

# Obituaries of Cooper Countians 1940-1949

**11 Apr 1940**

**Issue of the Boonville Daily News**

**For Mrs. Jennie Potter**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

## **MRS. JENNIE POTTER DIES IN CLIFTON CITY Funeral Rites To Be Held Tomorrow Afternoon - Had Been Ill For Several Months**

CLIFTON CITY - Mrs. Jennie Potter, 64, died at her home here Wednesday afternoon about 5:15 o'clock. She had been ill for several months.

The funeral services will be held at the Clifton City Methodist Church at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The Rev. O. A. Winscott of Bunceton is to conduct the services. Burial will be in the Pilot Grove Cemetery.

Mrs. Potter is survived by her husband, J. J. Potter of Clifton City, and her mother, Mrs. W. R. Phillips of Pilot Grove.

She was born near Marshall Dec. 15, 1875. She was married to J. J. Potter in 1915.

Hayes and Painter of Pilot Grove have charge of funeral arrangements.

**15 Mar 1940**

**Issue of the Boonville Weekly Advertiser**

**Edwin Miles Paul**

**Ethel Cassel**

## **TWO RESIDENTS OF COUNTY HOME KILLED BY CAR**

A.J. Huss Driver, Apparently Saw Miles Paul And Ethel Cassel Too Late

Two residents of the Cooper County Home, Edwin Miles Paul, 69 and Ethel Cassel, 45 were struck by and automobile and killed about 7:00 o'clock Sunday (10 March 1940) night as they left the institution grounds to attend church services in Boonville.

A.J.[Buddy] Huss, driver of the car apparently saw them too late to avoid a crash. They were believed to have stepped from the South driveway of the County Home into the path of the automobile.

Dr. J.C. Tinchler, County Corner, and Sheriff, Clay Groom, called to the scene, said no inquest would be held and no charges were filed.

Huss, works at Miller's Drug Store, was on his way to Prairie Home.

A third resident of the home, Mrs. Mary Korte, was with Mr. Paul and Miss Cassel, but was not injured.

The man's chest was crushed, his head injured and both legs were broken, according to Dr. Tinchler. His body was found several yards in front of the point where the car skidded to stop.

The woman's neck was broken. Dr. Tinchler said. Her body was found at the side of the road opposite the automobile. The Coroner said he believed both died instantly.

Mr. Paul, formerly lived in Prairie Home Community and later in Boonville. He is survived by a son, Horace Paul, Alexis, IL; a daughter Mrs. Minnie McNulty, Pacific Grove, CA.

Miss Cassel had been transferred to the county home from the State School at Marshall and has no immediate relatives.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete today pending word from Mr. Paul's survivors. It was said at the Goodman & Boller funeral parlor.

Funeral service were held at the Goodman & Boller Chapel, Tuesday afternoon for Miss Cassel, conducted by Rev. Geraldine Grebe former pastor of the Four Square Church here. Burial was in the city cemetery.

The body of Miles Paul, the other victim of the accident, was taken to Holden for funeral services.

**29 Aug 1941**

**Issue of the Boonville Weekly Advertiser**

**For J. Henry Stretz**

**Submitted by Julie Spencer**

J. Henry Stretz, 79, died at his home in Boonville Saturday night at 11:30 o'clock. Although he had been in ill health for three years his death was unexpected. Funeral services were conducted at SS Peter and Paul's Catholic church, with burial in the Catholic cemetery.

Mr. Stretz is survived by his widow and 10 children; Mrs. John Walje of Sedalia, Mrs. Rose Taylor of the home, Lawrence Stretz of Boonville, Norbert and Ernest of Compton, Calif., Mrs. Mary Sonnen of Kansas City, Virgil Stretz and Mrs. Ernest Barbano of Compton, Calif., Mrs. Harold Brummel of Lee's Summit, and Leonard Stretz of Boonville; by four step-children, Mrs. Joe Sinclair, Mrs. Leo B. Schmidt and Urban Gantner of Boonville, and Earl Gantner of Jacksonville, Fla., by 33 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Stretz was born June 23, 1862, in Boonville, the son of Frank and Magdalena Rider Stretz. He attended the Catholic school in Boonville. For more than 50 years he was a bricklayer, contractor and a manufacturer of brick. In 1905 he and Louis Gantner formed a partnership and established a brick manufacturing plant here. The firm also did a general contracting business.

He was married in 1886 to Miss Mittie Edwards. She died Feb. 21, 1898. On Nov. 30, 1899, he was married to Mrs. Mary Gantner. Mr. Stretz is a member of the Catholic church and the Knights of Columbus. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Two children, Henry and Ferdinand preceded him in death.

**11 Sep 1941**

**Issue of the Cooper County Record**

**For Mrs. Martha L. Potter**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

Funeral services were held at the Goodman and Boller Chapel Sunday afternoon for Mrs. Martha Louise Potter, 96. The Rev. Perry P. Taylor, Methodist pastor, officiated and burial was in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Pallbearers were William J. Hurt, Leroy Wallenmeyer, Charles Knorp, Eugene Hall, Roy Brown, and Mr. Dishion. Mrs. Potter died Saturday morning at the home of a niece, Mrs. Smith, at Prairie Home.

She was born in Cooper County, January 20, 1845, a daughter of Jesse and Rachel McFarland George, and spent her entire life in this community. Her husband preceded her in death. Two sons and two daughters were born of the union.

Among those she leaves are two grandsons, Muril S. Potter, El Paso, Texas, and William Eakin, Kansas City; and several nieces and nephews.

