

Dewey
Farm
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CHAUNCEY DEWEY 1877-1959

The former Dewey ranch (now Konza Prairie Research Natural Area) south of Manhattan Kansas was so named after owners C. P. Dewey and his son Chauncey. This article gives an abbreviated genealogy of the Deweys and a narrative of Chauncey, his father and grandfather. Thanks to Dinah Faber for correcting some of my misinformation. She is writing a book about the Dewey/Benny feud. Also thanks to the Riley County Historical Society staff for sharing their files on the Deweys. - Evelyn J. Brown

Chauncey Dewey⁹ was the son of Charles Paulson Dewey⁸ (1843-1904) and Emma (Scott) Dewey (1844-1920) and the grandson of Chauncey Dewey⁷ (1796-1880) and Nancy (Pritchard) Dewey (1804-1897). Chauncey Dewey's⁷ ancestry included Eliphalet Dewey⁶ (1762-1837/8) and Rachel Ann (Hyde) Dewey (1761-1847), Daniel Dewey⁵ (1731-1816) and Temperance (Bailey) Dewey (1731-1795), John Dewey⁴ (1700-1774) and Experience (Woodward) Dewey, Josiah Dewey³ (1666-?) and Mehitable (Miller) Dewey, Josiah Dewey² (1641-?) and Hepzibah (Lyman) Dewey, and Thomas Dewey¹ (ca 1597-?).

Thomas Dewey¹ was born in Sandwich, Kent Co. England, immigrated to Dorchester (now south Boston) Massachusetts in 1630 on the "Mary & John" and removed to Connecticut in 1635 where he helped found the town of Windsor.

Josiah Dewey² was born in Windsor CT, Josiah³ in Northampton MA. Josiah³ married in 1691 and his son John⁴ in 1726. John⁴ died in Lebanon CT where his son Daniel⁵ was born. Daniel married in 1753 Temperance Bailey, the daughter of Isaac and Abigail (Hunt) Bailey. Daniel⁵ served as an ensign, lieutenant and captain in Co. 4, 12th CT militia from 1767-1772. Eliphalet⁶ was born in Lebanon CT where he married in 1793 Rachel Hyde, daughter of Silas and Martha (Waterman) Hyde. Eliphalet⁶ was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and died in Cadiz OH.

Chauncey Dewey⁷ was born in Norwich West Farms CT, removed to Cadiz OH in 1821 and married in 1823 Nancy Pritchard, daughter of John and Sarah (Bromfield) Pritchard. Chauncey⁷ is buried in the New Graveyard, Cadiz OH.

Chauncey Dewey⁷, the grandfather of our subject, worked on the farm until age 18, attending school in the winters. In 1814 he was drafted into a military company and marched to Sackett's harbor to repel an anticipated attack of the British, and was in service about seven weeks. On his return he entered Hartwick Academy in Otsego County NY where he pursued a literary study until the summer of 1818. He passed the exams to enter the Junior Class of Union College, Schenectady NY and graduated in 1820. He commenced the study of law at Cooperstown NY and in 1821 removed to Cadiz OH where he completed his legal studies and was admitted to the bar the following year. He continued in law practice in Cadiz until 1845. His law partner for 20 years was Edward M. Stanton, Pres. Lincoln's Secretary of War. Chauncey⁷ was president of the Harrison branch of the State Bank of Ohio until 1865 when its business closed and the Harrison National Bank was organized as its successor. He was a member of the Ohio senate from 1841-3, resigning before the expiration of his term. He was a Republican and a Presbyterian.



President's Message -- by Jane Brown

The Society says a big "Thank You" to our 1999 contributors. We have received donations in the form of memorials to honor deceased members and friends of the Society, as well as sizeable gifts from two members and a local business. Their gift letters state: "Because we have sold our business, we want to share some of our good fortune with the Society;" "Thinking of you and all the happy hours I have spent in your facilities;" and our business man wrote, "Please accept my end-of-year contribution. I know your Society will put it to good use." The memorials purchased books, and the gifts are awaiting directions from the planning committee for your board's approval.

Beginning in 2000, a long-range planning committee, appointed by the board, met to develop goals, guidelines, and recommend investments for the future of the RCGS library. You are invited to participate in these planning sessions. Let a board member know of your interest. It is heartwarming to watch the growth of our library and the continued library professionalism offered to our community by our dedicated volunteers. Tell our volunteers you appreciate their service to our library.

