



THE  
**SUNFLOWER**  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 1 - FEBRUARY 2017 - ISSN 1048-048X

## New Beginnings: January 1, 1880

### *Looking Back - Looking Forward*

*For 2017 The Sunflower has a new look and a smaller size. Filling a full Quarterly format as we have in the past has become nearly impossible which, as always, comes down to volunteers and time. You should see this newsletter in your in-box every Quarter (Feb., May, Aug., & Nov.). This issue features a variety of family and community news items from The Hutchinson News of December 25, 1879 and January 1, 1880, and the Hutchinson Herald of January 3.*

### **Valley Township**

Christmas is over and a great many folks in the valley are happy. The event was duly celebrated at the Lawson school house on Christmas eve, by a tree. The house was filled in its utmost capacity and every one seemed to enjoy the occasion. The gifts were numerous and many of them costly. The tree presented a fine appearance and was a model of taste and beauty such as only Mesdames **Hays**, **Comes**, and **Kohnle** can arrange. The Sabbath school children enjoyed the treat which had been prepared for them as did also many of the older children. The tree at Van Sickle's on Christmas night was, if it could be, even more beautiful. **Mr. Coskey** personified Santa Claus in distributing the gifts. A literary paper read by **Mr. Hiram Baker**,

was very interesting. The **Van Ness** family were present and furnished music for the occasion in their best style. Everybody and all his children were there to take part and enjoy Christmas.

The colored preacher who has been trying to convert the Sodomites at this place has given it up in disgust and gone to the Star school house south of Burrton.

The good people in the neighborhood of the Adkins school house celebrated with the union school at Burrton. Quite a spirited debate was had at the Lawson school house, last Friday night, on the proposition for our county to take stock in the new railroad, and the judges decided that we ought to do it. *The Hutchinson News, Thursday, January 1, 1880. Page 1.*

### **Sego**

I have the pleasure this week of chronicling the marriage of Miss **Lucinda Loyd** and **John J. Layman**. I extend congratulations and only regret that the arrival of unexpected guests caused the supply of cake to run short so that there was none left for the rural editorial corps of the News.

During the gale of Sunday a spark from the stove pipe of **Mitchel Stevens** caught in some woods in his peach orchard and was instantly fanned into a blaze and we instantly had a prairie fire booming. Of course with such a gale it was impossible to control it in the least, and much damage was done.

Among the casualties the following is a partial list: **Peter Hartman** lost his house, furniture, barn, hay, and grain, and barely saving himself by driving out into the middle of a forty acre wheat field. **Hayden Long** lost his barn, hay, and about one hundred bushels of corn. **George Knight's** house caught fire twice, and was saved.

THIS ISSUE: NEW BEGINNINGS

**A man** in Roscoe lost his stable, hay and grain, cow, and five hogs. **Mrs. Mann** was alone at home with three small children when she saw the fire coming, left the children in bed and ran to the neighbors for help, not finding anybody at home at Long's she started for **Hoagland's**. He saw her coming and ran to meet her, passing Long's he saw a horse in the stable, which he mounted and by running it he reached Mann's just as the bed in which the children were, caught fire thus barely saving their lives. The stable from which he took the horse burned before he got back.

There was a vast amount of hay burned on the Ninnescah bottoms and the fire jumped the river near Castleton. There was also a severe fire in Bell township the same day. This fire, we understand, started near Saratoga, Pratt county. *The Hutchinson News. Thursday, January 1, 1880. Page 1.*

### Nickerson

We took in Nickerson last Monday evening. Our experience is that the **Harlow** House is a good place to get supper. The proprietor is just as glad to see everybody, as if the entire traveling public were his most intimate friends. **Locke & Crane** had their usual store full of customers. The saloon windows blazed brightly, and their number indicates that Nickerson would be better off for the passage of the prohibitory amendment. We met **E. C. Edwards**, of the firm of Edwards Bros. & Fair. He reports that town as at about an average. He says that every town from Newton to Great Bend is figuring for the southwest branch of the Kansas Pacific. All the hopes, however, are entertained at Sterling and Hutchinson. *The Hutchinson News.. January 1, 1880. Page 1.*

### Geraniums & Wine

A correspondent wishes to know the best way to winter geraniums. The best and cheapest way is to sling 'em over the back fence and buy a new lot in the spring. We've come to this conclusion since the late freeze.

If you drink wine, you will walk in winding ways; if you carry too much beer, the beer will soon carry you; if you drink brandy punches, you will get punches; and if you always get the best of whisky, whisky will get the best of you. *The Hutchinson News. Thurs., January 1, 1880. Page 1.*

### Edward Handy Weds

MARRIED - On Thursday evening, December 25, 1879, at the residence of the bride's parents, on east First street, by **Rev. D.M. Moore**, Miss **Minnie Hale** and Mr. **E.S. Handy**, all of Hutchinson.

