

GYPSUM HILL CEMETERY HISTORICAL WALK



**CITY OF SALINA
PARKS & RECREATION
AND
SALINA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Hooked like a Wing

Deep in the afternoon
we visit Great-granddad's grave.
You want to run in November light
pooled by a crown of old cedars.
I won't let you. Instead
you pick up pebbles early warmed,
fold them tight in the palm of your hand.

Great-grandma walks with us,
her wine-red sweater keen
against the fading.
When you crouch to study the ground
she bends over you,
hooked like a wing,
and together you fingertip
winter grass feathered with seed.

Jacqueline Magnuson Ash



Gypsum Hill Cemetery Self-guided Walking Tour

Our community's past is filled with interesting people, many of whom now rest at Gypsum Hill Cemetery. Among the cemetery's "residents" are founders of Salina, veterans of American wars, politicians, journalists, children, ex-slaves, a murderer and his victims, as well as many ordinary people with poignant tales. This walk through the cemetery is designed to be a leisurely stroll that takes you to selected gravesites where you will learn the stories of people who helped shape our city and county. The walk is a 1.2-mile loop that starts at the cemetery office. Please remember to respect all gravesites.

CEMETERY HISTORY

During the earliest years of settlement in Saline County, residents tended to choose expedient resting places for the dead. Stories are told of graves scattered around town, the choices made quickly, usually during times of emotional stress. One old-timer story is of an Indian child who was buried on or near the northwest corner of Santa Fe and Iron Avenues. So the story goes, the mother came each night to place food on the grave, her sorrowful cries carrying throughout the village.

Charles Holtzman created a small cemetery on the southwest corner of Ohio and East Cloud when his daughter Mary White died in childbirth in 1859. A year later, W. A. Phillips, James Muir and A.M. Campbell, along with Hugh Morrison, laid out a cemetery on Morrison land along the south side of what is now South Street from Ninth Street to Phillips Avenue.

On March 19, 1870, a group of men formed a stock company for the purpose of establishing a private cemetery and sold shares at \$10 a piece. They purchased twenty acres of land from Robert and Elizabeth Anderson for the sum of \$20 per acre. In the first decade or so, this hilltop graveyard was a bleak, wind-swept location that caused the local newspaper to call for officials to set out more trees and shrubbery to make the surroundings attractive. But efforts to soften the starkness failed at first, largely because prairie fires often rolled over the hill destroying vegetation and the wooden enclosures around the graves.

As the city grew, so did the cemetery. Graves from the old burying places were moved to Gypsum Hill. When construction crews digging basements for a growing residential area uncovered unmarked graves, remains were carefully transferred. In 1879 Gypsum Hill officials sold the northeast section to the Catholic Cemetery Association. This became Mt. Calvary, leaving approximately 50 acres as present-day Gypsum Hill. In 1919 lot owners petitioned the City of Salina to take over control of the cemetery. The proposition was submitted to voters in April 1920 and carried by a large majority.

Several mausoleums loom above the traditional monuments. The first to be erected were the Lynch, Ripke and Amerman buildings, with Watson added later. Hillcrest Mausoleum was

finished in the latter 1920s. One of its first occupants was H.D.Lee, who had been buried in another lot and then moved when Hillcrest was finished.



Years ago Native Daughters installed a drinking fountain at the north entrance to the cemetery. On the fountain they placed a plaque reading:

*Erected to the memory of the early pioneers of
Saline County by the County Chapter
Native Daughters of Kansas
1923*



WALKING TOUR

1. Alexander M. and Christina Phillips Campbell each had a mighty hand in turning a patch of prairie into this town. Alexander joined his future brother-in-law, William A. Phillips, and friend James Muir in laying out the preliminary survey of Salina in March of 1858. That summer, Christina joined the men, and for some time was the only permanent female resident. A few months later the couple traveled to Riley City to be married by a district judge. Often called the “Mother of Salina,” Christina helped her husband run a trading post, and the two developed a reputation among their Native American customers for fair dealing. In addition to being a town founder, Alexander was the county’s first postmaster, a prized frontier position, collecting and dispensing mail at his store. The Campbells remained life-long residents of the area they helped to settle, always working for the interest of the town. Their son, Alexander, Jr., and his wife Effie devoted much of their lives to collecting and documenting the history of the area.



