

Echoes Across the Plains

By Dorothy L. Mast

The covered wagons just kept on coming and coming across the plains.

Several young people and adults have asked, "What was a patent and how did my grandfather or grandmother get one?"

It might surprise you the number of single women or widows that acquired patents. One such woman, Miss Etta Lynn, acquired two patents, a "Five-year Proven Up," and a "Timber Claim." She taught in the first private school in 1885 in Bird City on the first floor of the Court house building. She also became the first superintendent of schools in Cheyenne County.

Another surprise might be if you note the very first entry on your land abstract. That could be a patent with a special number. It might even tell you the type of patent.

There are several types of patents.

The "preemption" act of 1841 - A preemption was the right to purchase land before others. The Federal Government had a problem administering a land law of the public domain during Washington's administration. The problem was how to provide an equitable method of distributing

land to private owners. The first policy allowed large tracts of land to big interests. A different policy was adopted that allowed the purchase of land for low prices by the sworn in settler.

There were two main methods of securing land in the 1850s:

1. One was by means of Soldiers' Military Bounty Land Warrant. Since 1776 land warrants had been given as a reward to the Nation's soldiers.

2. The land law of 1841 is known as the preemption act. This act provided that the head of a family or widow or single man over 21 years of age could file for 160 acres of public domain.

This claimant by law was required to erect a dwelling on the claim, make proof of his settlement to the register and receiver at the land office for which that official received fifty cents for each claimant. The latter in accordance with the specifications laid down was required to swear that -

- a. He had never preempted before.
- b. That he was not the owner of 320 acres of any state or territory.
- c. He had not settled on the land for the purpose of selling it.

d. He had no agreement or contract with anyone directly or indirectly to turn the land over to anyone else.

Persons swearing falsely were guilty of perjury according to the law and the perjurer was penalized by both the loss of the land and the money.

The Railroad Act - 1850

This act of 1850 granted to the states alternate sections of public land on either side of the railroad lines and branches to aid in the Construction of certain railroads.

An amendment under the Homestead Act allowed an ex-soldier of the Civil War who had served nine months to take 160 acres of land within the limits of a railroad grant whereas all other settlers could only take 80 acres.

Sources - Sod House Frontier by Everett Dick

Gov. - Military records
Early Bird City Newspapers
Note - One must remember that when someone staked a claim in those early times, he or she might have to travel a long distance to a land office by wagon, horseback or walk to file. Fifty cents at that time was a considerable amount of money. DM

Next month - The Homestead Act if 1862 and how it affected this area.

Resolution adopted to hold election for mill levy raise

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The Cheyenne County Commissioners adopted a resolution authorizing a special election to raise the mill levy to support a nursing home in the county.

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, had prepared the resolution specifying the wording for the ballot in the Aug. 2 election. The ballot with only a yes or no box, asks the question, "Shall the county of Cheyenne County levy a tax not to exceed 6 mills for a home for the aged?"

The resolution was reviewed then by a vote of 2-0, it was passed.

Clerk and election officer, Terry Miller, was instructed to start setting up the election. It will be a special election but, since primary elections are generally held the first Tuesday in August, they thought this would be a good date for this election.

Ryan Murray, emergency manager, had brought in a burn ban resolution which had been adopted in another Kansas county. Attorney Gilliland said she would look it over as well as reviewing another resolution dealing with building permits that will affect the airport runway.

Sheriff's report

Sheriff Craig Van Allen reported that one of the department's pickups had been damaged and he wanted direction as to whether he should have it repaired as it still was in operating condition. The commissioners told him to get the estimates and have it fixed.

The sheriff's department covers the law in the city of Bird City. There is a contract between the county and the city. Sheriff Van Allen said it will soon be time to renew the contract and the commissioners need to be thinking about what arrangements the county will make with the city. He will do a cost-analysis and the commissioners will have some numbers to make comparisons.

Road and bridge department report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had two highway crossing permits for Tri-State Irrigation to bore under a county road. The two areas where they will bore are 1/2 mile apart and one will be for electricity and the other for water. The permits were approved.

Mr. Flemming asked for 5 minutes executive session to discuss personnel. When coming out, no decisions were made.

Meetings

The commissioners approved Terry Miller, clerk, and Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, to go to meetings. Miller will go to abstract training in Salina and Hays; Mr. Lohr will go to a Kansas Department of Transportation meeting dealing with roadside cleanup and spraying of right-of-ways.

In other business

An abatement for property cleanup was signed for Leslie Hook. The cost of the work was added to her taxes after she bought the property. They also dropped the interest and publication charges.

The ambulance write offs for April were \$3,767.

The fair board asked to have Mary Morrow, register of deeds, print this year's fair book. The

board will supply the paper. The cost will be one-fourth of the normal printing costs. The request was approved.

Shawna Heath discussed "Options" which was formally titled as Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence. She asked that the county continue to support the service. No decisions were made.

Vicki Hubin attended the meeting and discussed the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. She also asked for the county's continued financial support. No decisions were made.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday. Ordinarily, the commissioner's meeting begins at 8 a.m. but, this meeting will start at 7:30 a.m. with the St. Francis City Council

Student receives Ford scholarship

Craig Busse, a 2011 graduate of Cheylin High School FFA, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by Yost Ford Mercury and Ford Motor Company. Busse's parents are Stephen and Janice Busse of Bird City. Craig plans to study agricultural business management at Kansas State University.

