

THE NUNEMACHERS



They came and stayed and lived.



Mrs. C. B. (Arietta) Nunemacher,
Mother of William, Etta and Robert

THEY CAME AND STAYED AND LIVED

Sixty-three years ago, Monday, September 15, at 4:00, o'clock in the afternoon, W. R. Nunemacher and his father, Captain C. B. Nunemacher, arrived in Ashland.

They came with the intention of making Clark county and Ashland their home, and a few days later Mr. Nunemacher staked out his claim on the NE 1/4 of Section 9, Township 33 Range 22. His father filed on the SE 1/4 of the same section.

They built their home on Mr. Nunemacher's NE 1/4 of land, four miles east of Ashland, and the quarter is still owned by him and is farmed and occupied by the Bert Fox Family.

Other members of the Nunemacher family, Mrs. Nunemacher and daughter, Etta Nunemacher, now Mrs. W. L. Ainsworth, and two sons, Dan and Robert N., came to Ashland on Christmas Day of 1884, to live. Ashland is still the home of the Nunemacher family.

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Clark County Clipper
Sept. 18, 1947



William, Etta and Robert.

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rites for William R. Nunemacher

Funeral services for William R. Nunemacher were held Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in the Ashland Methodist Church, Rev. Arlyn E. Conard, officiating, with Rev. C. A. Mullendore assisting. A quartet composed of Clarence Mullendore, Del Horner, Dorene Jacobs and Mrs. Lester Barricklow, sang "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "Sweet Peace the Gift of God's Love," with Mrs. John York at the organ.

Interment was in Highland Cemetery with the Stevenson funeral service in charge. Bearers were E. G. Brazelton, Wendell McMinimy, I. P. Gibson, James Berryman, Aeneas Baker and Virgil Howell.

William Russel Nunemacher, oldest son of C. B. and Arietta Nunemacher, was born July 25, 1861, in New Albany, Indiana, and passed away at his home in Ashland, Kansas, March 25, 1948. In September, 1984, he came to Clark County and pre-empted the claim three miles east of Ashland which he still owns. On May 24, 1896, he was united in marriage with Maggie L. Bringle and he and his wife made this claim their home until 1916, when they left the farm and moved to Ashland. Here on August 14, 1987, Mrs. Nunemacher passed away.

In 1915, he united with the Methodist Church of Ashland and was always keenly interested in its welfare. He presented the church with the Hammond organ which is now in use.

On October 15, 1939, he was married to Maggie M. Myers, who survives. He is also survived by one brother, R. N. Nunemacher, and one sister, Mrs. W. L. Ainsworth, both of Ashland, and several nieces and nephews.

In the early history of Ashland, Will, (or Bill, as he was familiarly known to his associates), with his brother Dan, ran a confectionery in the original building on the corner now occupied by the Barr Implement Company. Later that was sold, Will going to the farm and Dan to the old Indiana home. The farm business gravitated into the cattle business and Will and the late Bob Edgar formed a partnership and operated the "Sitka Ranch" which extended from north of Highway 160 south into the present Campbell-Harper ranch, its width being some eight or nine miles. With the death of Mr. Edgar, the business was closed out and Will operated on his own. He took a constructive part in public affairs and when residing on his farm he was treasurer of the school district and a fellow-member of the Board states that Will was one of the finest-minded men he ever associated with pre-eminently careful of the district's matters. Tenants on his farms remained so years upon years.

When he established his home in Ashland his interest in public affairs expanded and it was inevitable that he should become Mayor, serving for three terms, leaving an unsurpassed record. In church affairs he was faithful in attendance and a wise counselor until illness kept him at home.

Among his other public activities was the Clark County Fair Association which he helped organize and was its first president. He was also president of the Farm Bureau, member of the Board of Directors of the Ashland Hospital Association, Chairman of Board of County Commissioners, Red Cross Chairman, and others not recalled.

In 1889 he was one of the multitude who made that famous race into Indian Territory when it was opened to settlement. Being a land owner here he could not file on a homestead but he did secure a town lot. He also made the race into the Cherokee Strip when that was opened in 1893. These races were not made for profit but for fun, as he explained it. In his death this county loses one of its best citizens, who helped guide its destiny from the wild frontier days when poverty was a spur to constant effort to survive. While the faint-hearted abandoned their homes and fled to more established communities, Will remained to do his part in making this county one of the richest in the state. All honor to him and those who fought with him

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Written by Willis Shattuck
March 25, 1948

ETTA ANNIE NUNEMACHER AINSWORTH

Etta Annie Ainsworth was born four-score and eighteen years ago on June 12 1869, at New Albany, Indiana. After a long life she was taken in death, at the Ashland Hospital, on Tuesday morning September 5, 1967.