**20 Mar 1942**

**Issue of the Bunceton Eagle**

**For Gilla Cole Roe**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

**Page 1**

**MRS. R. S. ROE DIES SUNDAY MORNING  
Funeral Services Were Held Tuesday Afternoon at the Presbyterian Church –  
Burial at Mt. Nebo**

Mrs. Gilla Cole Roe, 83, died Sunday morning at 10:40 at the home of her son, Sam Roe, of near Syracuse, following a month's serious illness.

Gilla Corum Cole was born near Bell Air Jan. 25, 1859, and was the youngest daughter of Samuel and Katie Cole. She was a granddaughter of Hannah Cole.

At the age of 18 she was married to Hogan Tillman Solomon, and to this union three children were born, two of whom survive: Mrs. Cordelia Painter of Bell Air; and E. E. Solomon of New Franklin.

Following of Mr. Solomon, she later married to Robert S. Roe, March 6, 1892 and to this union six children were born, five of whom survive. They are: Mrs. Grace Putnam and Samuel C. Roe of near Syracuse; Mrs. Adda Gander and Joe Roe of Topeka, Kans.; and Truman T. Roe of Kansas City.

Also surviving are two step-children: Mrs. Lena Doyle of Boonville and Lovell Roe of Grand Rapids, Iowa, and a large number of grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Since the death of Mr. Roe in Dec. 1922, Mrs. Roe had made her home in Bunceton until last fall when, because of failing health, she gave up housekeeping and went to live with her children.

Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 conducted by the Rev. C. S. Young, pastor of the Methodist church. Burial was in the Mt. Nebo cemetery.

Pallbearers were six grandsons: Robert Painter of Great Lakes, Ill., Edgar Painter of Boonville, Maurice Solomon of Columbia, T. J. Putnam of Syracuse, Ed Roe Oswald and Harold Oswald, both of Chicago.

Among those from a distance who attended the funeral were: Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Roe and children, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Gander and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rodell, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Sneden, and M. M. Small, all of Topeka, Kans.; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Roe

Oswald and Harold and Tillman Oswald of Chicago; Virgil Oswald, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Solomon and Mrs. Julius Stegner and daughter of Columbia; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ilmes, Misses Margaret and Ellen Ilmes, and Mr. and Mrs. Horace Cash, all of Warrensburg; Porter Cash, Earl Holliday and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Painter of Boonville; Dee Roe, Mrs. Bowhon, L. O. Neal, Jim Cole and Mrs. Fay Leiter of Sedalia; Verne Lee Oswald of Clinton; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Woolery of Glenstead; Robert Painter of Great Lakes, Ill.; Miss Marie Painter of St. Louis; Truman Roe of Kansas City; J. E. Solomon of Malta Bend and Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Solomon of New Franklin; and Mrs. C. F. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Groves and Oli Groves of Tipton.

**17 Apr 1942**

**Issue of the Bunceton Eagle**

**For Hibber C. Stephens**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

**Page 1, Column 3**

#### **HIBBER C. STEPHENS FUNERAL SERVICE**

**Bunceton Resident Died at Home on Saturday – Rites Were Held at Parker Funeral Home Sun.**

Funeral services for Hibber C. Stephens, who died at his home in Bunceton Saturday April 11, were held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Parker Funeral Home. The Rev. C. S. Young, pastor of the local Methodist Church, conducted the rites. Burial was in the Bunceton Masonic cemetery.

Pallbearers were: William Doran, Earl Ford, Julius Kopp, Herman Kopp, J. S. Daniel and Frank Harris.

Hibber Corum Stephens, son of Joseph Lawrence and Lydia Corum Stephens, was born near Bunceton Dec. 29, 1859. He was one of seven children. On Feb. 20, 1910, he was married to Miss Cora Palmberg, who preceded him in death July 25, 1929.

Mr. Stephens lived most of his life in Cooper County and for a number of years conducted a meat market in Bunceton. In early manhood, he became a member of the Presbyterian Church and continued in that faith through life.

He is survived by one brother, John A. Stephens of Bunceton, and six nephews and six nieces.

**17 Apr 1942**

**Issue of the Bunceton Eagle**

**For Mrs. Molly Cole**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **MRS. MOLLIE COLE DIES SATURDAY**

**Funeral Services Were Held at the Mt. Nebo Church Saturday at 2:30 P.M.**

Funeral services for Mrs. Mollie Cole Ewing Cole, 81, who died at her home in the Mt. Nebo community Thursday, April 9, were held Saturday afternoon at 2:30 at the Mt. Nebo Baptist church. The Rev. Roy Williams of Kansas City conducted the rites. Burial was in the Bunceton Masonic cemetery.

Mrs. Cole was the widow of Joseph S. Cole, whose death occurred about eighteen years ago. She was born at New Lebanon, Mo., and had spent most of her life in the same community. She was a member of the New Lebanon Presbyterian church.

Surviving are two daughters, Miss Celeste Cole and Miss Inez Cole of the home; a son, Horace Cole of Pilot Grove; two grandchildren, Jean and Joseph Cole; and two sisters, Mrs. Oscar Brownfield of Otterville, and Mrs. Charles Edmonston of Bunceton.

**30 Jul 1942**

**Issue of the Boonville Daily News**

**For Mrs. Harriett Ann nee' Allison Potter**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **MRS. H. A. POTTER SERVICES HELD THIS AFTERNOON**

**Blackwater Woman Died Tuesday Morning at Home of Daughter, Mrs. Eva Helm, Near Blackwater**

NELSON - Mrs. Harriett Ann Potter died Tuesday morning, July 28, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Eva Helm, near Blackwater. Had she lived until October 18, she would have been 94 years of age.

