2009 Cemetery Tour







<u>Thursday</u> <u>September 17, 2009</u> 7:00pm - 9:00pm Non-Walking Cemetery Tour at the North Platte Public Library

September 19, 2009 1:00pm - 5:00pm Historical Cemetery Tour at the North Platte Cemetery

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**Proceeds benefit the North Platte Public Library Foundation** 

# WELCOME to the 2009 Cemetery Tour

### Have you ever wished you were a fly on the wall, so you could hear what was being said?

Then this year's Cemetery Tour is just for you! The ghosts and the buildings they were affiliated with, highlight this year's cemetery tour. Many of the ghosts either built or managed many of today's historic North Platte buildings. And several of the ghosts are on the tour because of activities and conversations that took place in the buildings they occupied. Enjoy the tour!

### Contents

<b>GHOST</b>	ACTOR	PAGE
Earl B. Payne	Michael Davis	4
Anders Kocken	Colin Taylor	5
Anna Cook	Carolyn Clark	6
Frank Cook	Bob Clark	6
Julia Cody Goodman	Brittany Drullinger	7
Annie Kramph	Traci McKeon	8
James McMichael	Jason Gale	9
Effie Iddings	Rachel Stahr	10
Charles Iddings	Steven Stahr	10
Clyde Macomber	Bob McFarland	12
Thomas C. Patterson	Bill Kackmeister	14
Credits and References .		15
Map of Headstone Locations		16

# DRIVING TOUR

If you are interested in driving around town to see the buildings that are mentioned in this tour, here is a map for you to use.



#### A. North Platte Cemetery

- B. 2921 Scouts Rest Ranch Rd (Scouts Rest Ranch)
- C. 220 W 6th St (Anders Kocken's home-oldest building in NP, now Stephen Potter's office)
- D. 620 N Vine St (North Platte Fire Station)
- E. 314 N Jeffers St (North Platte Public Library-1912 Carnegie Library, now the North Platte Children's Museum)
- F. 209 E 4th St (McMichael constructed Hendy-Ogier Ford Garage, now Erickson's Furniture)
- G. 515 W 4th St (Thomas Patterson home, current owner-Dan & Tia McGuire)
- H. 420 E 8th St (North Platte Police Department, now North Platte Water Tower)
- I. 519 W 5th St (Charles & Effie Iddings home, current owner-Steven & Rachel Stahr)

Be sure to drive downtown North Platte on the bricks to see the buildings built by James McMichael. You will need to look to the top of the buildings for the identifying names.

Happy hunting and enjoy the beautiful old architecture!

### Earl b payne



Earl Broxun Payne came to North Platte in 1912. He joined the volunteer fire department in 1922. On July 16, 1936, he became Fire Chief. He was the first salaried fulltime fire chief hired by the City of North Platte. During his short term he was responsible for obtaining a new ladder truck and equipment that was needed for the truck. He

had the new drill tower constructed on East 7th Street for the training of the firemen. He had spent the previous summer in fire training school and carried on intensive drills with the volunteer firemen.

On Saturday, October 17th of 1936, Chief Payne and fireman Francis Fitzgibbons were going down West 4th Street and were at the intersection of Jefferson and 4th Streets to fight a grass fire near Cody School on the outskirts of North Platte when tragedy struck.

Payne was traveling in his little red coupe ahead of the fire trucks when a car driven by Ira P. Wright (radio operator), clipped the rear of Payne's coupe. Wright was traveling south and didn't stop at the intersection. Wright claimed that he looked both ways and didn't see or hear the approaching sirens. He had slowed down, but never came





to a complete stop at the intersection. There was no stop sign at the intersection, so instead of stopping, he just did a guick look, and continued through the intersection.

At that time, West 4th Street had a narrow ditch running down the middle of the street. Wright's car struck the left fender of Payne's car, causing Payne's car to hit the curb along the center ditch, causing both men to fly out of the roof of the car. The car turned over twice and ended up in the ditch about twenty feet ahead of the two men, who landed on the pavement. Payne died shortly after reaching the hospital.

