

# Butler Buchanan Miltonberger

*Portrayed by Glenn Van Velson*



Butler Buchanan Miltonberger was born August 31, 1897, in North Platte to Ira and Jennie Miltonberger.

He graduated from North Platte High School in 1916 and enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard. Miltonberger was mobilized during the Mexican Border Campaign.

During World War I, Miltonberger fought in the Argonne region with the 4th Infantry Division and attained the rank of First Sergeant.

In 1920, Butler married Caroline Wright; she was his second wife. They had three children, Helen, Butler Jr, and Beatrice "Jane". His first wife was Helen Koontz; no children were born from this marriage.

As a civilian, he worked in North Platte as a postman. He also engaged in bridge building, surveying, and road construction work. On May 23, 1923, he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant and a year later was promoted to Captain. He commanded Company "D" of the 134th Infantry Regiment.

At the beginning of World War II, Miltonberger was promoted to Colonel as commander of the 134th Infantry Regiment. He led his regiment throughout France, including Morhange, Vire, Alsace, Saint-Lô, Gelsenkirchen, Bastogne, Mortain, Nancy, Sarreguemines, and the Elbe River. In February 1945, Miltonberger was promoted to Brigadier General and assigned as Assistant Division Commander of the 35th Division. When he returned to the United States in November of 1945, he remained on active duty at the War Department. In 1946, President Harry S. Truman nominated Miltonberger to be Chief of the National Guard Bureau as a Major General. As Chief, he worked to reorganize the National Guard following its mobilization for World War II, including the formation of the Air National Guard. He retired from the military in August 1947.

After retirement, Butler returned to Nebraska and resided in North Platte and Lincoln. He was employed by the Nebraska State Engineering Department.

Butler Buchanan Miltonberger died in North Platte on March 23, 1977. He is buried at Fort McPherson and for the purposes of this Cemetery Tour, he is standing at his father, Ira Miltonberger's headstone.



# William Clayton Ritner

*Portrayed by David Breaker*

William Clayton Ritner was born November 15, 1854, at Port Royal, Pennsylvania. He attended school in Pennsylvania until he was sixteen years old. He then became an apprentice to a marble cutter in Pittsburgh. His keen eye, artistic tastes, and deftness gave him a natural aptitude for marble cutting. Two years after the apprenticeship, he went west, stopping at North Platte, Nebraska.



Chief Dull Knife

While in North Platte, he enlisted in the United States Army and saw active service against the Indians. He served in company L 7th cavalry and was mustered out in 1877.

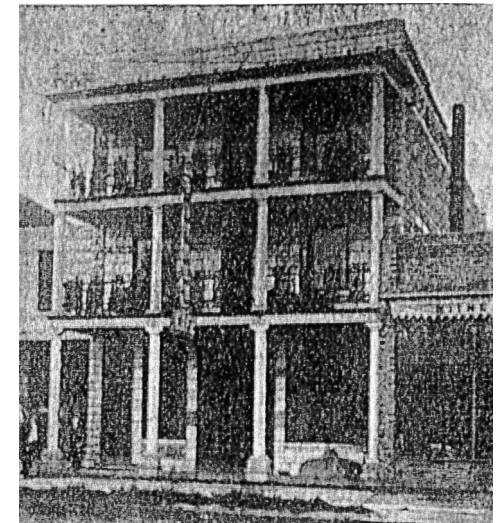
While involved in several minor Indian skirmishes, he was at the Battle of Chief Dull Knife. This battle took place east of the Bighorn Mountains in Johnson County, Wyoming. The Indians were defeated, over 170 teepees were captured, skins and furs valued at over \$10,000 were burned, and over 450 horses were captured.

After he was mustered out, he took a homestead in Lincoln county and went into the cattle business. After ten years of ranching, he sold the business and moved into North Platte, where he began the Ritner Marble and business and opened plants at

Granite Works. He was a successful Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Greeley, Colorado. One of his major business accomplishments was the construction of the Ritner hotel in North Platte, Nebraska.