A daughter of Nathaniel T. and Ruth Goodrich Allison, she was born in Cooper County in the community where she lived her entire life. She was married to George Rothwell Potter, who died October 29, 1914.

To this union were born three sons and a daughter. Two sons died in infancy. The eldest, William Allison Potter, lived to be 30 and was married October 5, 1890, to Miss Mary Ann Jones. He died the winter of 1899.

Miss Eva Leona Potter was married July 7, 1901 to Mr. Helm, who died in September 1934.

Surviving Mrs. Potter are her daughter, six grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild. She was a charter member of the Peninsula Baptist Church where her funeral was held this afternoon at 2:30.

Mrs. Potter had a history of the Allison family which dates back to the Allison of Scotland, who were in possession of Yardley Hall, county of Cambridge, for five generations. Her grandson, Rupert Helm, had procured for her a reproduction of the Allison coat of arms, with the motto "Vincit Veritas" meaning "truth prevails."

**31 Jul 1942**

**Issue of the Bunceton Eagle**

**Lon C. Force**

Lon Force, 87 died Wednesday evening at his home here.

He had been in failing health for several years.

Mr. Force lived in Bunceton practically all his life coming here from Boonville when a boy. He was a carpenter, working at his trade as long as his health permitted.

Alonzo L. Force, son of Christian C. and Harriett nee' McCarthey Force was born Feb. 27, 1855 in Boonville, Mo. Aug 16, 1881 he married Miss Emma E. Hepler and to this union one daughter was born.

He is survived by his widow, the daughter, Mrs. Grace M. Tuckley and three grandsons: Joseph Tuckley of the home, Edgar Tuckley of Springfield, Mo. And Hillard Tuckley of the U. S. Army and stationed at Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyo.

Funeral services will be held today.

From the Bunceton Eagle

**12 Apr 1943**

**Issue of the Boonville Daily News**

**For Mrs. Robert Moore**

**Submitted by Mrs. Neil Smith**

#### **Mrs. Robert More Dies Near Pilot Grove**

Funeral Services Will Be at 2:00 o'clock Tomorrow Afternoon at Methodist Church, Pilot Grove

Mrs. Robert Moore of near Pilot Grove, died April 9 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Aubrey Hazel, following a long illness.

Mrs. Moore, the former Mary Elizabeth Baugh, was born near Pilot Grove, October 12, 1869, and lived in this community nearly all her life. She was married to Robert Moore on December 23, 1889. Mr. Moore preceded her in death on December, 1942.

She is survived by three children, Mrs. Aubrey Hazel, of Pilot Grove, Mrs. Harry Turner of American Falls, Idaho, and Henry Moore of Boise, Idaho. One child died in infancy. Also surviving are a brother and sister, Dr. H. G. Baugh of ShoShone, Idaho, and Mrs. Sally Edwards of Boonville.

The body was brought to the Hays-Painter funeral home in Pilot Grove and then moved to the home of Mrs. Aubrey Hazel yesterday. Funeral services will be at 2:00 o'clock tomorrow afternoon at the Pilot Grove Methodist church, the Rev. Wm. Rapply officiating.

**03 Jan 1944**

**Issue of the Boonville Daily News**

**For Holbert Cole**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **Holbert Cole Dies Near Otterville**

OTTERVILLE - Holbert Cole, a retired farmer, died December 31 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Sprinkle, near Otterville.

He was born near Bunceton September 18, 1860. On January 4, 1882, he married Miss Sallie Anne Solomon who preceded him in death on October 3, 1922. Two sons also preceded him in death, Aubrey Cole, March 1922, and Arthur Cole, December, 1933.

He is survived by the following children: Ernest Cole, Prairie Home; Charles Cole, Herlong, Calif.; F. L. Cole, Otterville; Porter Cole, Smithton; Mrs. John Sprinkle, Otterville; Mrs. Roy Ross and Mrs. Don Keefer, Rochester, Mich.; also 29 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. There are six grandsons serving in the armed forces: Marcum, Kenneth, Wallace, Elmo, Farrie Jr., and Frank Cole.

Cole was a great grandson of Hannah Cole, first pioneer resident of Cooper County. He had spent most of his life in Cooper County.

For many years he had been a member of the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church where funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon with the Rev. William Tatom of Otterville officiating.

**26 Apr 1944**

**Issue of the Boonville Daily News**

**For William Andrew Hurt**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **Pioneer Herford Breeder Is Dead**

William Andrew Hurt, a son of the first white child born in Cooper County, passed away at his home a mile east of Boonville last night at 11:45. Mr. Hurt was a prominent Cooper Countian, and was the oldest breeder of Hereford cattle in this county.

Mr. Hurt will lie in state at the Goodman and Boller Funeral Chapel until tomorrow morning, when he will be removed to his home where he will lie in state until time for the services. At this time, funeral arrangements are incomplete pending the arrival of a son from Texas.

Surviving along with his widow is one son, Sydney Hurt, of Waco, Tex., and two daughters, Miss Margaret Hurt of the home and Mrs. James Farris, of Boonville.

He would have been 94 years old on May 16. He had been in failing health for twelve years. When he was 82 years old, he broke his ankle. He had been seriously ill for the past two years and recently suffered a heart attack and took a turn for the worse last Wednesday.

Mr. Hurt farmed with his father until 1876 when he bought a farm of his own. He married Miss Nancy Elizabeth Johnston in 1878. She is a sister of the late Col. T. A. Johnston, superintendent of Kemper Military school.