Payne was born July 8, 1892 in California and married Verda Timmerman in 1911 in Fort



Morgan, Colorado. They had no children together. Mrs. Payne received \$2,000.00 from the city after his death.

The building pictured here is the first Fire Station in North Platte. The building still stands at 620 N Vine Street. The furthest right portion of the building is original and was completed in 1918; the middle expansion was built in 1921; and the last part of the building was added in 1929. The building is currently occupied by a private resident and two businesses.

# ANDERS O KOCKEN

Anders Otto Kocken (pronounced Kō-ken) was born October 11, 1840 near Linkoping Sweden. He married Christine Mylander in 1861 and came to America in 1868.

Once in America, Anders first lived in Waukon, Iowa, then Omaha, Nebraska; finally moving to North Platte in 1874. Anders and Christine had a large family: six girls and four boys.

Once in North Platte, Mr. Kocken made his living as a merchant tailor. He was known for his fine tailoring and made clothing for Buffalo Bill. As one of North Platte's early citizens, Anders was a



charter member of the IOOF and the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Mr. Kocken was a man of integrity and honor.



Anders built the brick home, which still stands at the corner of 6th Street and Sycamore in 1875 (220 W 6th St). This home is believed to be the oldest standing building in North Platte at this time.

While roofing the house on September 11, 1875, two of the roofers were struck by lightning. The lightning struck the east end of the house and cracked the wall down to the window and continued on down to the foundation. The crack is still in the wall today. The house was

originally built in an L-shape. Most of the walls are 16 inches thick. The evergreen trees in front were given to the Kockens by relatives living in the state of Washington. The sidewalk is Colorado Sandstone slabs.

Anders died of acute kidney problems in 1927, at age 86. He was preceded in death by his wife, who passed away in 1917.





### Anna & Frank Cook

In 1893, a thirty-three year old farmer by the name of Frank Cook made a trip to Denver, Colorado to buy supplies for his newly purchased farm, located on 80 acres outside Hershey, Nebraska. The place had a pretty white farmhouse and an irrigation ditch; all it needed was a family.

6

While in Denver, Frank boarded his horses at the Petzke Livery Stable. After a while, George Petzke took a liking to him, so George invited him home for dinner with his family. At dinner, he was seated next to George's daughter, a lively 19-year-old named Anna, who was very interested in everything that Frank was telling her about his new farm.

The next year when Frank returned to Denver, it was to marry Anna (Annie). After they were married, the newlyweds returned to Hershey to begin their new life. Who could have known the turmoil that would be caused by this energetic young woman?



Frank would spend the next 45 years trying to protect the peaceful Platte valley from his obsessive wife.

Annie was bound and determined to become wealthy and important. She was willing to go to any lengths to make her dreams come true. The pursuit of her goals resulted in misery for everyone who was close to her. No one was spared, not her daughter nor her sister, nor her niece nor her husband. Frank watched helplessly as her obsession with money and power grew. All he could do was provide a little comfort to his family and the poor souls who strayed into Annie's path. One can only imagine the conversations and whispered



Located on Platte Valley Road West of North Platte

secrets that those walls heard.

The house pictured is the bungalow that Annie modeled her home after. She hired the same contractor that built this home and had him built her home in the same style. But of course, Annie had to have it built slightly larger for her own greedy purposes. The bungalow that Annie actually lived in has been torn down and a new house built in that location. Charles Bostwick owns the house in this photo and he is pictured here as a little boy with his mother, Gladys Bostwick.





# JULIA CODY GOODMAN

Julia Melvia Cody was born on March 28, 1843 in LeClair, Iowa. Julia is the oldest sister of William Frederick (Buffalo Bill) Cody. Julia spent her girlhood years in Kansas.

