. SITLER

## Company I, 2nd Pennsylvania Cavalry

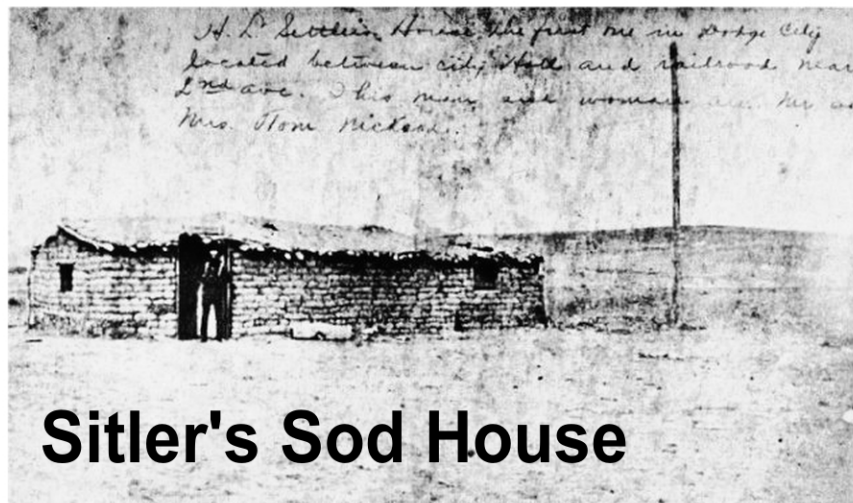
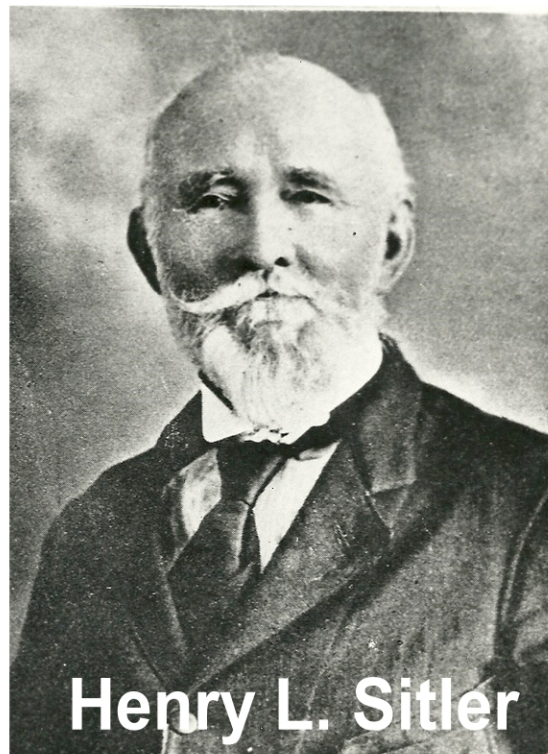
Henry L. Sitler was a veteran of the Civil War. He participated in the battle of Gettysburg and was present at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered. He came to this area in 1866. He was a veteran frontiersman, contracted to supply wood to Ft. Dodge from the Sawlog and Mulberry Creeks. After surveying the grazing lands near the fort, he decided that ranching would be a better business. His residence was at Ft. Dodge.

The first structure erected on the site of Dodge City was a three-room sod house built by Henry L. Sitler, sometime between 1867 & 1871 west of the military reservation to oversee his cattle ranch which lay to the north and the west of Ft. Dodge. The sod house served as a supply depot for travelers while he supplied wood and hay to Ft. Dodge.

The 'soddie' was located just south of the railroad tracks and west of Second Avenue according to the 1972 Fredric Young's book "Dodge City Up Through A Century in Story and Pictures". This location is to the west of Lopp Motors.

According to Ida Ellen Rath, Sitler laid strips of sod for his shanty, all above ground and from the doorway of his sod house shelter, he could scan the countryside, and barren plains that stretched away in every direction, with no habitation in sight.

Sitler kept his ranching operation near Dodge City for many years and operated a brick yard in the city. He was the first brick maker in Dodge City and his bricks were distinctively stamped with the initial - H. L. S. These bricks can still be seen on buildings in Dodge City.