**16 Jul 1945**

**Issue of the Boonville Daily News**

**For Herman M. Stretz**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **Lifelong Resident of Boonville Dies**

Herman M. Stretz passed away at the St. Joseph hospital yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. Stretz had been ill for four weeks, but was only admitted to the hospital Saturday.

He was born Sept. 9, 1884 in Boonville, the son of Frank and Margaret Whitman Stretz. He attended and graduated from the parochial school and was a lifelong member of SS Peter and Paul Catholic church.

On Nov. 21, 1905 he was united in marriage with Miss Minnie Knack and to this union four children were born, two of whom died in infancy. He is survived by his wife and two children, Rosemary of the home and Harold of St. Louis, Mo., and by three grandchildren, Richard, Karen, and John Stretz, all of St. Louis. He also leaves four sisters, Mrs. John Schiebrele of Joplin, Mrs. J. J. Burke, Danville, Ill., and Misses Ida and Mayme Stretz of Boonville.

Stretz was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock at SS Peter and Paul Catholic church in charge of the Rev. Fr. John Baskett and the Rev. J. J. Hans of St. Anthony, Mo. Burial will be in the Catholic cemetery. He will lie in state at the Stegner & Koenig Funeral Home until time for the services. Rosary will be said at the Funeral Home tonight at 9 o'clock.

**16 Apr 1946**

**Issue of the Boonville Daily News**

**For John H. Potter**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **John H. Potter's Life Spans Period of Many Changes**

Mr. John H. Potter, 217 Elm St., who is observing his 88th birthday today at the home of a stepson, Joe Stillwell, in Marshall, has lived his entire life near or in Boonville. For 33 years, he sold fuel oils here, driving his wagon daily up and down the streets of the town. During the 33 years he was never absent from his route more than a day or two at a time except for a period of three weeks when a son was very ill. The coal oil wagon was typical of its day. The body of the wagon was a cylindrical tank with faucets to facilitate the filling of the housewife's can. It had a clanging bell to announce its arrival in the neighborhood, and Mr. Potter sat up front on a raised seat with a huge brown umbrella shielding him from summer rains and suns and winter storms, his foot rising and

falling on the lever that set the bell into rhythmic sounds. The streets were dirt and sometimes in bad weather even the horse-drawn vehicle became mired down in mud holes over town. Coal oil sold for 15 cents a gallon, then later for 20 cents or five gallons for 90 cents. Mr. Potter remembers one time when, for a period of three days, he sold it for five cents a gallon. He was indulging in a price war with a competitor. The competitor went out of business about six months later. Mr. Potter, one of ten children, was born near Hail Ridge schoolhouse east of town. His father, Joe Potter, was an Englishman by birth, as was his grandfather. (My comment - Joseph was born in Cooper County, Missouri and William Potter (John Henry Potter's grandfather), was born in Kentucky). Mr. Potter remembers hauling cordwood in from the country in his youth with an ox team. They were named Tom and Jerry. Sometimes, after a hot day in town, the oxen would smell water on their way home and make a break for the creek. It was impossible to turn them. Mr. Potter's grandfather, Joe Potter (my comment - actually William Potter), ran the first ferry across the Missouri River here, Mr. Potter relates. The ferry was a horsepower ferry, that is, a team of horses on a specially built ramp kept the wheel churning through the water by the treading of their feet. The ferry tied up at the old landing called Potter's landing. When Potter was about 20 years old, he moved to Boonville to live with a sister (my comment - from the 1880 census, this was his sister, Emma Potter, who married James Dunnivant. John Henry Potter's father, Joseph Potter, was also living in the same household. This must have been shortly after Mary Jane Kenrick Potter, John Henry Potter's mother, died.), and the hazards and opportunities of the Missouri River drew him like a magnet. He became a fisherman, and for 15 years fished the waters of the Big Muddy and sold his catch in wheelbarrows on the streets. Most of the fishing was done with nets, and one night he and Jim Donavant (my comment - his brother-in-law James Dunnivant) brought in a record haul of 1100 pounds of catfish. One fish weighed 200 pounds. The men sold all of the catch on the street from their barrows. Men who follow nature's trails for many years accumulate rich experiences. Mr. Potter, who trailed his nets in the river and poled walnut logs down its current from Lexington, collected his share of unusual adventures. He recalls the time when he was dressing a catfish for True Bowman, who was looking on, and he cut into the fish's stomach to reveal a three-foot blacksnake. He lost a sale right there. Another time, injured as he was to the unexpected, he was considerably startled cutting into a fish to find inside it a woman's finger wearing a gold ring. He believes the finger was from the body of a woman who had been drowned and that the fish, attracted by the bright ring, had nibbled off her finger. A furniture manufacturing company located on Water Street in those days used to send men up to Lexington, Mo. in wagons so that they might pole rafts of walnut logs down the river to the factory. It was only done when the river was high in the spring or summer and the trip was fraught with plenty of danger. One time in particular a group of ten men, of which John Potter was a member, were poling the logs down the current when they came to a great lot of drift that had surged out from a stream. The 300 logs went under the drift and sank, but not one of the men lost his life. In the winter time when fishing was difficult, Mr. Potter helped Jack Long with the cutting of river ice for commercial sale the next summer. The ice cutting season usually lasted about four weeks, and sometimes as many as 75 men were employed in the work. One time when large chunks of ice had been hauled upon the bank by mules and Mr. Potter was helping chop the ice into smaller blocks with an axe, he made a slanting lick and severed the middle toe of his brother-in-law, Tony Back, who was standing near him. He still wonders how he managed to cut off only one toe. For many years, Mr. Potter and his wife, the former Miss Louise Back, lived on First Street between Morgan and Water Streets. The night that his son "Curley" was born was a very dark and rainy night. Mr. Potter himself was sick and he decided to ask a neighbor to go for a doctor for Mrs. Potter. On the way to the neighbor's in the pitch dark and driving rain, he lost his bearings and walked off the culvert over the stream near his home. He went plunging down into the water and, though it was not deep, he was so confused by the dark, the rain, his fall, and his weakness, he was unable to find his way out of the stream until morning. In his struggles in the water he lost his hat bearing a band with 12 rattlesnake rattles on it. The next morning, a Negro in East Boonville found the hat floating down the river, recognized it, and at once set up the alarm over town that John Potter had drowned. Bringing sand down from the sandbars up the river was another of the jobs that attracted Mr. Potter in his early manhood. He sank a flat boat with too much sand one time. The sand was wheeled from the bar and loaded onto the boat. For a day of this pastime, he received a dollar and a half! After he quit the river and went into the business of peddling coal oil, his life was less eventful. But there were incidents that enlivened the days. Like the time he telephoned his home to find out if any orders had been left there. His wife informed him rather excitedly that the cow, named Smitty in honor of the man from whom they had bought her, had just given birth to twins. About an hour later, he called back home to check on orders again, and learned to his amazement that Smitty now had triplets. He said that two or three hundred people came to see the cow and her calves, some of them from a distance. And if any one doubts the fact of Smitty's triplets, Mr. Potter has a picture of the bovine family to prove it. About seven years ago Mrs. Potter died. Several years before that the Potters had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on the same day that Mrs. Potter's sister, Mrs. Dom Barnert, and Mr. Barnert celebrated theirs. All of the Potter children who were living were present. There had been ten of them counting the two stepchildren. Two are now dead, James William and John. Two sons live in Boonville, Herman and W. A. (Curley). One son, George, lives in Paradise, Ariz., and one son, Ed, in St. Louis. Two daughters, Louise McCartney and Mrs. Bessie Bennett, live in Springfield. The stepchildren are Joe Stillwell, Marshall, and Mrs. Jess Burt, Pratt, Kan. Mr. Potter is not so frail as he appears. He is still working, he says. He tends a two-acre garden every year, and keeps it in thriving condition. His son, Herman, and his family with whom he lives have all the vegetables they want, and Mr. Potter often sells a surplus. His health is good, his mind clear, his sense of humor as lively as in the heyday of his youth. He can sit in his easy chair and reflect upon a rich and fruitful life. He is surrounded by his children and cherished by their affection. He has lived the allotted three score years and ten, and 18 years more. What more can a man ask?