In 1862, Julia married James Alvin "Al" Goodman and they had eight children. For 23 years, Mr. and Mrs. Goodman lived in Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1885, the family moved to Scouts Rest Ranch, just outside North Platte, Nebraska.



Scouts Rest Ranch was built in 1886 by Patrick Walsh and had 15 rooms with wide porches. The new house cost \$3,500.00. Julia oversaw the complete building and furnishing of the new house.

While she and Al lived at the ranch, Julia entertained everyone from royalty to cowboys. There were always

guests, especially at the end of each Wild West show season. Al was a good manager and the ranch had a large herd of cattle, with many different breeds.

In 1890, Buffalo Bill's wife, Lulu, wanted their daughter and her new husband to take over the management of the ranch. Lulu believed that Al's failing health would make him unable to manage the ranch effectively. Buffalo Bill disagreed and convinced Al and Julia to stay. But one year later, Al did resign; and he and Julia moved to Kansas.

However, Buffalo Bill's instincts proved correct, as his daughter and husband managed the ranch poorly. So Bill talked Al into returning to the ranch, but Julia was not easily convinced. Julia finally agreed and they managed the ranch until 1899, when they moved into town. Al's health steadily declined and he died in 1901.

In 1902 Julia moved to Cody, Wyoming, a city named in honor of her brother, Col. William Cody. She took over the management of the Hotel Irma and lived in Wyoming for nearly twenty years. No matter where she lived, Julia took an active part in her church, and in the social, educational, and civic affairs of her community.

In 1922 she moved to southern California. Julia resided there unless she was visiting her family and children. She was in Honolulu, Hawaii visiting her son when she took ill. At the age of 75, she passed away after a brief illness on October 26, 1928. According to her wishes, she was cremated and her ashes were brought back to be buried in the North Platte Cemetery next to her beloved husband.



## Annie C kramph



8

Annie C. Kramph was born on April 21, 1873 in North Platte, Nebraska. She graduated 3rd in her class from North Platte High School in 1888. After graduation, Annie went to work in the Post Office as a clerk and eventually became deputy postmaster. Later,

she joined the staff of the semi-weekly Tribune and did practically everything to be done on a newspaper. Then in 1896, she went to work at the First National Bank as an assistant cashier and stayed at the bank for the next 41 years. She retired from the bank when she was seventy-three years old.

Her best known achievement was the establishment of the North Platte Public Library. Her campaign started when she began agitating Mayor Thomas Patterson about civic improvements in 1910. She thought one of the best ways to accomplish this would be to build a new Public Library. She pushed hard enough that a grant was written for \$12,000 and the money was secured from the Carnegie Foundation. Annie had the site picked out and construction began in September 1911. The formal opening of the North Platte Public Library was Tuesday, April 2, 1912 and Annie was a founding Library Board member, a position she held for 47 years.

Annie was involved in other civic organizations as well. She started the first PTA in North Platte, which soon earned the nickname: Parents-Teachers and Annie! On September 23, 1913, she invited 75 women to the Library and created the Twentieth Century Women's Club; which eventually became the Business and Professional Women's organization. The first order of business was to address the decline of the local cemetery. Persuaded by Annie and the Club, the City soon took over the cemetery; fenced it, and hired a caretaker.

Annie also served on the Nebraska Library Commission, State and American Bankers Associations; Chamber of Commerce; Charter member of the Order of the Eastern Star; worked with the Red Cross in both World Wars; and many other organizations. She was



named Nebraska's Pioneer Woman of the Year in 1958.

Annie passed away at the age of 86 on October 7, 1959.

Interior of original 1912 Library

### James A mcmichael



James A. McMichael was born on April 22, 1861 in Lickingville, Pennsylvania. When he was 17 years old, his father Alonzo moved the whole family to North Platte, Nebraska. Alonzo was a carpenter, builder, and contractor by trade, so when he moved to North Platte, he established his business and built a number of the larger



buildings and residences in North Platte. Alonzo passed along both his trade and his honest reputation and integrity to his son.