How best to thank our members, friends, and community supporters than to extend an invitation to visit and tour our library facilities -- some of whom helped build our new Eyestone addition. On April 30, the Society will host an "Open House" for your guests. This will be a great opportunity to say "Thank You" to the community and invite a friend to become a member. Start today to make the list of those who would be interested and local business people who should be aware of the RCGS Library and its community contribution. Mark the date and bring your guests. If you can help host the event, leave your name with the librarian and you will be contacted. We do need you in both small and large projects.

A "fun" project coming up this spring is the "Riley County Cemeteries' Reading Project. To participate in this very worthwhile project, call 565-6495, ask the librarian to register you to help and

that you wish to participate in reading a special cemetery, perhaps where your family or neighbors are buried. It has been ~seventeen years since our volunteers gathered cemetery information and put it into publications which you use at the RCGS library. This is a service to our community.

For those of you who attended our November 1999 Annual Meeting, you participated in the presentation of awards to two of our volunteer members: Evelyn Brown was awarded the national Federation Genealogical Society "Award of Merit" for her leadership contributions to the RCGS and Library for 26 years. Helen R. Long was awarded the RCGS "Certificate of Appreciation" for her many years of dedication and leadership to RCGS and Library. Additionally, Helen was invited to become one of our "Life-Time" members. Congratulations to both RCGS volunteers.

The Society is very pleased to bring to our Annual Workshop, October 28, 2000, Dr. George K. Schweitzer, Alumni Distinguished Professor at the University of Tennessee. His fields are history of religion and science, and even chemistry. His hobby is the use of historical reenactment as a method for teaching genealogy, and tracing the ancestries of his grandchildren. He has authored 19 genealogical research guidebooks and lectured both nationally and internationally. Our workshop chair, Sherry Butler, will bring you more information. Put this date, October 28, 2000, on your calendar -- it is a 'must attend' for family history researchers.

YEAR 2000 in relationship to the NEW MILLENNIUM 2001

One member writes: "Genealogists, above all, should recognize that 2000 is the end of the 20th century, not the beginning of the 21st. All centuries end with 00 in the end year. Thus, 2000 is the end not the beginning. In both the Julian and the Gregorian calendars there was no "zero" year. Year 1 B.C. and year 1 A.D. were adjoining years. Begin with 1 and count to 100 and you have a century. Begin with 1 and count to 2000 and you have 20 centuries. Year 2001 BEGINS the new millennium." Thank you for your insight.

CHAUNCEY DEWEY 2.

Charles Paulson Dewey⁸, the father of our subject, made his fortune with his brother Albert B (1846-?) who married in 1880 Louise Shufeldt of Chatham NY. C.P.⁸ was a corporate lawyer and acquired land parcel by parcel after the Chicago fire of 1872, much of it by foreclosing mortgages and buying at tax sales. Albert B. is listed in a Davis (Geary) County Kansas Blue Book and Directory 1883-4 in District 31, Jackson Township with a Chicago IL address and real estate of \$370.

C. P. Dewey⁸ was in Travis Co TX for about a decade from 1875 to 1885. He came to Kansas in 1885 and acquired 11,000 acres in Riley, Geary and Wabaunsee counties. He also acquired 700,000 acres in Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman and Thomas counties in Kansas. 300,000 acres were owned by Dewey and the rest leased from the government and private cattle companies. The land in western Kansas was 36 miles long and 24 miles wide.

Charles Paulson Dewey⁸ married Emma Scott, daughter of William Scott (1815-1879) and Harriet (Sherley)Scott (1820-1871). William was the son of James and Elizabeth (Howarth) Scott and Harriet was the daughter of Louis and Elizabeth (Broaddous) Sherley. Emma was born in Kentucky and had a sister Martha Ormsby Scott (1846-1850).

C. P. Dewey⁸ and Emma (Scott) Dewey had three children: **Charles Edward** (1875-1876) is buried in Cadiz OH; **Chauncey⁹**; and **Emma Scott** born 27 May 1880 Austin Texas, married (1) Mr. Lockwood, married (2) D. P. Roberts, died 25 Nov 1952 Flora IL. Emma (the daughter) received her education in France. In 1952 she was residing at 1725 North Washington Street in Junction City KS and was fatally injured when her car overturned near Flora IL. She was returning to Junction City after visiting several weeks in Alexandria Virginia. Her son, Lt. Col. Randolph Lockwood, was on duty with the Marines at San Francisco CA at the time. She was an Episcopalian and is buried in Highland cemetery, Junction City KS.

C. P. Dewey⁸ was a major builder in Manhattan at the turn of the century. He owned and operated a livery stable and in 1900 built two dormitories for college students - one for men, one for women. They were known as Park Place Halls and the one at 412 North 11th still stands at the northeast corner of Manhattan's City Park. During 1900 he was also associated with H. P. Wareham in the phone company. In September of that year he opened the beach facilities at Eureka Lake three miles southwest of Manhattan.