**18 Aug 1946**

**Issue of the Sedalia Democrat**

**For William R. Potter**  
**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**  
**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **William R. Potter**

William R. Potter died at the home of his son, Robert Potter, in Sedalia, at 1 o'clock Saturday morning.

Mr. Potter was born near Clifton City on May 17, 1853 and was married to Maggie Steelman in 1878. She preceded him in death in 1909. To this union were born seven children.

Surviving are two sons, Robert Potter of Sedalia and Jewel Potter of Los Angeles, one daughter, Mrs. Gertie Tavener, of Otterville, two brothers, Dr. Jim Potter Of Los Angeles, Calif., and the Rev. Tom Potter of St. Louis, nineteen grandchildren and twenty-three great-grandchildren.

Four children, Mrs. Olivia Renfro, Mrs. Carrie Jenkins, Mrs. Laura Holmes and Truex Potter preceded him in death.

Mr. Potter was a charter member of the Lamine Baptist Church and later moved his membership to the Green Ridge Baptist Church.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 o'clock August 18 at the Baptist Church in Green Ridge, with the Rev. Woolery and the Rev. Gentry to officiate.

Six grandsons will serve as pallbearers. They are the Rev. Morris Potter, the Rev. Robert Potter, Emmett Potter, Richard Jenkins, Donald McFarland and Harry Wimer.

Burial will be in the Green Ridge cemetery.

**30 Jan 1947**

**From the Boonville Daily News**  
**Henry Thomas Gibson**  
**Submitted by Jackie Finley - Brown**

#### **H.T. Gibson Dies After Long Illness**

Henry Thomas Gibson died at his home at 821 Sixth Street at 4:35 a.m. today following a long illness.

Funeral services will be held at the Baptist Church Saturday at 2:30 p.m. with Dr Glenn L. Farr in charge. Burial will be in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

The body will be taken from the Goodman and Bolleer Funeral Parlors to the Gibson home at 10 a.m. tomorrow. It will remain there until time for the rites.

Mr. Gibson is survived by his widow, the former Miss Octavia Shumate to whom he was married July 10, 1904; a son, Harold Gibson, Kansas City; a daughter, Mrs. Clarence Felten, Fayette; two brothers, Ed Gibson, Joplin, and Elba Gibson, Nevada; three sisters, Mrs. Minnie Heimbaugh, Mrs. E.R. Mosier, both of Camdenton, and Mrs. Arch Chadwell, Okmulgee, Okla.; and nine grandchildren.

One son, Wayne died Jan 11, 1937.

He was born at Louisville, Ky., Jan 11, 1869, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Gibson. When he was three years old the family moved to Illinois and then to Missouri. He lived in the Speed Community until 1942 when he moved to Boonville. He was a member of the Bunceton Baptist Church.

#### **Gibson Services Held This Afternoon**

Funeral services were held at the Baptist Church this afternoon for H.T. Gibson. Dr. Glenn Farr conducted the rites and burial was in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Pallbearers were George Chamberlain, Les Carey, Thurman Carey, Ed Hasenbach, Clifford Shumate and Dan Roberts.