James married Sota Rowley on November 22, 1888 and to them four daughters were born.

James' work as a contractor led him to build some of the most prominent buildings in North Platte. He built the McCabe Hotel, the

Palace Hotel, the Hendy-Ogier Garage, the 2nd High School building, the Knights of Columbus Hall and more. One can only imagine how many other buildings and houses were built by the McMichael family, since only the large prominent ones are mentioned in the research materials.



James died on August 21, 1924 in an Omaha hospital, after suffering a heart attack and stroke. Family photographs are courtesy of Charlene Rowley.



# CHARLES & Effie IDDINGS



Charles Iddings was born on July 19, 1856 in Warren Ohio. He moved to North Platte in October of 1883.

One of Charles first jobs was to manage the railroad eating house and the stock yards; eventually acquiring a lumber yards. By 1893, he added a grain business and a flour mill to his interests. Charles did business all over Lincoln County, as well as several towns in Colorado.

The Iddings house was originally built in 1887 at 519 West 5th Street for Charles and his first wife, Kate (Taffe) Iddings and their coming family. Kate died in child-birth and Charles remained in the house, living with his sister, until he married Effie Cleland in 1893. Around 1896, Mr. Iddings' health took a turn for the worse and he eventually became an invalid, leaving his wife to run all the business interests.



The original house was a two and a half story gabled house in a typical Victorian style. There was a windmill in the back, as well as a picket fence (which was removed in 1904). A barn sat in the northwest corner with a wood shed, tool house, privy, and chicken coop. A playhouse and wash shed were built in 1904. Sleeping porches became all the rage around 1907; since it was better for one's health to sleep in the fresh night air, so Charles added sleeping porches. In 1911, all the small buildings were removed when Charles and Effie bought their first car. They converted the barn into a garage.

In 1910, Charles' sister and brother kidnapped him, thinking they could take better care of him; and took him back to Warren, Ohio. Effie went to Ohio, took the in-laws to court; and won "custody" of her husband. Effie Iddings was a well-respected woman of the community and was considered to be very tough. She was an excellent business woman and was eventually made President of the C. F. Iddings Company, which incorporated in July 1907.

In 1913, a major renovation was underway as their family had grown and they needed a bigger house. The house was raised up and an underground basement put in. The house was moved back over the new basement and a third story was added. Large wrap-around porches were also added on the first and second floors.

Sadly, Charles Iddings didn't get to enjoy the new renovations to his beautiful house for very long. He died a few months after finishing



Florence Ryan, age 2, mother Effie Iddings, Nanine Iddings

10



the renovation. Effie sold all his business interests shortly after his death, but continued to live in the house for several more years after Charles's death.



The house today still looks exactly like it did after the 1913 renovation with only a very few minor changes. Work is being done to have the home placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Interesting Facts about the house:

- Buffalo Bill Cody was a friend of Charles Iddings and used to play poker in the formal dining room.
- On the first floor, all the doors were faced with the wood that was used in the corresponding room. Oak was used in the entry hall; cherry wood was used in the front parlor and dining room; and sycamore was used in the back parlor.
- This house is mentioned in Nellie Snyder Yost's book, "Evil Obsession." When one of Annie Cook's captives escaped, she sought sanctuary at the "Kelly" house. Charles Idding's house is "the old Kelly house".
- Today, the pond is in the same spot as the original pond. One of the early owners filled it in because she was afraid that a neighborhood child might fall in it and drown. Darrell Franzen was digging up the yard to install a sprinkler system and found the original pond. He put a new surface on it and built the little fountain with the stones he found lining the original pond.