2. Charles E. Hyde's life was cut short by consumption, but in just twenty-three years, he had acquired a wealth of loyal friends. News of his death in Denver, where he had gone to recover his health, was a shock to everyone and brought many to his funeral. His brother Albert A. Hyde, who in coming years would develop the product Mentholum, arrived from Wichita. Alexander and Christina Campbell, whose daughter Christie was Hyde's fiancée, donated a corner of their lot for his burial. Other friends erected his metal pergola over his grave as a tribute to his "genial ways" and his "excellent head and heart." The plaque on the center pole tells the story.



3. Benjamin J. F. and Margaret Phillips Hanna, born in Illinois and Scotland respectively, made early contributions to Salina history. Ben Hanna was an outspoken newspaperman with strong abolitionist views. When the Civil War began, President Lincoln appointed B.J.F. Hanna the Quartermaster of the United States Volunteers. Margaret gathered her children and came to Salina, then a frontier outpost. For most of the war years she lived with



her mother, Christiana Phillips, and brothers. Using her sewing machine, the only one for miles around, she and her sister Christina Campbell sewed a Salina flag which was hoisted at the center of town to demonstrate the residents' loyalty to the Union cause. When the war ended, the family set up permanent residence. In 1867 Hanna established the first newspaper called the *Salina Herald*, its issues printed on a hand press in a building on East Iron. Margaret was a frequent contributor of prose and poetry.

4. David L. Phillips, younger brother of William A. Phillips, was one of the five-member Salina Town Company. Although his family erected a monument to his memory, his body does not rest

here. His disappearance remains a mystery today. Phillips left Salina in June 1883 on a trip to Washington Territory via the southern route through California. While traveling by train through a desert region of Arizona, Phillips, who suffered from migraine headaches, became distraught and irrational, telling his fellow passengers that he had been robbed. At a railroad stop called Volcano Springs, the road master saw Phillips leap from the train without hat, shoes or coat and run into the sandy, isolated region where temperatures soared during daylight hours. Although the Phillips family spent time and money in attempts to find the missing man, neither his fate nor the reason for his bizarre behavior was ever discovered.



5. William A. Phillips was the primary force in the founding of Salina in 1858. Yet his tombstone is one of the most unassuming in the cemetery. Born in Scotland, Phillips immigrated to Randolph County, Illinois, with his parents and siblings in 1839. A free-state spokesman during Kansas Territorial days, Phillips worked as a correspondent for Horace Greeley and the *New York Tribune*. During the Civil War, he earned distinction as the commander of the Third Indian Home Guards, which saw action in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. After the war, Phillips served as legal council for the Cherokee Nation. He was a representative for the 74th district in the Kansas Legislature and a member-at-large in the U.S. House of Representatives. Despite having two wives and nine children, Phillips lies near only two relatives, his mother Christiana Phillips, known by early Salina residents as “Grandma Phillips,” and his nephew Maxwell Phillips, Jr., who was struck by a train south of town. The monument to Phillips’ left was erected for three of his children who died at an early age.

After the war, Phillips served as legal council for the Cherokee Nation. He was a representative for the 74th district in the Kansas Legislature and a member-at-large in the U.S. House of Representatives. Despite having two wives and nine children, Phillips lies near only two relatives, his mother Christiana Phillips, known by early Salina residents as “Grandma Phillips,” and his nephew Maxwell Phillips, Jr., who was struck by a train south of town. The monument to Phillips’ left was erected for three of his children who died at an early age.