Our friends, **Edward S. Handy**, Esq., and Miss **Minnie Hale**, both of Hutchinson, were married on Christmas evening. Not many invitations were issued, only to the most intimate friends. The News was not of that number but offers its congratulations just the same as if it had been. *The Hutchinson News, Hutchinson, Kansas. Thursday, January 1, 1880. Pages 1, 3.*

*However, the competing Herald newspaper rubbed it in a bit:* The Herald outfit returns thanks for a bountiful supply of wedding cake from the **Handy-Hale** wedding, we hope the young folks have a long and happy life before them, and that they may always be able to have as good cake for themselves as they gave the printers. *The Hutchinson Herald, Hutchinson, Kansas. Saturday, January 3, 1880. Page 3.*

### Salt Creek Township

During the past three weeks there has been three births in Salt Creek township. **Mrs. William Lawrence** presented her husband with a daughter, **Mrs. Lon Beattie** her's with a son, and **Mrs. Risly** her's with a daughter. Let the good work go on. *The Hutchinson News, Hutchinson, Kansas. Thursday, January 1, 1880. Page 1).*

### The Prairie Fire

We hear from **Zeno Tharp** that on Sunday last, during the heavy wind, an immense prairie fire burnt over a large portion of Roscoe, Troy, and Castleton townships, sweeping almost everything before it; houses, barns, and grain. Several farmers were entirely burnt out.

We understand that **Sam Slack** had 45 tons of hay destroyed by the fire on Sunday. **Dr. Wiley Brown**, of Buffalo City, lost about 500 tons of hay by the fire last Sunday. *The Hutchinson Herald, Hutchinson, Kansas. Saturday, January 3, 1880. Page 2.*

### Personals

One of the proprietors of the Reeves House was in town on Wednesday. He looked fat and slick, therefore we conclude that the Reeves House sets up a pretty good grub to the boys.

**Jake Acker**, rumor says, is soon to take unto himself a better half.

**Joe McClelland** was down from Nickerson on Wednesday, smiling and happy. We asked him the cause and he said it was caused by the girl baby that they have at their house. Joe says the boys already want to come to see her. *The Hutchinson Herald, Saturday, January 3, 1880. Pg 2.*

## Langdon Township

All Langdon township is lively, preparing for the holiday sports and pastimes. There is to be a Christmas tree at the Langdon school house on Christmas eve, a district school dinner by the patrons and neighbors of Langdon school, on Christmas day, for the pupils of **B. P. Hanan's** school - a dinner and neck-tie part at the same house on New Year's eve for the benefit of the Methodist minister, **Rev. Heton**.

**E. L. Jewell** teaches the public school in Arlington, **Miss Sue Jordan** at Jordan Springs, **Mr. Kelsey** at Maple Grove, and **H.P. Hannah** at Langdon.

**Mr. Adolph Wendling** and new wife are comfortably fixed in their new residence. More weddings are said to be near at hand. Young babies are the order of business in several families.

**E. Crump** has succeeded so well with one hundred and twenty-five sheep that he wants to get as many more.

Stallville, the new post office on the line between Plevna and Langdon townships is in full running order. It gets its mail from Langdon which is carried by **Mr. Charles Cecil** and his sister **Jennie**.

**William Harris** had a dance at his house a few nights ago, and, I am told, some rascal's horses ate up about seven bushels of his corn and half a millet stack.

It is reported that a protracted meeting will be started by **Rev. Heton**, next Monday night, to counteract the dancing parties. *The Hutchinson News, Thursday, December 25, 1879. Page 1.*

**Charles Collins** went to Topeka this week. *Herald, Jan. 3. Pg. 3.*

## Valley Township

The district schools in Valley, will, I think, compare favorably with those of any state. **Mr. James Caskey** is in charge at the Van Sickle, **Mrs. Maury** at the White, **Mr. Stout** at the Vose, and **Mr. W. McCandless** at the Lawson school house, which names insure the best discipline, and most rapid progress. The White school house has twice been broken into by tramps. The last time they broke into the coal house and made themselves comfortable by the use of plenty of coal. They disturbed nothing else, but scattered ashes and cornstalks over the floor.

***A cat came near destroying the gravity of the Lawson school singing class the other night.***

**Mr. J. A. Rawlins** is the proudest man in Valley, and thinks himself a thousand dollar bill better off for the possession of another boy whom he has agreed to name **Lewis**.

**Mr. T.N. McElvaine** has brushed up his boots and powdered his hair, for the purpose of sparking by a corn-stalk fire.

**Rev. D. Kingrey**, of Burrton, preaches at the White School House next Sunday at three o'clock p.m.

BORN - On Tuesday morning, December 30, 1879, to **Mrs. H.P. Truesdell**, of Hutchinson, a boy - weight ten pounds. *The Hutchinson News, January 1, 1880. Page 1).*

H.P. Truesdale and wife are again happy. It is a boy this time, and arrived in this strange world at 12 o'clock Monday night. **Mr. T.** is not mean about it either: he gave us a good cigar. *The Hutchinson Herald, Jan. 3. Pg 3.*

## The Week of Prayer

The following program has been adopted by the United States Evangelical Alliance for the week of prayer, January 4 to 10, 1880:

Sunday, January 4 - Sermons on the "Fullness of Christ's Salvation."