The history of the ownership is as follows:

- 1. Charles and Effie Iddings
- 2. The Cramer family
- 3. AP Kelly (Owner of the North Platte Telegraph)
- 4. Sarah and Verne Taylor
- 5. The Ken Hornbaucher family
- 6. Marcene and Darrell Franzen
- 7. Claire and John Hawley
- 8. Trista and Duane Smith
- 9. Rachel and Steven Stahr



#### macomber **76** e



2

Clyde Darold (Darrel) Macomber was born April 20, 1911 in North Platte, Nebraska. He had one brother, Chet and one sister, Helen. Clyde married three times during his life and had two children. Both brothers become policemen, but Clyde became infamous for the 1937 Sam Pappas beating.

It is believed that when Clyde was a city patrolman, he and Joseph Baskins (at the direction of Albert Hastings) went to the home of Samuel Pappas on November 21, 1937. They took Pappas from his home to the Ritner Hotel, where he was severely beaten. Shortly after, all three men were arrested and charged with robbery, assault, and kidnapping. Once Macomber was arrested and charged, Mayor George

Dent put Clyde on indefinite suspension from the police department.

All three pled not guilty and were released on bond.

There were all kinds of twists and turns to the whole case, and the media covered all the various angles throughout the three years it took to finally put an end to the whole fiasco. The general public was intrigued by the "Pappas Case" as it came to be known and many followed the thorough newspaper coverage.

Some of those complications were:

• An attempt by Clyde Macomber to charge Diedrichs, County Attorney, for Sam "setting up" the charges against all three men.



- Next came the strange beating of the County Attorney, Sam Diedrichs, by Jay Hastings, Albert Hasting's son. Jay eventually pled guilty and served a 90-day sentence.
- The trial was originally supposed to be held on January 3, 1938 but by the end of December 1937, it was evident that this case wasn't going to trial anytime soon. There were attempts to change the venue; trouble finding and gathering witnesses; disappearing witnesses; as well as sudden illnesses, which caused all kinds of delays.

During this time there was also an undercover investigation going on as to the extent of gambling in North Platte. This was causing problems for the Pappas case because of



evidence directly linking gambling to the Pappas Case. That undercover investigation resulted in the firing of the current police chief, James Bechan. Shortly after news of the undercover investigation became public, all three defendants were granted three separate trials.

The first trial held was Al Hastings, next Macomber and finally Baskins. Hastings was found guilty of assault and immediately asked for a new trial. His trial took 11 days. Macomber's took more than two weeks and he was found guilty of all three charges. He also asked for a new trial.

Baskins won his change of



Pappas Accused by Macomber INVESTIGATION OF PAPPAS CASE PRESSED BY COUNTY ATTORNEY WHO IS TAKING STATEMENTS

#### If These Walls Could Talk

previous trials, so the Baskins trial was moved to Tryon. He was convicted of assault after a trial of only 5 days and also filed for a new

trial on April 12, 1938. Baskins was sentenced to two years hard labor after Judge Nisley overturned his attempt at a new trial. Al Hastings was sentenced to 5 years after his motion for a new trial was denied.

Macomber's conviction to life in prison was upheld when Judge Nisley overturned his motion for a new trial. All three men filed for Supreme Court appeals. Macomber and Baskings began serving their sentences, but Hastings jail time was postponed until his new trial was set.



The State Supreme Court upheld the conviction for Baskins, but Macomber succeeded in getting the kidnapping charges dropped when he went to the Supreme Court. He filed for a new trial based only on the assault charge. Before Al Hastings case went to the Supreme Court, a new witness came forward to claim he had been bribed by Hastings and that information did lead to a new trial for Hastings.

Three years and 10 days after Samuel Pappas was taken to the Ritner Hotel and severely beaten, both Al Hastings and Clyde Macomber were found guilty of assault and battery. Both men were fined \$25.00 each. The judge was upset with the way the State handled the trials and all the money wasted at taxpayers' expense. He took into consideration the money the two men spent in their defense and gave them light sentences. The judge also told Macomber that he believed that Macomber was at fault for the whole affair. He went on to say that if he had not already served 19 months in jail, he would have pronounced a heavier sentence on him. Joseph Baskins ended up serving two years hard labor in the penitentiary.