6. August Bondi was a guerrilla fighter with abolitionist John Brown during the days of Bleeding Kansas. A member of the

Jewish faith, Bondi was born in Germany, where at the age of fifteen he fought under Kossuth in an unsuccessful Hungarian war for liberty. Exiled as a result, he and his family arrived in New Orleans in 1848 and by way of the Mississippi landed in St. Louis. After working for several years clerking, setting type and teaching, Bondi was lured to Kansas in 1855 by the border struggles between free-state and proslavery factions. Determined to aid the Free State movement, Bondi fought with Brown in the Battle of Black Jack and briefly joined a band of freedom fighters led by radical James Lane, who proposed they call themselves “Jayhawks.” After serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, Bondi and his family moved to Salina where he opened a grocery store and later purchased land in Saline County. During his life here he was a land clerk, postmaster, member of the school board, director of the state board of charities, a local court judge and practiced law. He was known for his political integrity and idealism.



7. - 8. Joshua Crowther, Valentine and Alexander Goodall lost their lives in “one of the saddest accidents that ever occurred in this country.” One Saturday in spring the three men decided to take a day off from work and join a group of neighbors who were planning

a seine fishing expedition. The men chose a fishing spot northeast of town at the junction of the Smoky Hill and Saline Rivers. Once there, Joshua Crowther volunteered to swim the drag net rope across the river and fasten it to the opposite bank. Once in the water, however, he apparently developed a cramp, let go of the rope and began flailing for help. Three companions, Royal Calkin, George Garvin and Alexander Goodall pushed off from the bank to aid the struggling man. What happened next had tragic consequences. In the melee, Crowther nearly pressed Calkin down with him, but instead locked with Alexander

Goodall. The two men became caught in the snarl of the net and were struggling for their lives when Valentine Goodall entered the deadly chaos in an attempt to save his son. Neither of the Goodalls nor Crowther could work himself free. Valentine Goodall left a wife and five children. Alexander Goodall left a wife and newborn baby. To aid Elizabeth Crowther and her seven children, James Muir, a member of the fishing party and one of the five Salina town founders, sold the widow an acre of his land for one dollar.



9. Oscar and Johanna Seitz were immigrants from Kassel, Germany, who established a prominent business family in Salina. Oscar came to America in time to serve as a Union soldier in the Civil War. Upon arriving in Kansas after the war, he was told that the little town of Salina would be an ideal place for a businessman. When the railroad reached here in 1867, the Seitz drug and chemical business

was off and running. Oscar could then think about a family. He brought Johanna Wulp, whom he had courted by correspondence, across the ocean to become his wife. She adapted well to the Kansas prairie, enriching the growing community with her love of music. She owned the first piano in Salina, which was frequently transported by wagon to the scene of dances and parties. The Seitz Drug Store, Seitz Real Estate Company and the Seitz Shoe Store were long time fixtures in Salina.



10. “Our Little Tence” This simple inscription on a dark, sandy stone serves to make mysterious the identity of the child buried here. Records show that **Hortensie Stuart** died on June 1, 1875, but no birth date is known nor the cause of death. David and May Stuart, both European immigrants to America, were like many of their

peers: they kept moving west during their lifetime and by necessity left loved ones behind. Bereft of nearby relatives, little Hortensie's grave might go unnoticed except for the intriguing stone and epitaph.

11. Mary L. White was 18 and several months pregnant when she arrived at her husband's Saline County claim in the spring of 1859. One night in October, Tom White rode a mile into Salina to ask Christiana "Grandma" Phillips to help his wife through her delivery. She agreed and stayed with Mary until the baby was born. But, as happened often during these early years, the young mother lived only a few hours after the birth, and the baby girl, who was named Mary E., died less than three months later. Mary White and her baby were likely buried on the White farm or on the southwest corner of Ohio and East Cloud, where Charles Holtzman, Mary's father, started a small cemetery. The graves were moved to Gypsum Hill in 1877.



12. Dana Adams, a young man in his late teens, was arrested for cutting a white boy with a razor. Because there were rumors of a lynching attempt, law officials acted quickly, making arrangements to transport the prisoner to Leavenworth by train. Adams was taken from the jail to the Santa Fe depot by the sheriff and two deputies and placed in a passenger coach. However, the train was several minutes late departing, and during this time, someone uncoupled the car in which the prisoner rode, leaving it stranded as the engine and other cars pulled away. Immediately a crowd converged upon the passenger coach, gained entry and overpowered the sheriff and his deputies. The mob dragged their victim from the train to the Union Pacific depot and hanged him from a telegraph pole on April 20, 1893. No arrests for this murder were ever made. Adams' father refused to assume responsibility for the burial, saying the white people had killed him, and they should bury him.