Etta Nunemacher was truly a daughter of pioneers. Her father, Captain C. B. Nunemacher, and his wife, Airetta, came to Clark County from their home in Indiana in 1884. No family was more prominent in this community than the Nunemacher family. Captain Nunemacher was a Civil War Veteran. He served as postmaster for many years. The Nunemachers were active members of the Methodist Church. Two of their sons, Will and Robert, remained in Clark County and participated in many activities here.

Etta, the only daughter, married W. L. Ainsworth, on December 25, 1893. The wedding, held in Ashland's only hotel, was long remembered as an outstanding social event of those days. Mr. Ainsworth was a businessman on Ashland's Main Street for many years.

Mrs. Ainsworth's surviving relatives are: nephews, Charles Vivian Nunemacher, of Louisville, Kentucky, Robert Jr., of Denver, Colorado; nieces, Eula May Nunemacher of Wichita, and Frances Van Blaricum of Meade, Kansas.

Etta Ainsworth lived 98 years... far beyond the average life span of mankind. To the last her mind was clear and her memory excellent. It was a pleasure to talk to her of people and happenings in that long, long past, that this generation knows little about.

Etta served as organist in the Methodist Church of Ashland for many years. In 1906, she transferred her membership to the Ashland Presbyterian Church. She and her husband were constant attendants. She was a diligent worker in Ladies Aid and served wherever she could as a working member. Only advancing years prevented her

every Sunday attendance.

Today we sadly pay a tribute to almost the last of the really early pioneers.

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Pallbearers: Philip Arnold, Richard Arnsperger, Warren Conner, F. M. Humphreys, Carl Johnston, Paul Salyer, Willis Shattuck, GleeVannaman.

Usher: William H. Stevenson.

Written by Willis H. Shattuck

R. N. NUNEMACHER

Robert N. Nunemacher, 79, a resident of Ashland for more than 70 years, died, Sunday, Dec. 4, after an illness of several months. He could truly be called a pioneer of Clark County having arrived only a few weeks after the town of Ashland was organized.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 2:30 p. m in the Ashland Methodist Church with Milo J. Paulin conducting the services.

Honorary casket bearers were: George Perry, Earl Haielsig, W. W. Culp, G. A. Hughs, Willis Shattuck, Virgil Howell and John Stephens.

Active casket bearers were: Glen Brazelton , Aeneas Baker, F. A. Bodin George Vandever, Tillman Floyd, and Charles Randall.

Music was by a mixed quartet composed of John York, Doreen Jacobs, Lois Barricklow and Lester Barricklow. Mrs. John York was the organist. Interment was in Highland Cemetery, Ashland, with Stevenson Funeral Service in charge of arrangements.

Obituary

Once again this community must pay a final tribute to a son of a pioneer family; a family rooting back to the earliest beginning of this county and coming down to the present day so, " let us say",

Robert Newton Nunemacher , son of C. B. and Arietta Nunemacher, was born November 30,1876, in New Albany, Indiana. He passed away Dec. 4, 1955, at the age of 79 years, 4 days. He came with his family to Ashland, December 24, 1884. A homestead was taken three miles east of Ashland by the elder Nunemacher. The family soon moved to Ashland where Robert attended the public schools, later going to business college in Kansas City, Mo. Upon completing school, Robert was associated with his brother, Charles, in the fruit and produce business away from here. Returning to Ashland, he took up ranching and farming. A horse fell with him resulting in

permanent injuries. A change of occupation was necessary. So in 1905 he erected a business building where the general office of the Home Lumber Company now stands. In this building, he opened a men's clothing store. Later a more substantial structure was erected and is now occupied by the offices of Severe and Bilyeu. Needing more room he eventually moved across the street to quarters now occupied by Dean Matthews. After sixteen successful years he retired, and spent the rest of his life looking after his farms.

On May 6, 1906, he married Lillie May Skelton. They became the parents of three children: Robert Jr., Eula May and Frances.

He united with the Methodist Church in 1917.

Robert is survived by his wife, Lillie of the home; children, Eula May of the home, Frances Van Blaricurn of Meade, and Robert Jr. of Denver, Colo. Grandchildren, Kenny, Betty Anne, and Galen. His three brothers, Will, Dan, and Charles all preceded him in death. Only a sister, Mrs. W. L Ainsworth survives of the original family.

Thus, quickly told, is the chronology of Robert Newton Nunemacher. As with all chronologies "for the record", it covers the high points. At the best it is only an outline-fairly accurate-but coldly lacking in details so essential to complete the story of life.

One remembering "back thru the years" recalls Bob's fine parents. They were Captain Nunemacher, grey haired and dignified, early day postmaster in this town, and the gentle little lady who was his wife. Fine folks, a credit to the community.