**26 Jun 1947**

**Issue of the Cooper County Record**  
**For Jennie Shannon**  
**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**  
**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **Mrs. Jennie Shannon**

Mrs. Jennie Shannon, Prairie Home, died Sunday. Services were held Tuesday at the Boonville Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Virgil Vaughan of Prairie Home. Burial was in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Mrs. Shannon leaves three daughters, Mrs. Vivian Mills, Clark's Fork, Miss Georgia Shannon of the home, and Mrs. William Toellner; one son, Lewis J. Shannon; one grandson; one great granddaughter; one stepson, E. M. Shannon of Newton, Kansas; and seven step grandchildren.

**26 Jun 1947**

**Issue of the Cooper County Record**

**For T. C. Crosswhite**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

**T. C. Crosswhite**

T. C. Crosswhite died at his home here Sunday. Funeral services were held by the Rev. G. S. Birkhead at the Christian Church Tuesday and burial was in Walnut Grove Cemetery. He leaves one daughter, Mrs. Pauline Alpers, Eldon, Mo., and one granddaughter.

**04 Nov 1947**

**Issue of the Boonville Daily News**

**For Tyre T. Tucker**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

**Tyre T. Tucker, 66 Dies Suddenly**

Tyre T. Tucker died suddenly at his home at 204 McRoberts St., at 2 a.m. today. Returning home from a meeting of the Oddfellows lodge, he became ill shortly after midnight.

Funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. N. C. Schultz of New Franklin at the Evangelical Church here at 2 p.m. Thursday. Burial will be in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Tucker is survived by his widow; a daughter, Mrs. Fred Wassman, Chillicothe; three sisters, Mrs. George Fluke, New Franklin, Mrs. I. M. Verts, Nelson, and Mrs. H. L. Drennen of Boonville; and by two grandsons.

He was born in Cooper County July 27, 1881, the son of Robert and Sarah Parker Tucker and spent all of his life in this community. Mr. Tucker served for a number of years as a Boonville policeman and for the past few years he has been connected with the Jentry Taxi company.

The body will remain at the Goodman and Boller Funeral Parlors until time for the rites. & Koenig Funeral Home until time for the services. Rosary will be said at the Funeral Home tonight at 9 o'clock.

**14 Nov 1947**

**From the Boonville Daily News**

**Henry Thomas Gibson**

**Submitted by Julie Spencer**

Mrs. J. Henry Stretz died suddenly at her home Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

Mrs. Stretz, the former Mary Louise Edwards was born in Boonville September 19, 1879 and had lived here her entire life.

She was first married to Andrew M. Gantner, September 11, 1889. To this union four children were born, all of whom survive. They are Mrs. Joseph Sinclair, Mrs. Leo Schmidt and Urban Gantner, all of Boonville, and Earl Gantner of Jacksonville, Fl. Mr. Gantner died June 4, 1896.

In 1899 Mrs. Stretz was married to J. Henry Stretz who died in August 1941. By this marriage she had four children; Virgil Stretz and Mrs. Ernest Barbano of Compton, Calif., Mrs. Harold Brummel of Lee's Summit and Leonard Stretz of Kansas City. Also surviving are six step-children; two step-children, Henry Leo and Ferdinand Stretz having preceded her in death.

(Mary Louise Edwards was the sister of Mittie Edwards Stretz.)

**18 Jan 1948**

**Issue of the Sedalia Democrat**

**For Minerva Jane Ross Farley**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

**Mrs. D. L. Farley (Minerva Jane Ross)**

Mrs. D. L. Farley, of Green Ridge, died at 10:00 o'clock Saturday morning, at the home of her son, E. M. Farley, in Kansas City.

Funeral services will be held at Green Ridge at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon.



Surviving are three sons, Homer Farley, of St. Joseph; D. D. Farley and E. M. Farley, both of Kansas City and one daughter, Mrs. Nancy Wood, of Chesterton, Ind.

**30 Sep 1948**

**Issue of the Sedalia Democrat**

**For Mrs. Sallie Allen Edwards**

**Submitted by Mrs. Neil Smith**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **Rites Tomorrow For Mrs. Sallie Edwards**

Mrs. Sallie Allen Edwards died at her home in the Mt. Herman neighborhood Wednesday [9/29] afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Funeral services will be held at the Goodman & Boller Chapel tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock conducted by the Rev. O. B. Holloman, with burial in the Walnut Grove Cemetery. The body will remain at the Goodman & Boller funeral parlors until time of the rites.

Mrs. Edwards was born in Cooper County Aug. 22, 1866, the daughter of Henry C. and Elizabeth Steger Baugh, and spent all of her life in this community. She was married to John G. Edwards June 17, 1891, who preceded her in death. She was also preceded death by three brothers and one sister.

Surviving are one brother, H. G. Baugh, of Shoshone, Idaho, two sons Harry and John Edwards, of Boonville, a number of nephews and nieces, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She was a life long member of the Mr. Herman Church.

**14 Oct 1948**

**Issue of the Sedalia Democrat**

**For Mrs. Mary P. Thomas**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

#### **Mrs. Logan P. Thomas Service**

Funeral services for Mrs. Mary P. Thomas, widow of the late Logan P. Thomas, who died at her home, 1419 South Osage Avenue, at 12:45 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, will be held at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon at Gillespie's Funeral Home, Rev. T. W. Croxton officiating.

Mrs. Thomas was 80 years of age and had been in failing health for several years, having only recently returned from the Wetzel hospital in Clinton.