Sitler was one of the men who came to watch the survey of the public land (just off the Fort Dodge Military Reservation) that was to become the new town. He became a stockholder and was one of the original seven directors to raise \$6,000.00 capital for the new Dodge City Town Company in 1872. Six hundred shares were sold at \$10 a share.





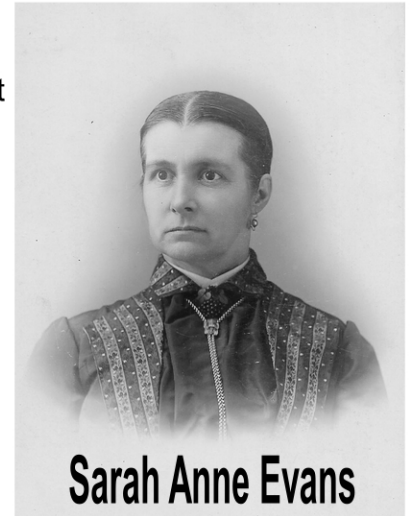
# RICHARD & SARAH EVANS

## Company C, 2nd Colorado Cavalry



**Richard Evans, Sr.**

Richard W. Evans came to Dodge City in 1872 from Hays City and opened his grocery and dry goods store on Front Street west of the Dodge House. His wife Sarah Anne came with him and settled in a plain wooden building behind her husband's store on Front Street. When setting up her household, Mrs. Evans insisted that the head of the very large, ceiling-high, walnut bed be placed with the head nearest the space between the store and the house. When asked why she wanted it in that manner, she explained that there would be one more board that bullets would have to pass through before hitting one of her sons.



**Sarah Anne Evans**

When Evans & his wife came from Hays, they were joined by Robert Wright, F.C. Zimmerman, and A.B. Webster and their wives using borrowed wagons from the U. S. Army. General Custer and nineteen of his soldiers served as armed escorts. On the first night as they were preparing to make camp, Webster took a sack and said that he would go out and gather some coal. The recently married Mrs. Evans, who had come from her home in Illinois and who was not familiar with the ways of the west, looked over the prairie and wondered where he would be able to find coal, but made no comment. On his return, Mr. Webster dropped the sack that he carried. Mrs. Evans asked him where the coal was that he had said he would gather. Kicking open the sack, out rolled a bunch of buffalo chips. Webster, pointing to them said, "There is prairie coal, my dear Madam."

Later the Evans family built a fine home at the corner of Avenue A and Military Avenue, where the Skaggs Motor Company now stands. This new home was such a show place that several of the young ladies of the community asked permission to be married in the beautiful and spacious parlor. A granddaughter remembered going to Grandmother Sarah Anne's home after school. Grandmother was always the English lady and very properly served tea and sandwiches for the two of them, while she told stories of England and earlier days in Dodge City. She had been a skilled horsewoman.

Richard W. Evans, Sr. was interested in banking and was associated with the first bank known as The People's Bank. He was cashier in the First National Bank of which Asa T. Soule was President and W. W. Munsell, Vice-President; he was cashier of the Bank of Dodge City of which G. M. Hoover was President. Evans was an organizer and Director of the State Bank of Dodge City. He was elected November 6, 1883, to the first of two terms as Ford County Treasurer; he was postmaster at Dodge City under President Harrison and served as mayor. He was associated with the group that built the first toll bridge over the Arkansas River. He was owner of the grounds used as athletic fields at the west end of the park and later sold it to the city at a very nominal amount.

Richard Sr. & Sarah had seven children - five sons and two daughters. Four of the sons are buried here - Harvey, Paul, Walter, and Richard Jr along with his wife Clara. Paul and another brother Lloyd attend St. John's Military School in Salina. Richard Jr. graduated from the University of Kansas Law School and served as a judge for 23 years.



# HARRY & AGNES HERZER



Harry Baldwin Herzer was born on November 17, 1871 in Ohio as was his wife, Agnes (born on September 2, 1873). Harry's parents were from Germany and Agnes' family was from Scotland. Agnes grew up in Ford, Kansas where she came with her parents at the age of 12. It's unknown where Harry grew up but it is assumed he landed in Ford at some point as he and Agnes were married there in 1897. They lived a short time in Ford then moved to Dodge City in 1902 living at 1007 Central (the house still stands).