13. David “Napper” Taylor, (south of Daniel Spellman) born a slave in North Carolina, was reportedly 117 years old when he died in 1903. Although Taylor had no knowledge of his exact birth date, friends and associates confirmed his approximate age



by his memory of historical incidents. For example, he recalled as a child hearing about the death of George Washington in 1799. Freed by the Civil War when he was in his seventies, Taylor came to Salina in 1879 and became a familiar figure on the corner of Santa Fe and Iron Avenues, playing his banjo and singing campaign songs for the Garfield presidential election. He left Salina in 1881

and earned a living by publishing and selling sheet music of original compositions he called “Napper’s Hick Nut Dances.” A sheet of his picture and music sold for twenty-five cents. Taylor returned to Salina in 1902 to be cared for by his grandson. He outlived his fourth wife by eighteen days.

14. Fannie & Sidney DePriest, both freed slaves, fled Alabama in the 1870s in order to avoid trouble with the Ku Klux Klan. Under cover of darkness, the couple and most of their fifteen children, several of whom had children of their own, headed for Kansas, “the land of milk and honey.” Sidney DePriest was part French and his wife Narcissa “Fannie” was the biracial daughter of an Alabama governor. The large DePriest family came to Salina in 1879, well educated and ambitious. Several of the sons ran a painting and wallpapering business, while many of the daughters became teachers. Daughter Narcissa and her friend Lulu Hine were the first black students to graduate from Salina High in 1883. Grandson Oscar DePriest, educated in Salina schools, distinguished himself as the first black councilman in Chicago in 1915, and later as an Illinois representative, he became the first black congressman from a northern state. When Fannie DePriest died at the age of 104, she had outlived all but three of her children.