She was born near Clifton City, Mo., May 23, 1868, the daughter of Thomas Potter and Lucy M. Ware. She was married to Logan P. Thomas on May 30, 1894 at the Potter home near Clifton City.

For many years the Thomases jointly owned and operated the Thomas Book & Printing Co., formerly located at 111 East Second Street. After the death of her husband September 27, 1922, Mrs. Thomas moved to Bolivar, Mo., the first time she had lived outside Pettis County. At Bolivar, she was the house mother of the Thomas home, a boarding home for students at Southwest Baptist College and was noted for her interest and aid given to boys and girls under her care.

The Thomas Home was built as a memorial to her husband and Mrs. Thomas became known on the campus as "Mother Thomas." Mrs. Thomas remained at Bolivar until 1939 when she was forced to retire because of age and failing health, which continued until the time of her death. Both Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were active members of the First Baptist Church and Mrs. Thomas was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Surviving Mrs. Thomas are the two brothers, A. A. Potter of 1616 East Ninth Street and J. A. Potter of Fort Worth, Texas; two nephews, Richard Potter of Sedalia and Carl K. Potter of Fort Worth, and five nieces, Marguerite Potter of Fort Worth, Mrs. Grace Potter Tippett of Sweetwater, Texas; Ona Ruth Potter and Mary Francis Potter of New Orleans and Mrs. Lois Potter Dillard of Warrensburg.

Mrs. Miles Rhodes and Mrs. Charles Farley, accompanied by Mrs. Clyde Williams, will sing "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" and "Rock of Ages."

Honorary pallbearers will be deacons of the First Baptist Church.

Active pallbearers will be C. N. Farley, Charley Farley, Ed Winchell, O. R. Catron, J. C. Dillard, and Richard Potter.

Interment will be made in the Crown Hill Cemetery beside the grave of her husband.

**27 Jan 1949**

**Issue of the Cooper County Record**

**For Mrs. J. A. Hurt**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

Mrs. J. A. Hurt, 72, Bunceton, died at St. Joseph's Hospital Tuesday morning after a short illness.

Funeral services were conducted today at Pisgah Church with burial in the Pisgah Cemetery.

Mrs. Hurt leaves her husband; three sons, Porter and Paul Hurt of Bunceton, and Emil Hurt, St. Joseph; two daughters; and two brothers, both of Pisgah. She was preceded in death by four brothers and a sister.

She was the former Miss Martha Morris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh B. Morris. She and her husband made their home in Pisgah until several years ago when they moved to Bunceton.

**27 Feb 1949**

**Issue of the Cooper County Record**

**For William John Hurt**

**Submitted by Bill Scroggin**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

William John Hurt died suddenly at his home, 510 Third Street, Sunday morning at 3 o'clock. Funeral services were at the Goodman and Boller Chapel Tuesday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. Guthrie S. Birkhead. Burial was in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Hurt was born in Cooper County, September 28, 1879, a son of James Madison and Adaline Rogers Hurt, and spent all of his life in this community. He married Miss Myra Smith December 26, 1906, who survives with one daughter, Wilma. One son died in infancy in 1909. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Speed Hickam, of Boonville.

He was a member of Walnut Grove Christian Church, and Far West Lodge No. 4, IOOF.

**05 Mar 1949**

**Mrs. A. C. Potter**

From the March 8, 1949 issue of the Boonville Daily News: CLIFTON CITY - Funeral rites were conducted at the Gillespie Funeral Home in Sedalia Monday afternoon at 3:30 for Mrs. A. C. Potter who died Saturday morning at 9:20 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Ball, Sedalia.

The Rev. William Bessimer, Evangelical minister, conducted the services and burial was in Crown Hill Cemetery. Pallbearers were Clarence, Robert, and Samp Potter, John Frank, Leonard Fall, and Milton Parker.

Mrs. Potter, the former Miss Julia Frank, was born at Pilot Grove, Mar 24, 1867. She was married to A. C. Potter and they moved to the community north of Clifton City where they resided until about 35 years ago when they moved to Sedalia.

Mrs. Potter was preceded in death by her husband in 1938. She was a member of the St. Paul's Evangelical church, Pilot Grove.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Orpha Bail, one son, O. A. Potter, Sedalia; and one brother, Fred Frank of Pilot Grove; and five grandchildren. Bey, Evelyn, and Donald Potter and Darrell and Elaine Bail all of Sedalia.

**07 Mar 1949**

**Mrs. Emma Force**

From the March 8, 1949 issue of the Boonville Daily News: BUNCETON - Mrs. Emma Elizabeth Force died yesterday morning at 6.30 at the family home. Death was due to old age and complications.

Emma Elizabeth Force was born Sept. 12, 1864 in Pittsburg, Pa. She was one of 12 children born to Oscella and Joseph Hepler. All have preceded her in death. Three died in infancy.

She was united in marriage to Alonzo L. Force, Aug 16, 1881. To this union was born one child, a daughter, Mrs. Grace Tuckley of the home.

She is survived by the daughter and three grandsons, Joseph and Hillard Tuckley of the home and Edgar of Springfield. Two great grandchildren also survive, Cheryl Sue and Milena Leah Tuckley of Springfield. Mr. Force preceded her in death July 29, 1942.

When a young woman Mrs. Force united with the Methodist Church and was an active member.

She was a nurse for years.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home. The Rev. H. A. Wood of Otterville will officiate. Burial will be in the Bunceton Masonic Cemetery.