On October 28, 1884, he married a widower named Helen M. Thomas in North Platte. Having no children of their own, they adopted five children: Julia, Laird, May, Ethel, and Lily. They both possessed compassion for homeless children and frequently took in foster children as well.

William Clayton Ritner died January 18, 1923, in the Ritner Hotel.



Ritner Hotel

# George Babbitt

*Portrayed by Andrew Lee*

George Washington Bobbitt was born on October 27, 1839, to Tillman and Jane Bobbitt in western Virginia. Researchers do not know why he changed his name or even if he changed his name. However, after the Civil War, it was common to change one's surname. It is also possible that whoever recorded the census and other research documentation misheard the pronunciation of "Babbitt." This information applies to both George and James.

George enlisted in the 39th Illinois, Infantry Regiment, Company "F" on August 13, 1861, in Centralia, Illinois.

Within months, this regiment was fighting against Stonewall Jackson's Confederate Army. The 39th Regiment was constantly on the march and involved in many battles.

In March of 1865 the 39th Regiment received one hundred new recruits; which led to the successful capture of Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia from the Confederacy. On April 2, 1865, the 39th Regiment took part in the charge upon Fort Gregg. The goal was to capture and hold an enclosed building, situated upon a hilltop. The country surrounding the hillside was prairie meadow with no trees. Immediately surrounding the building was a ditch six feet deep and twelve feet wide. The 39th was the first regiment to reach the ditch and the first regiment to plant a Union flag upon the structure. It was only by digging footholds in the ground with swords and bayonets that the soldiers were able to gain access to the parapet. The struggle was hand-to-hand combat and lasted for half an hour. Out of the 150 members who went into that fight, 16 were shot dead and 45 were more severely wounded, most of whom died.

After this affair, the Regiment joined the Union Army in hot pursuit of General Lee and succeeded in heading his Confederate Army off. After forced marches (40 miles in one day) and frequent skirmishes at Appomattox Court House, the 39th Illinois Regiment had the proud satisfaction of witnessing the final surrender of General Robert E. Lee with his great army of Northern Virginia.

Babbitt married Annie Eliza Marsh in Detroit, Michigan at the close of the Civil War. To this union, seven children were born: Tillman, Eunice, Ida May, Albert, Annie, Sophia, and George.

In approximately 1870, George and his family move to North Platte, Nebraska, where he farmed.

George Babbitt died on October 21, 1911.



# Charles Hendy

*Story told by his wife Katie, portrayed by Lois Lynes-Miles*



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hendy

Charles Hendy was born in New York City on March 23, 1848. He received his early education in the schools of West Farms and West Chester counties, now boroughs of New York City. His first employment was that of a druggist.

When Charles was 21 years of age, he enlisted in the United States Army and was appointed Sergeant of Ordinance by

General W.T. Sherman. The five years of his enlistment was spent in various forts as a hospital steward. He was stationed in several western frontier forts, including: Fort Columbus (New York), Fort Sedgwick (Colorado Territory), Sidney Barracks (Nebraska Territory), Fort McPherson (Nebraska Territory), Fort Sanders (Wyoming Territory), and Fort Fetterman (Wyoming Territory).

Catherine "Katie" Janett was born on April 4, 1847, in Fideris, Switzerland. She and Charles married on June 11, 1872. After his honorable discharge on August 28, 1874, he remained in the vicinity of Fort McPherson. Charles assisted in the organization of a school district and became its teacher for two terms in 1875.

Charles became a rancher and even served as a time clerk for the Union Pacific. Charles and Katie had three children, William Jacob (born in Fort McPherson in 1873), Charles Junior (born at Fort McPherson in 1875), and Lillian (born at Fort Fetterman in 1880).

The Hendy family was Lutheran and Mr. Hendy belonged to the Free and Accepted Masons, the Royal Arch Chapter of the Knights of Templar, and the Eastern Star. In Charles later years, he could be found working in his son's (William) office at the Hendy-Ogier Automobile garage.

Charles died on April 23, 1932, in North Platte. He was 84 years old.

Katie died on March 4, 1912, at age 64.

This was a great pioneering family who helped mark the path that led to the settlement of the west.