GYPSUM HILL
CEMETERY



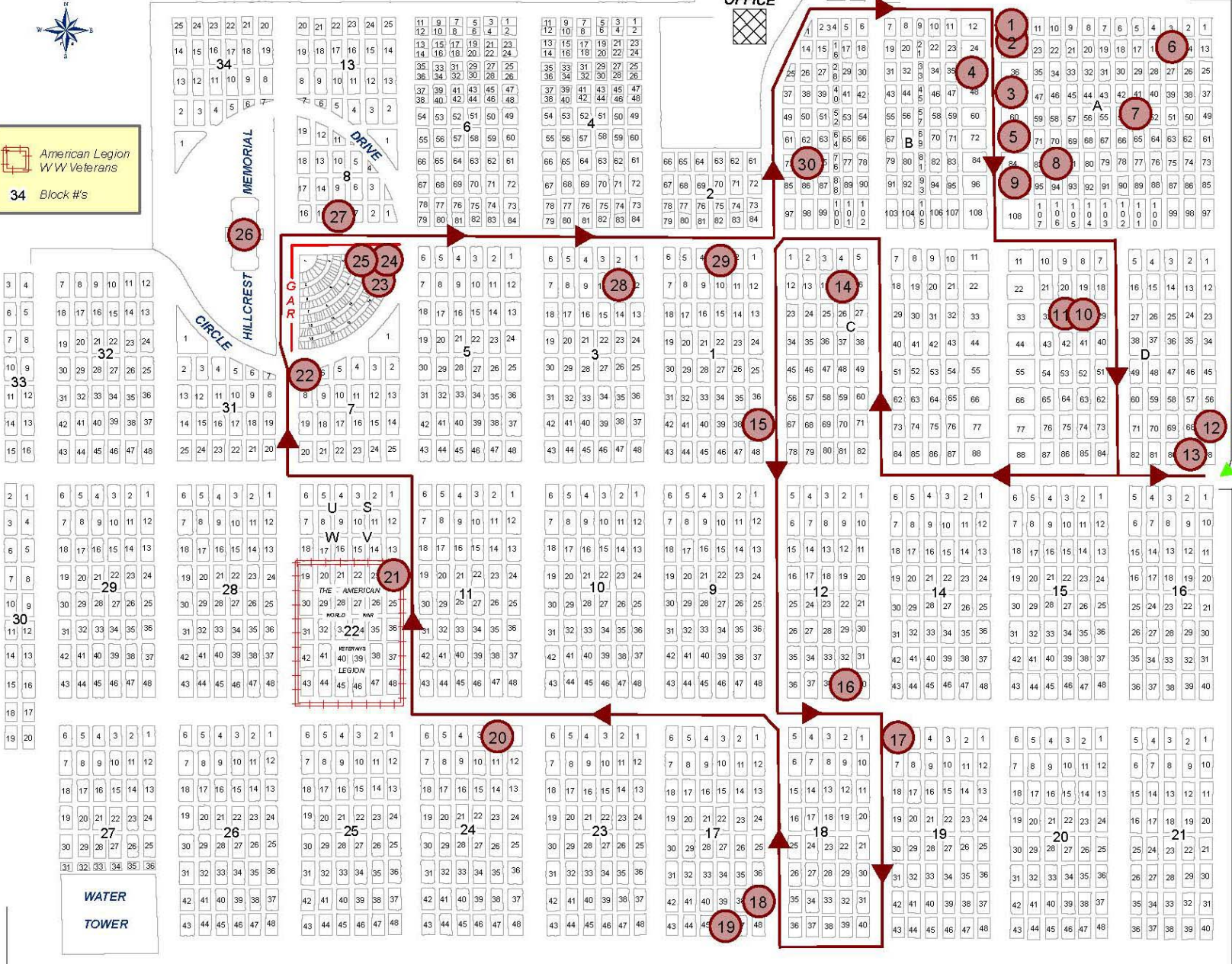
American Legion
WW Veterans
34 Block #s

OFFICE

Marymount Road

Entrance

Glen Avenue



15. Luke Parsons was 22 years old when he came to Kansas in 1856 looking for excitement. Three weeks later the Free State Ho-



tel in Lawrence where he worked was destroyed by a pro-slavery mob. Soon Parsons fell in with John Brown and rode with his band for over a year. Brown recruited him for the Harper's Ferry raid, but when the venture was postponed for a year, Parsons went on to other things. At the encouragement

of William A. Phillips, Parsons set out for a new town called Salina 180 miles west of the Missouri River. During the Civil War Parsons served under Phillips in the Third Indian Brigade. When the war ended, he returned to Saline County and in 1867 married schoolteacher Katherine Houston, one of the first students to attend Bluemont Central College, forerunner to Kansas State University. Her father, Samuel Dexter Houston, was an early settler in Riley County, locating a claim on Wildcat Creek in December 1853.

16. Frank Wilkeson led several lives. Born in Buffalo, New York, on March 8, 1848, he was the youngest son of journalist, Samuel Wilkeson, and Catharine Cady, sister to suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Wilkeson was only 15 when he ran away from home to join the Union Army during the Civil War. When the war ended in 1865, he had been brevetted a

captain. He later published *Recollections of a Private Soldier in the Army of the Potomac*, a starkly realistic view of war. During his lifetime he worked as a mining engineer in Pennsylvania and Colorado, a civil engineer for the Northern Pacific Railway and an explorer of the river valleys in Washington State, to which he returned many times. He married and came to Saline County in 1871, buying land in Gypsum Township and establishing a cattle ranch, which his wife Mary and two sons called home. From 1887 to 1893, he



wrote fishing and hunting pieces for the *New York Times* and the *New York Sun*. The last twenty years of his life, Wilkeson wandered between Kansas and Washington, writing promotional articles and dabbling in politics and various business ventures.