**08 Mar 1949**

**Mrs. Frank Yeager**

From the March 8, 1949 issue of the Boonville Daily News: Funeral services for Mrs. Frank Yeager, who died Friday, were conducted from SS. Peter and Paul Church. Monday morning at 9 o'clock by Father M. F. X. Jennings, assisted by the Rev. Father Conrad. Burial was in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Mrs. Yeager was the daughter of Mr. And Mrs. George Kline, and was a native of Boonville, having been born here Oct. 21, 1840, making here 86 years old at the time of her death. She was united in marriage to Frank Yeager 68 years ago, Mr. Yeager preceding her in death 11 years ago.

Six sons and three daughters survive Mrs. Yeager. The daughters are as follows: Mrs. E. J. Reynolds of St. Louis; Mrs. A. W. Frost, of Boonville of Boonville; and Mrs. F. H. Smith, of Boonville; George Yeager, of St. Louis; Mrs. Yeager also is survived by eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, as well as two sisters who live in St. Louis, Mrs. Pauline Blanquet and Mrs. Chaterine O'Conner.

**08 Mar 1949**

**Judge John Clark Cordry**

From the March 8, 1949 issue of the Boonville Daily News: John Clark Cordry, judge of the eastern district of the county court from 1931 to 1933, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. H. Dreyer, Weslaco, Tex., this morning.

Judge and Mrs. Cordry had been visiting their daughter this Winter.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete pending the return here of the body.

He was born in Cooper County Nov. 30, 1874. He was a farmer

**05 Apr 1949**

**John Henry Potter, Sr.**

**From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri**

**They have his mother wrong, but other than that, it is accurate.**

**From Boonville Newspaper**

**John H. Potter, Native of County, Dies at Age of 91**

John H. Potter, 91, one of Cooper County's oldest native-born citizens, died at the home of a son, W. A. Potter, 407 Walnut St., at 12:15 p. m. Saturday. He had been in failing health for some time and seriously ill for several days.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Evangelical Church at 2:30 p. m. tomorrow. The Rev. E. P. Abele, pastor of the church, will conduct the rites. Burial will be in Walnut Grove Cemetery. The body will remain at the Stegner Funeral Home until time for the rites.

Mr. Potter is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Jesse Burt, Pratt, Kans., and Mrs. Louise McCartney and Mrs. Bessie Bennett, Springfield; by five sons, Joseph W. Stillwell, Marshall, Herman E. Potter and W. A. Potter, Boonville, George Potter, Paradise, Ariz., and Edward Potter, St. Louis; by 20 grand children, 31 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

A retired oil dealer, he was born in the Hail Ridge community April 16, 1858, the son of Joseph and Nancy Potter.

His grandfather operated the first ferry across the Missouri River here.

During his early life Mr. Potter engaged in work on the Missouri River and later became an oil dealer. His "coal oil wagon" was long a familiar on Boonville streets.

Mr. Potter was married to Louise Barbara Back Sept. 6, 1882. She died several years ago. He was also preceded in death by two sons.

He was a charter member of the local organizations of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Woodman of the World and the Woodman Circle.

**06 Nov 1949**

**Alva Arnold**

Mrs. W. Everett Arnold, Bunceton, passed away in a Kansas City hospital, Sunday November 6, 1949, following an operation.

Funeral rights were held from the Bunceton Presbyterian Church at 2:30, Tuesday afternoon with the Rev. J. L. Hibdon officiating. Burial was in the Bunceton Masonic cemetery with pallbearers David Layne, Ferris Floyd, George Langrope, Peter Harned, Roy Blank and Cliff Schumate.

She was 64 years old, born in Camden county, Missouri November 10, 1884, her maiden name was Alva Lawrence, a daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Lawrence.

Her marriage to Mr. Arnold occurred March 21, 1909 and to this union 4 children were born: Mrs. Edith Thorpe of Sedalia, Mo., Mrs. Erma Custer & John Arnold of Bunceton and Eugene Arnold of the home. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 2 sisters, Mrs. Sydney Rogers of state of California and Mrs. Nellie Cox of Richland, Mo.

Mrs. Arnold has been a resident of Bunceton since 1921. Since girlhood she's been a member of the Christian Church. She was a faithful wife, devoted mother and a good neighbor.

The Richards funeral home service in Tipton and Bunceton had charge of arrangements. Mr. Arnold is a cousin of Orville & Everett Arnold and Mrs. Cecil Larimore of Tipton.

10 Nov 1949

Issue of the Sedalia Democrat

Benjamin F. DeWitt

Submitted by Bill Scroggin

From the newspaper collection, Newspaper Library, State Historical Society of Missouri

**Benjamin F. DeWitt**

Benjamin F. DeWitt, 86 years old, died at the home of his son, Newton DeWitt, 119 East Walnut Street, at 12:30 o'clock this morning. He had been bedfast for the past year.

Mr. DeWitt was born near Beaman, Mo., October 4, 1863, the son of the late Benjamin and Permelia Potter DeWitt. He has live all his life in Pettis County, residing on a farm until 1919, when he came to Sedalia to make his home.

Mr. DeWitt was married in August 1899, to Miss Delia Fay Ross. Five children were born to this union, two of whom, Frank DeWitt and Jon DeWitt, died in infancy.

Mrs. DeWitt preceded him in death in March 1912.

Surviving are two sons, Newton DeWitt and Lee DeWitt, Sedalia; one daughter, Mrs. Paul W. Bennett, Vandalia, Mo.; one sister, Mrs. Cevia McMullin, Beaman, Mo.

Funeral services will be held at the Lamine Baptist Church at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon.

Rev. Walter P. Arnold, pastor of the East Sedalia Baptist church, will officiate.

Interment will be in the DeWitt family lot in Potter cemetery, near Clifton City.

The body is at the Ewing Funeral Home.