In the 1920 Census, Harry's occupation is listed as Dry Goods Store Salesman. His merchandising career started in 1885, when his father, who had just brought his family to Ford County from Ohio, started a general store in the booming town of Ford. Harry continued in business with his father until the business was bought by A. Russell, who later became county treasurer and Harry bought the business. The building and stock were later destroyed by fire. Mr. Herzer was later associated with Locke Bargain Store which later became Eckles Department Store.

In the 1930 & 1940 census, he is listed as County Commissioner. He was elected county commissioner four times and devoted a great deal of his time and energies to the relief of the poor of the county. He served the county as poor commissioner before the relief setup went into effect. He served without extra pay for his work as poor commissioner. It is noted that he carried all precincts in the city at each of the elections in which he was a candidate. He resigned as commissioner on account of poor health in December 1942. In 1932 Mr. Herzer was instrumental in raising \$40,000.00 for relief of the county's poor and devoted a great deal of his time to administering the fund. He was always active in Red Cross work.

Harry and Agnes had four children - Charles, Kathleen, Donald & Harry Jr. Charles & Kathleen are both buried here. Tragically, Kathleen died in 1928 following surgery at St. Anthony's Hospital. She was an accomplished singer and music supervisor in the Dodge City Schools.



Charles, after graduating from Dodge City High School, attended college in Emporia. That was interrupted by WW I, but he returned to school following his discharge in 1919. After graduating from college, he coached for two years in Kingman and then four years at Dodge City High School. He later studied law and practiced in Dodge City for a short time.

Harry Jr lived in Dodge City and at one point owned and operated Mar-Co's bookstore. He was a member of St. Cornelius Episcopal Church and is buried across the road in the Greencrest Memorial Gardens (now known as Maple Grove West). Brother Donald left Dodge City and lived out his life in California and is buried there.

Harry & Agnes were members of the Presbyterian Church and in later life, Agnes was active in the Women's group and in fundraising for the church. She also served on the City library board for 28 years and was considered the chief force behind the creation of the Children's library.

Agnes was also very active in the community as member & matron of the Order of Eastern Star, Oracle of the Royal Neighbors, charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary and member of the Atheneum Club.



# **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Ashes of My Campfire (Historical Anecdotes of Old Dodge City)  
by Heinie Schmidt - Johnson, Inc.**

**Dodge City and Ford County, Kansas 1870-1920  
by Ford County Historical Society - Spearville News**

**Dodge City, the Cowboy Capital  
by Robert M. Wright - Wichita Publishing**

**Dodge City, the Birth of the Wild West  
by Robert R. Dykstra & Jo Ann Manfra- University Press of Kansas**

**Encyclopedia of the Great Plains  
Edited by David J. Wishart - University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

**Smithsonian Magazine - January 2018  
by Robert R. Dykstra & Jo Ann Manfra**

**Dodge City Legend - Oct/Nov/Dec 1993  
by Noel Ary / Legends Printing**

**Dodge City Up Through A Century in Story and Pictures  
by Fred Young- High Plains Publishers**

**Early Ford County  
by Ida Ellen Rath - Mennonite Press**

**The Rath Trail  
by Ida Ellen Rath - McCormick-Armstrong Co. Inc.**

**The Year of Charles  
by Ida Ellen Rath - Naylor Company**

**Dodge City Daily Globe - various articles  
Kathie Bell, Curator of Collections & Education - Boot Hill Museum  
Kansas Heritage Center - Dodge City, KS  
Dodge City Public Library - Jacque Orebaugh, Stephanie Birney  
Nancy Jo Trauer, Local Historian**

**Wild West Magazine - December 2014  
By Chris Penn**

**Images of America  
By George Laughead, Jr.**

---

**MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS  
Swaim Funeral Home  
Flowers by Irene  
Ziegler Funeral Chapel  
Dodge City Conventions & Visitors Bureau**