17. Winfield W. Watson, born in Indiana in 1848, was an energetic and successful businessman, organizing, among other things, a wholesale grocery business, originally known as the Watson-Durand-Kasper Wholesale Company. However, his two primary contributions to history involve non-business achievements. Watson was

among the first to support the Good Roads cause in Kansas, a nation-wide movement seeking to improve country roads and establish a highway system. In 1911 Watson joined in the organization of the Meridian Road Association, serving as president of the Kansas Division and helping to finance the first markers for the gravel road that stretched from Winnipeg, Canada, to Mexico City. The Meridian Highway, the first road completed across Kansas, is now largely the route of Highway 81. Watson was also the primary supporter and financial contributor to the building of Salina's luxurious Fox Watson Theatre. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the theater's opening in February 1931, having just undergone the amputation of one of his legs. The operation robbed the man of his usual vitality and, along with a fever and a falling accident, led to his death ten months later.



18. Larry Lapsley, first black homesteader in Saline County, was born a slave in Kentucky in 1840. In the 1850s he was taken into Missouri by his owner and at the start of the Civil War, accompanied new owners into northern Texas. One day in the fall of 1864, Lapsley and a cousin decided to cross the Red River and walk north to Union-held Fort Gibson in Indian Territory. They faced a trek of nearly

two hundred miles through an area held by Confederate sympathizers. Early in the journey, Choctaw Indians apprehended the two and held them captive for a time. Lapsley escaped and continued his flight to freedom alone, arriving at Fort Gibson early in 1865, suffering from starvation and exhaustion. The commanding officer at the post was Colonel William A. Phillips, one of the founders of Salina. Lapsley befriended another soldier from Saline County named Luke Parsons, and when the war ended, the ex-slave accompanied Parsons to Kansas. Lapsley died at the age of 57 of heart disease at the home of his neighbors, Frank and Adelaide Robinson. The Robinsons buried him in the family cemetery beside their infant sons. Years later when the graves were moved to Gypsum Hill, they erected the monument for their friend.



19. George S. Robb, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for outstanding service during World War I, was born May 18, 1887, at Assaria. In September 1918, while serving in the 369th Infantry, 93rd Division, (known as “Harlem Hellfighters”), 1st Lt. Robb led his platoon in the assault near Sechault, France,

and was severely wounded by machinegun fire. He remained with his platoon throughout the night and following day, despite suffering additional wounds. When his commanding officer was killed, he assumed control and organized his company’s position in the trenches. His citation credits Robb with “clearing machinegun and sniping posts [which] contributed largely to the aid of his battalion in holding their objective.” Following the war, Robb served for twelve years as Salina postmaster. In 1935, Governor Alf Landon selected him to fill the post of state auditor.

20. Joseph L. Bristow was many things during his lifetime: a United States senator from Kansas (1909-1915), chairman of the Kansas public utilities commission, a fourth assistant postmaster general under President McKinley and editor/publisher of two Salina newspapers, the *Daily Republican* and the *Salina Republican*, the latter the forerunner of the *Salina Journal*. Born in Kentucky in 1861, he moved to Fredonia, Kansas, with his father

twelve years later and graduated from Baker University, Baldwin, in 1886. A tall, gaunt man, he stumped the state during his campaign for the Senate by any means of travel he could find, presenting a strange figure to rural constituents in his derby hat, stiff white collar and bow tie. One farmer remarked that he resembled an “attenuated grasshopper.” Although he died at his estate “Ossian Hall” near Fairfax, VA, in 1944, he was returned to Salina for interment beside his wife, Margaret.



21. Veterans Area. Sandstone pillars mark the entry to Section 22, designated to provide for veterans who served in American armed forces, whether during war or peacetime. Uniform stones along the first row and a marker at the northeast corner of the section identify and honor the generation of men who fought during the Spanish American War, 1898-1902. Since that time, soldiers of subsequent wars, World War I, World War II, Korean, and Vietnam, as well as other men and women who served our country, have been buried here.



2 2 .