With a love for the land Bob took to ranching. As stated earlier, an injury forced a change of occupation. A well known St. Joseph wholesale house supplemented Bob's limited capital with a generous credit--credit for one year, At the end of that time, he was no longer in debt to them, -and seldom to anyone else for the remainder of his life. He practiced thrift and frugality, and was rigidly honest.

Bob Nunemacher was modest in self-appraisal without pretense or sham. He never sought preferment of any kind. He

was conscientious in the discharge of every public duty--whether serving as assessor, as Commander of the Home Guard in World War I, or selling government bonds.

He was consistent in his attendance and devotion to his church. He loved music, and flowers, and growing things. In early days, with laborious care, he planted and watered trees on West 8th Street, and at home that there might be shade and beauty. Bob was loyal to his friends, and gave kindness, and thoughtfulness, and love to his family. *This* love we know was repaid by a most courageous wife and solicitous children during the last three or four years.

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Written by Willis Shattuck
Dec. 6, 1955



MRS. R. N. NUNEMACHER DIES

Mrs. R. N. Nunemacher passed away Sunday morning in Meade Hospital after failing health the past year; she had for the past few months had residence at Lone Tree Lodge in Meade.

Services were held Tuesday at First Methodist Church, Ashland; Rev. Major Parker and Rev. Frank Little officiating. Interment was in Highland Cemetery.

Lillie May Nunemacher was truly a Clark County pioneer. Her parents, J. G. and Alice Snyder Skelton homesteaded in Liberty Township--northeast Clark County, and there on June 20th, 1887 she was born. In 1893 the Skeleton family moved to Ashland as did Lilly's maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Snyder so long identified with this community. She was educated in the Ashland

schools, and graduated from the high school class 1905. A contemporary remembers her as a most excellent student. In that fall she taught in Sitka. In 1906, she married Robert Nunemacher, son of a most respected pioneer family. Three children came to their home; Robert Jr., now of Denver, Colorado; Eula May of Ashland and Wichita; and Frances, now Mrs. J. W. Van Blaricum of Meade. Also surviving are four grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Ada Hill of La Jolla, California, five brothers, Roy of Pratt, Robert of Los Angeles, Lynn and John of Wichita, and Albert, of Van Nuys, Calif.

Parents - birth - schooling- marriage - children - death - the ordinary chronology of a life, but not the story of its living. There were the early days of a Pioneer era; the meager comforts - the few conveniences - the simple pleasures - the apparently futile struggles with the compensating rewards yet to come in an unseen future. It was a primitive existence, which this generation does not appreciate or understand. Lillie Skelton Nunemacher, experienced it all.

Lillie was a sensitive person, such are easily hurt by "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune", but she carried on with fortitude and courage and understanding and patience. Love was in her well kept home. When the "woes of life o'er took her", and incurable sickness made invalid a loved one, she lived with a smile on her face and an ache in her heart.

In later years she proved herself a good businesswoman; fair to tenants, a person of her word. A business associate commented recently on her unusually well kept records, for she was possessed of an orderly mind.

The seventy-six years of Lillie's life centered in this county. It was her county, and this town was her home. She belonged to several community organizations such as the Embroidery Club and The Twentieth Century Study Club, of which up to the time of her death, she was the sole surviving charter member. She was a faithful member of the Ashland Methodist Church. The motivating influence in her life was Her Lord and Master whom she trusted to the end.

My Lord Is There

I know my redeemer liveth,
For when my heart is burdened with care
I hear a kind and tender voice,
And I know that my Lord is there.
When the shadows of doubt confuse me
And it's dark o'er the sea and land
I look for a brighter tomorrow,
For I know who is holding my hand.
When the days of my life are ended,
Troubles and fears all past;
I know my pilot will guide me into the haven at last.

--Written by Gertie Hughs

Relatives Attending . . .

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Skelton, Jack Skelton, John Skelton, Mrs. Ann Skelton, Mr. and Milo Wright, Mrs. Ethyl L. Hutton, all of Wichita; A. W. Skelton, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. John Dakin, Ashland.

Others from out of town . . .

Mrs. Drexel Fisher, Miss Frances Smith, Miss Gladys Mason, Dr. Wesley Lauterbach, all of Wichita; Mrs. Clarence Hamilton, Alva, Okla.; Mrs. Howard Eubank, Protection; Mrs. Vernon Pepperd, Mrs. C. E. Allderdice, Mrs. Betty Allderdice, Mrs. Ward Butcher, all of Coldwater; Mr. And Mrs. Keith Beard and Mrs. Dean Gates of Meade.

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Written by Willis Shattuck

April 23, 1963



The home of Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Nunemacher,
Ashland, Kansas.

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*These obituaries were originally published in the
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They give the history of the three Nunemachers who
made Ashland, Kansas, their home.*

*Eula May Nunemacher
1998*

The cover page photo depicts the Nunemacher
farmstead near Ashland, Kansas



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