As the nation went to war in the forties, Clyde served his country during World War II. Clyde died on September 4, 1947 at the age of 36.



Around 1933, the first police station that North Platte built was located in the Original Town on the North Side. It was located at 420 East 8th Street. Today, North Platte's Water Tower stands approximately where this old Police Station was located.

### Thomas C Patterson



Thomas C. Patterson was born on February 3, 1846 in County Down, Ireland. He came to America with his parents, W. J. and Mary Patterson, in 1854. Thomas received most of his education in Chicago's grammar schools. At the age of sixteen, he enlisted in the Illinois Infantry and served thirty-two months for the Union Army during the Civil War.

He moved with his parents to North Platte in 1868 where he went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad as a fireman, and then in the shops. He taught school in 1870 and then served as postmaster from 1871 to 1882. During this same time he also opened and ran a general store and studied law. He became a lawyer in 1883, started the Mutual Building and Loan Association of North Platte in 1887, the first of its kind in Nebraska, and opened a real estate business in 1890. Through smart and

"diligent" investing he owned (clear of any debt) five farms in Lincoln County which he sold in 1919 for nearly \$100,000 and making him one of the wealthiest men of North Platte.

The Patterson mausoleum was built in July 1919 to honor the memory of his son, George T. Patterson. It was built by Chas. G. Blade & Company of Chicago, Illinois and contains over 60 tons of materials. The exterior consists of New England gray granite and the interior is embellished with very fine imported Italian marble. The doors to the mausoleum are bronze. There are ten bodies in the vault.



Thomas was a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church, served three terms as mayor of North Platte and was responsible for pursuing a grant to build the 1912 Carnegie Library in North Platte. The house he built and lived in still stands today at 515 West 4<sup>Th</sup> Street and is owned by City Councilman Dan McGuire and his wife Tia.



The *History of Lincoln County* remembered Mr. Patterson this way... "Thomas C. Patterson is one of the names deserving of most frequent repetition in connection with the history of North Platte during a period of more than half a century. "Seest thou a man diligent at his business; he shall stand before kings." Diligence seems to have been the keynote in the career of Mr. Patterson. There has never been a time in the past fifty years when he has not been engaged in some line of useful service, and much of it in behalf of the community. His is a rare instance of a man achieving individual prosperity after passing the prime of his years."

Thomas Cartwright Patterson died November 18, 1929 at the age of 83.

14

### If These Walls Could Talk CREDITS AND REFERENCES

Thank you to the following researchers, individuals, actors, volunteers, and websites that helped create If These Walls Could Talk 2009 Cemetery Tour:

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#### **EVENT DAY VOLUNTEERS**

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#### WEBSITE RESEARCH CREDIT

http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/nlcarchives/carnegie/NorthPlatte1912.jpg http://www.findagrave.com http://googlemaps.com

#### ALSO, THANKS TO ....

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### Cemetery Tour Map

- 1. Charles and Effie Iddings
- 2. Anders Kocken
- 3. Anna Cook and Frank Cook
- 4. Annie Kramph
- 5. Clyde Macomber
- 6. Earl B. Payne
- 7. James McMichael
- 8. Thomas C. Patterson
- 9. Julia Cody Goodman

Be sure to plan to attend next year's Cemetery Tours! That's right—next year there will be TWO cemetery tours...



### "The Dirty Thirties"

This Cemetery Tour will be held in

June leading up to the 2010 Chautauqua (June 23-27, 2010). There will be a special evening tour at the North Platte Cemetery on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, as well as a Saturday tour on June 26, 2010. All of the North Platte "ghosts" on this tour lived and made significant contributions to North Platte during the nineteen thirties.

### CIVIL WAR TREASURES

Next year's Railfest Cemetery Tour will focus on the stories of the Civil War Veterans that are buried at the North Platte Cemetery. 122 Civil War veterans are buried in the North Platte Cemetery. So, mark the date, Thursday, September 16, 2010 AND Saturday, September 18, 2010.