Grand Army of the Republic Following the Civil War, groups of men began gathering together for emotional support and camaraderie,

their friendships based on shared experiences of war. Founded as a fraternal organization in Illinois in 1866 for honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) soon emerged as a large and politically powerful force. By 1890, it numbered 409,489 veterans

of the War of the Rebellion. The John A. Logan Post in Salina was chartered on September 4, 1882. Other posts formed within the county. The Salina post was named for a Union general who served with distinction in Ulysses Grant's campaigns. John Alexander Logan also served as a commander in chief of the GAR and conceived the idea of a Memorial Day observance on May 30 to remember the sacrifices of fallen comrades. This special section, arranged so that the tombstones fan away from the flagpole, was designated for the burial of members of the Grand Army of the Republic. Also at the section's apex is the monument to the unknown, which reads "Our Unknown dead are remembered." The oldest burial took place on January 1, 1883, when R. R. Cox was moved from the Holtzman cemetery to the new GAR section. Eventually, women relatives-wives, daughters and mothers-were buried beside the veterans. Oliver Conover, 139th Illinois Infantry, was the last Civil War veteran buried here in 1934. The final burial in the GAR section was Katie Haynes, wife of Phillip Haynes, in 1946.



23. Jessie Johnson was a favorite of the Grand Army of the Republic and made an honorary member of the John A. Logan post. A veteran newspaper-woman, she learned to "stick type" as a little girl for her father, Wallace H. Johnson, who established some seven-

teen newspapers in Kansas including the *Saline County Journal*, the *Salina Republican* and the *Salina Sun*. Jessie Johnson was trained in all aspects of journalism from the mechanics to the reporting, serving as society editor and city editor for various Salina newspapers during her lifetime. Long years of public work made her a familiar figure to local residents. Johnson was a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's club in Salina when it was the Dorian Club. As a result of her extensive news-

paper work, she was the only woman to have been made an honorary member of the state Anti-Horse Thief Association. In 1912, when the GAR veterans had their pictures taken by photographer Asa Moore, Johnson's photo was placed in the center of the composite.

24. Andrew Jackson Lipe is one of several GAR veterans buried here who endured incarceration in Confederate prison camps like Libby, Belle Island, Camp Thunder and the infamous Andersonville. Lipe spent two months in Andersonville in Sumter County, Georgia, during which time he became so ill that he had to be carried out upon release. A member of the Ninth Illinois Infantry, Lipe enlisted at age 21 and served two enlistments covering a period from 1861 through 1864. Other soldiers buried in the GAR section who suffered the hardships of prison life include George Snead, Calvin Gerard, Chapman Mann and B.F. Eggleston.



25. Maria Manners Moran served as a Civil War nurse in the Union Army for three years. Most of her service was spent at General Hospital in St. Louis, caring for wounded and dying soldiers. She also worked on the hospital boat "Louisiana" under John T. Hogan, Surgeon General of Missouri, traveling from Pittsburgh Landing on the Ohio River to Vicksburg in Mississippi. For several years

before her death at age ninety-five, she was the only surviving Civil War nurse in this part of the country. In 1863, she married **George Moran**, a Union soldier and Wardmaster General at Benton Barracks, St. Louis. He served in the hospital corps for nearly four years, receiving recognition for his loyal care and attention to wounded and dead Union soldiers.



26. Henry David Lee (Hillcrest) had made his fortune in his thirties, and he was just getting started. Born in Vermont, Dec 9, 1849, one of nine children, Lee lost his father at age four. He lived in a foster home for eight years and then struck out on his own. At the age of sixteen, Lee moved to Galion, Ohio, where he worked as a night clerk, supplementing his income by polishing boots and arranging transportation for traveling men. Eventually he saved and borrowed enough capital to purchase a failed oil company, which he later sold to John D. Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company. In 1889, advised by a doctor to move farther west for relief from his pulmonary tuberculosis, Lee chose Salina in which to start Lee Mercantile Company, a wholesale grocery business. Other business concerns were the Lee Hardware Company, Kansas Ice and Storage, the Lee-Warren Flour Mill and Farmers National Bank. By 1915 he had opened a factory in Kansas City that included a line of overalls, work jackets and blue denim pants. Even after his death in 1928, the company retained his name, becoming The H. D. Lee Company in 1942, now a leading international retailer of denim wear, including Lee Jeans.