The Built Ford Tough Trucks FFA Scholarship Program is designed to recognize FFA members' talents and accomplishments while encouraging their future academic achievements.

The scholarship is one of 526 scholarships awarded by Ford Division, Ford Motor Company Fund and Ford dealers to FFA members who are high school seniors planning to attend college in the fall of 2011, as well as current collegiate students. This pro-

gram is a part of Ford's overall commitment to the National FFA Foundation.

Additionally, five National \$1,000 Built Ford Tough scholarships are being awarded on behalf of Ford Motor Company. Ford Truck sponsors these five scholarships as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Ford has supported the National FFA Foundation since the first F-Series truck was introduced in 1948, and has sponsored the Built Ford Tough collegiate scholarship program since 1997. To date, the program has awarded more than \$6,586,000 in scholarships to more than 6,586 FFA members throughout the country.

Ford knows the value of hard work and believes that hard work should be rewarded. Educating aspiring young people to become



Busse

the leaders of tomorrow is just another way of ensuring a successful future.

The National FFA organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of American, is a national youth organization of 523,309 student members as part of 7,487 local FFA Chapters in all 50 states. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

A scholarship was also given to Tyler Lauer, a St. Francis graduate.

Club Clip

Go-Getters

The Bird City Go-Getters met at the Lutheran Church in Bird City on May 5. Roll call was answered by "What is your favorite animal?" Seven members and five adults attended the meeting.

Members making a quilt block for the state 4-H quilt. Each 4-H'er received a kit to make their own block.

911 signs will be distributed and placed near rural residences once the story regarding this runs in the local newspapers.

Fair news: It was announced

that the livestock pictures are to be taken before the premium sale. Also, the food stand will have different hours this year.

It was voted on and approved that any Go-Getter wanting to attend 4-H camp this summer, is eligible for a \$25 sponsorship from our group.

The next meeting of the Bird City Go Getters is planned for Thursday, June 2, at 6:30 at the Lutheran Church in Bird City.

Dominique Johnston
Reporter

Deadlines !! Deadlines
We know how all of us hate deadlines — But in order for us to do our best and try to keep you happy, please note below The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times deadlines.

Articles and Ad are due Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's paper

The Saint Francis Herald
Bird City Times

Remember your loved ones, this Memorial Day by having

The Classic Rose Florist

The Classic Rose make that special arrangement and deliver to your cemetery site. We specialize in fresh and silk flowers, patio planters & hanging baskets.

Ranging in price from \$20 and up.

The Classic Rose — RoseMary
116 Washington Street • 785-332-2200

RICHARDSON'S HOMESTEAD REALTY AND AUCTION

Absolute Land Auction
Monday, June 13th, 10 a.m. CDT
at Captains Hooks Diner
Intersections of Hwy. 27 & 36, Wheeler, KS.
160 acres of Cheyenne County KS. Land For Better Horizons LLC
SW ¼ 14-3-42

Buyer to receive landlords share of 2011 wheat crop. Prime Western Kansas farm land.

For more information, complete sale bill and pictures go to www.goodlandhomestead.com
Contact Terry L. Richardson, Broker/Auctioneer
785-899-2328, 800-974-2426 or 785-899-8094 cell
Homestead Realty & Auction
1023 Main, Goodland, KS.

TERY RICHARDSON
OWNER/BROKER/AUCTIONEER
terry@goodlandhomestead.com
785-899-2328 or 800-974-2426
www.goodlandhomestead.com

Help Support Cheyenne County July 4th Celebration
(America's 235th and Kansas' 150th Birthdays)
With your financial support we will make this a Cheyenne County Tradition.

July 4th evening from 8-11 p.m.
near U.S. Highway 36 & College Street,
St. Francis, KS

- *Professional fireworks display set to patriotic music lasting approx. 50 minutes.
- *Food & drinks provided by the Girl Scouts and Cheyenne Shrine Club
- *An all American Summer Evening with family and friends

In Bird City: Drop off your donation at Hometown Market or Monty's Beef Jerky. In St. Francis at Parkhill Restaurant, Hilltop General Store or Uptown Meat Market or mail to Joyce Russ, treasurer, P.O. Box 673, St. Francis, Ks. 67756. Make your check payable to CheyCo July 4th. A little will help a lot. Thank you.

UNRESERVED LAND AUCTION

820 Acres Irrigated, Dryland & CRP
Wallace County, Kansas
Wednesday, June 8, 2011
10:00 AM, MST
Elk's Club—Goodland, KS

Land Location: 16.7 Miles South of Kanorado on Road SH3.

This land will be offered in 4 individual tracts & combinations of tracts.

Legal Descriptions
Tract 1: NW/4 of Sec. 20-11-42
Tract 2: SW/4 of Sec. 20-11-42
Tract 3: E/2 of Sec. 20-11-42
Tract 4: SE/4 of Sec. 17-11-42

Seller:
Ann Marie Rafacz Trust

Listing Agent & Auctioneer
Tom Harrison - 785-443-0136

Call For Sale Bill

United Country Auction Services
HomeLand Realty & Auction
1112 Main
Goodland, KS 67735
785-899-3060
www.HomeLandRE.com
office@homelandre.com