In the early summer of 1901 the Club House of 20 rooms at Eureka Lake was opened. In February an electric light plant was put in operation in Manhattan. C. P. completed three dwellings on the corner of Juliette & Poyntz as well as a 3-story, 16 room, double-frame house at Juliette & Leavenworth and a 3-story, 14 room, double-frame dwelling on Leavenworth, east of Juliette. He also built two 2-story tenements (one brick, one stone) on East Poyntz.

CHAUNCEY DEWEY 3.

In 1903 C. P. owned and operated an ice company and started the first livestock sales pavilion in Kansas in Manhattan.

C. P. Dewey⁸ divorced Emma and married Gertrude M (Osborne) Jewett who resided at 109 South Juliette in Manhattan KS when C. P. died on the 10 June 1904 of blood poisoning from a carbuncle. Gertrude is found in the 1905 Riley County KS census - age 55, born NY. The only other person in the household is Sallie Scott - a 30 year old Black.

C. P. was in Wheeling WV at the home of his niece, Mrs. Nannie M. Peterson, at the time of his death. He had written his will there on 7 June 1904.

In the terms of his will C. P.'s estranged wife Gertrude received her dower rights - about \$300,000 (in previous litigation she had received the Manhattan home and \$500 a month); his daughter Emma of McKinney TX \$5,000; his niece Nannie M. Peterson \$15,000; his sister Clara H Hogg \$5,000; his niece Anna Quarier \$5,000; his niece Alberta Hogg \$3,000; his nephew Chauncey D. Hogg \$2,000; his grand-niece Nancy D Peterson \$1,000; and his grand-nephew Walker F. Peterson \$1,000.

The household goods in the Dewey residence at 2966 Lake Park Avenue were given to "Mrs. Kline, who has agreed to make me a good home at Chicago for at least ten years. I also give her ten shares in the C. P. Dewey Land and Cattle Company." The remainder of the estate went to the executors - his son Chauncey⁹ and Charles T. Killen.

Emma (Scott) Dewey died 25 Nov 1920 at the home of her son Chauncey⁹ at 3d & Jefferson street in Junction City KS. She is buried in Highland Cemetery, Junction City.

Chauncey Dewey⁹ was a trail driver, cattle baron, world traveler, politician, soldier, scholar, and financier. He was much envied and thus excitement and controversy seemed to follow in his footsteps.

Chauncey⁹ was born 19 May 1877 in Austin TX. He was educated in the public schools of Texas and attended the University of the South at Sewanee Tennessee where he studied theology. His mother wanted him to be an Episcopalian bishop.

Chauncey⁹ volunteered in the army and served two years as an officer (Col.) most of the time overseas with combat forces. In 1900 he was boarding with Hiram Roberts, a physician, at 423 Houston in Manhattan KS and is listed as a live stock dealer.

CHAUNCEY DEWEY 4.

Chauncey was summoned by his father to manage the Oak Ranch in northwest Kansas. This ranch was later named the LV ranch but was more commonly known as the Dewey ranch. The headquarters was approximately 12 miles southeast of McDonald Kansas and situated near the South Fork of the Beaver Creek in Rawlins County. At its peak Oak Ranch supported 80 cowboys, 10,000 cattle and 40,000 sheep.

In June of 1903 the sheriff of Cheyenne County advertised to sell at a sheriff's sale personal property of the Berrys, Dewey's neighbors to the west. Three of the Oak Ranch cowboys attended the sale and purchased a water tank but the Berrys would not let them take the tank.

On the following day, Chauncey, eight cowboys and a 12-year old boy went to the Berry place with a team and wagon to pick up the tank. A gun battle ensued that left three Berrys dead, two Berrys wounded and three of Dewey's horses dead.

Dewey and two of his men were arrested and charged with murder. Dewey's lead attorney was John Hessin of Manhattan. They were acquitted in 1904 but it was another 30 years before the surviving Berrys admitted they shot first. There was much animosity against Dewey for he represented youth, power, wealth, education. A ballad was written about the Dewey/Berry feud reportedly written by a defense attorney.

Following his acquittal Chauncey and his sister Emma went to Europe and were in Paris the last of July when C.P.'s will was probated. He had died 10 June 1904.

Chauncey returned to Chicago to settle his father's estate and became involved in politics there. He headed the GOP in Cook County and twice controlled the Illinois delegation at presidential nomination conventions. He declared for Howard Taft in 1908, and for Teddy Roosevelt in 1912.