27. Charles Tressin, a Prussian immigrant, opened his hardware store on the corner of Santa Fe and Ash Street during the deserted years of the Civil War. He had been here only a few months when he looked up from his work early one morning to see six men enter his store with their revolvers pointed at him. Like everyone else in town, Tressin was the victim of a guerrilla raid, the closest thing Salina had to a “Civil War battle.” At dawn on September 17, 1862, a band of fifteen to twenty armed men rode into the village and confiscated the supply of horses, mules, firearms and ammunition. Tressin told the thieves to take whatever they wanted and then was marched to the corner of Iron and Fifth Street where all the Salina men were corralled. The incident involved no violence, but the stolen property, which was never recovered, was vital to the settlers’ daily existence. Tressin lost \$300 worth of firearms brought to him for repair.

28. Anderson Family This large tombstone stands as mute testimony to a tragic event that occurred one hot August day in 1902. On a farm in the current location of the Salina Country Club golf course, Joseph and Cora Anderson lived a seemingly normal life with their four children, ages 6 years to almost three months. On this morning Cora left her children with their father and went into Salina to do her weekly shopping. When she returned from town



about one in the afternoon, she found her husband on the ground near the cistern, dying from self-inflicted gun shot wounds. She ran for help and when she and a neighbor returned and entered the house, she discovered a note: "The children are in the cistern." It was thought that financial worries drove Joseph Anderson to drown his children and end his life. The funeral procession from the Anderson home to the

cemetery involved three hearses and "more than a hundred rigs" that stretched out for a mile. The children were placed together in one grave, two small caskets with two children in each, resting side by side. Their mother later remarried and is buried nearby.



29. Jessie Wheeler, one of Salina's two women doctors at the turn of the twentieth century, was born on a farm in southern Saline County on August 24, 1874. Educated in one-room country schools, she later received her medical training at Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. After becoming certified to practice medicine and surgery in

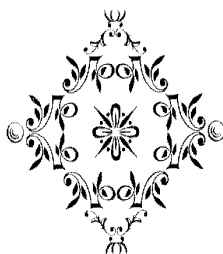


Kansas on May 15, 1906, Dr. Wheeler opened an office at 238 North Ninth where she also lived with her widowed mother. Her time in Salina history was not long, however, and little is known about her personal or professional life. In 1915 she succumbed to cancer at the age of forty-two.



30. Johanna Almquist, born in Sweden in 1845, came to Saline County with her husband John and baby daughter in the spring of 1872. Over the next fifteen years as the family grew, the Almquists bought 80 acres on Iron Mound, southeast of Salina and established a home. In the late summer of 1887, John Almquist and his daughter Hilda began suffering from chills and head-

aches. Soon other children complained of these symptoms. A doctor confirmed that they had contracted typhoid fever from the well on their property, and within a month of one another four members of the family would die of the disease. Four weeks after giving birth to her eighth child, Johanna buried her husband John and daughter Hilda on the same day in September. With little time to mourn, she hurried home to care for her newborn infant and two ailing children. Help from the doctor and neighbors proved futile. Fifteen-year-old Leander died on October 22, and less than a week later, Selma Josephine died five days short of her fourth birthday.



Researched and written by
Judy Magnuson Lilly

Step Light

Silence rings here
seeps into the heart
and steals the breath
My eyes squint before too bright sun

I step light between rows and rows
of headstones
plain rocks stuck in red earth
no names no dates

Sadness shadows this corner
between dusty back roads
weeds crushed by hedgerow

I search and all
I find is a note taped
to one headstone
ink-stained and useless

Margaret Wigley Westall

This project was a joint venture of the Salina Public Library and the City of Salina Parks and Recreation Department. Funding was provided in part by Horizons, a private donor group, and the Horizons Grant Program of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission.



HORIZONS

Impacting the Cultural Community in Salina since 1986
Salina Arts & Humanities Commission • City of Salina