Monday, January 5 - Thanks giving for the blessings of the past year and prayer for their continuance.

Tuesday, January 6 - Confession of sin and humiliation before God.

Wednesday, January 7 - Prayer for the Church of Christ, its ministers, its growth in grace, and its enlargement; and for revivals of religion throughout the country.

Thursday, January 8 - Prayer for Christian education: for the family and institutions of learning, for Sunday Schools, and for Christian associations.

Friday, January 9 - Prayer for the nation's rulers and people, for peace and for religious liberty.

Saturday, January 10 - Prayer for home and foreign missions, for the outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh, and the conversion of the unsaved in the world. *The Hutchinson News, Thursday, January 1, 1880. Page 1).*

## Where's The Dog?

**A lady from the western part of Reno County who read in a newspaper that baking powder was a good thing, thought she'd bake some, and her old man, on arriving where the cabin had once stood, said he wouldn't mind the affair so much if she'd let the dog out before blowing herself and the property to glory in that style.** *The Hutchinson News, Thursday, February 12, 1880. Page 4.*



## Rev. James Newman

Rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church, advertised: "Services every Sabbath in the Baptist Church, at 3 p.m. and Sunday School at 2:00 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all."

The Episcopalians had special services at the Baptist Church on Christmas morning, **Mr. Newman** officiating. The same gentleman went to Sterling and celebrated the day similarly, in the evening.

The "boys" presented **Rev. Mr. Newman** with a splendid gold-headed cane, appropriately inscribed. It will serve to support his tottering footsteps as he travels the journey of life.

**Parson Newman** wears a gold headed cane. See his card to the boys. He is a mighty nice man and it is no wonder the boys like him. Every body likes him.

**To The Boys.** I would take this opportunity to thank you for your very handsome present. I trust that the friendship of which the gift is an indication, will be very materially strengthened by further acquaintance. Your gift will ever be one of my most cherished possessions, not so much for its intrinsic value as for what it expresses. The compliment that is paid me is fully appreciated. Sincerely, **J. Newman.** *The Hutchinson News, Thursday, January 1 1880. Page 2.*

**Rev. James Newman** leaves us next Monday, perhaps never to return. He is going back to old England to his parents. His host of friends - which is composed of all his acquaintances - will deeply regret his departure. *The Hutchinson Herald, Hutchinson, Kansas. Saturday, June 26, 1880. Page 3.*

The Sunflower is published quarterly by the Reno County (Kansas) Genealogical Society, PO Box 5, Hutchinson, Kansas 67504. To be added to the mailing list, submit materials, or for more information about the content listed in this issue, contact **Darren McMannis**, at [Sunflower@RenoCountyRoots.com](mailto:Sunflower@RenoCountyRoots.com). RCGS reserves the right to edit submissions and other material for space, content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. This newsletter may be freely photocopied and distributed, in its entirety, as long as it is not reproduced for profit or personal gain.

## Christmas 1879

Although the weather was awfully cold, the festivities of Christmas were never more enjoyed, nor the presents more beautiful and numerous than this day one week ago. Larger lots of holiday goods and more high priced articles were sold than ever before. Owing to the stress of weather, not a very large amount of business was done.

The members of his Presbyterian congregation presented **Rev. D.M. Moore** with a roll of bank notes, amounting to sixty dollars, as an evidence of good feeling.

Mr. **C.B. Winslow** was presented with a splendid solid gold watch chain, by his business partner, Mr. **Leo Albright**, and retaliated by giving Leo a diamond pin for his shirt front. Both presents were elegant. **Mrs. Winslow** was also presented, by her husband, with a black gros grain silk dress, with appropriate trimmings. Miss **Annie Winslow** received a beautiful set of jewelry.

The News office celebrated by getting out one issue of the best and "leading" paper in the valley; and then its force, after receiving from the management munificent presents, and bestowing on him expensive and tasty testimonials of respect and esteem, dispersed and enjoyed themselves in such ways as they saw fit. No business was done in the office during the day.

Several of the boys got very drunk during the day and evening, which was not only unappropriate, but also unright.

The weather celebrated by moderating about forty degrees. Taking it all in all, it was a better Christmas, and was better and more agreeably celebrated than usual. *The Hutchinson News, Thursday, January 1, 1880. Page 3.*

## RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Presewing Our Yesteryears!*

PO BOX 5 HUTCHINSON KS 67504  
[RenoCoGenSoc@gmail.com](mailto:RenoCoGenSoc@gmail.com)

[www.RenoCountyRoots.com](http://www.RenoCountyRoots.com)

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