On 20 Apr 1908 Chauncey married Elvira Millspaugh at Grace Cathedral (not the present building) in Topeka KS. She was the daughter of Frank R. Millspaugh, Episcopal Bishop of the Kansas diocese. News items indicate 4,000 invitations were sent to as far away as Europe and the Philippines where many of his army friends were stationed. The groom's gift to the bride was a diamond necklace and they honeymooned abroad for a month. He was a candidate for election as U.S. congressman from Illinois at the time.

They returned to Chicago and were at home at the Metropole Hotel. In 1910 they were living at 3266 Lake Park Avenue and in their household was a private secretary, a chauffeur and his family of three, plus two Black servants. In the 20 July 1911 Manhattan Kansas "Republic" it was announced that he was appointed postmaster of Chicago.

CHAUNCEY DEWEY 5.

A daughter Mary Elinora "Molly" was born 13 Nov 1913 in Illinois but by 1920 they are back in Kansas living at 303 North Jefferson in Junction City. He gave his occupation as cattle raiser but he was also involved in other ventures. He built and operated the Standard Oil service station at 19th & Washington streets in Junction City.

Elvira filed for divorce from Chauncey in 1921. He married (2) 25 Oct 1927 his secretary Lavon Presson. He was 50 and she 23. She was the daughter of Otis G. and Jessie Presson, the family having come to Junction City by 1905 where Otis was a machinist at the Union Pacific shop.

Lavon was born ca 1904, joined the First Presbyterian Church in Junction City in 1917 and graduated from Saint Xavier's High School in the commercial class of 1922-3.

Chauncey and Lavon were married at the home of the bride's grandmother, Mrs. Laura Wikoff at Leoti Kansas, then moved to the Dewey (LV) Ranch near Brewster KS. A large Spanish-style stucco house was built on the ranch. Many antiques, works of art from Europe, and relics of the old West were destroyed when the house burned to the ground in 1956.

In 1944 at age 67, Chauncey ran for U.S. senator from Kansas but lost the nomination to Clyde Reed Sr. Asked in a 1958 interview with the Topeka "Capitol-Journal" why he returned to the plains, he replied, "I never knew anyone who lived in the West who didn't want to go back." No doubt he would like to be remembered as an oldtime cowboy. He drove the last herd of cattle (4,000 head) over the Old Chisholm Trail from Dalhart Texas to his ranch north of Brewster Kansas.

Chauncey and Lavon had two sons: Chauncey Jr. b 23 May 1928 at a Denver hospital and Otis Presson b 30 May 1930. Chauncey died 4 Nov 1959 at the Mayo Clinic at Rochester MN where he had been a patient a week. He was 82.

The large tombstone in Highland Cemetery in Junction City Kansas and the markers around it would indicate that not all are buried there who have markers. Chauncey's brother who died in infancy and was buried in Cadiz Ohio has a marker. Lavon's marker indicates she died 28 Feb 1994.

A limestone barn and house were constructed on the Dewey Ranch south of Manhattan in 1911 and 1912. During WWI the land was leased to the 9th Cavalry (all Blacks) and there were 5,000 mules on the ranch. On 20 Nov 1928 the Geary county portion of the ranch was sold for \$87,684.18. In 1930 the remainder of the ranch was sold and it had four owners until the purchase by the Nature Conservancy in 1977 after a foreclosure. In the 1940s POWs were hired from Ft. Riley to work on the ranch.

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EDITORS' NOTE

Because of declining health (Parkinson's Disease), I will be forced to relinquish my duties. I have enjoyed my seven years as editor. It has been a pleasure to work with the two presidents, Cecil Eyestone and Jane Brown, and the staff of Kansas Kin, especially my wife, Mary, the proof reader, John Davies, the membership chairman, Louise Henricks, the indexer, Richard Akins, and the book reviewer, Janeice Crosson, who will take over as editor starting with the May issue. I am very grateful to her. I am also grateful to our regular contributors, Evelyn Brown, Sy Ekart, and Tom Branigar. Due to their efforts, we have a backlog of articles.

**Located Portions of the
Diary of
William McManaman
Robinson**

compiled and written by
Helen R. Long, Ag Press 1999

Parts of this diary were published in the weekly Tescott, Kansas newspaper, *Tescott Herald*, during the 1930s. This book contains one page of his original diary - 1848; twelve pages of his early war experiences, 1860-1862; and the eighteen months of the weekly publication, *Tescott Herald*, 1861-1862, 1869-1870. This is a treasure of hand written information of the mid-1800s.

If interested, call the RCGS library and ask for a brochure or to purchase a copy.

E-mail Address Changes

When you change your email address we are notified that you did not receive the message, and we do not receive your new email address. Let us know of any changes !

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