# Tacie R. McGraw

*Portrayed by Amber Martinson*

Tacie R. McGraw was born September 3, 1874, in Indiana. It is unknown how she came to North Platte.

She married John McGraw on May 19, 1897, in North Platte. The couple had one daughter, Margaret. To many people, John seemed like a permanent fixture at the Union Pacific, as he was a 35 year veteran employee who took little to no vacation or leave. His obituary stated “So devoted was he to his work, one might say he sacrificed his life for his duties.”

With John at work so frequently, it is easy to imagine that Tacie filled her days in support of her community, Eastern Star, the Episcopal church, and caring for her daughter.

In the summer of 1917, the American Red Cross put out an urgent call for knitted goods and hospital supplies to help fight the war. Their immediate need was for one and a half million each of knitted wristlets, mufflers, sweaters, and pairs of socks. For American soldiers in the trenches or on the march in France, warm socks made all the difference. The boots these soldiers wore were made of heavy re-tanned cowhide with thick soles. Although in theory water repellent, the boots ripped out at the seams fairly quickly. This, plus the high incidence of a foot fungus called “trench foot,” created the need for a continuous supply of warm wool socks.



Tacie started up a “Sammy Girls” club (short for Uncle Sam) in North Platte. She raised funds to purchase wool yarn, convinced other women to knit or help the war effort, and spent countless hours knitting for the American soldiers.

John died unexpectedly in 1923 and by 1940, Tacie had moved to the warmer climate of San Francisco, California. Tacie was 75 years old when she passed away on February 15, 1950, in California.



# James Babbitt

*Portrayed by Jason Gale*

James Hill Babbitt was born on October 8, 1843, to Tillman and Jane Bobbitt in Louisburg, Virginia.

James Babbitt enlisted with Company A, 5th North Carolina Infantry of the Confederate Army.

The 5th Regiment reached Manassas on July 19, 1861, and participated in the battle on the 21st of July. Their position was on the extreme right and was not engaged during the most serious conflict of that day. However, the Regiment was still exposed to enemy fire and lost several men.

This North Carolina Regiment seemed to be at every major battle during the Civil War: Manassas, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Lynchburg, Fort Stedman, and many more. The men of this unit saw the beginning of the war, the many bloody battles in between, and the war’s end, the Appomattox Campaign.

On March 29, 1865, the Union Army began an offensive that stretched and broke the Confederate defenses southwest of Petersburg and cut their supply lines to Petersburg and the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. The confederates marched west in the hopes of resupplying the army and uniting Lee’s army with the other Confederate troops commanded by General Joseph Johnson. Grant’s Union Army pursued Lee’s fleeing Confederates relentlessly. During the next week, the Union troops fought a series of battles with Confederate units, cut off or destroyed Confederate supplies, and blocked their paths to the south and ultimately to the west. On April 6, 1865, the Confederate Army suffered a significant defeat where they lost about 7,700 men and many were wounded. Lee soon found his troops cornered, short of food and supplies, and outnumbered. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

After the war, James traveled to Illinois, probably to stay with family. On November 13, 1866, he married Sophia Marsh at Carlyle, Illinois. To this union, six children were born: Eunice, Albert, James, Edward, Minnie, and Jessie. James and his wife and firstborn child came to North Platte in 1868.

James learned the blacksmith trade and worked for the Union Pacific Company for 45 years. During his long residence in North Platte, according to his obituary, “James made friends of every sort. He was a trusted and untiring worker.”

James Babbitt died on November 21, 1920, in North Platte, Nebraska.



# William Thomas Brown

*Story told by his wife, Catherine, portrayed by Carolyn Clark*



Catherine Anne Brown was born December 23, 1843, in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Researchers know little about her early life, but in 1866, she married William Thomas Brown.

William served in the Civil War as a private in Company "B" in the 59th Illinois Regiment. William must have had a wandering foot, as well as a desire to see the "wild west" before it was all tamed, as almost every one of his ten children were born in different towns and states. To this union, 8 sons (David, Orrin, Charles, William Jr, Harry, Albert, Samuel, and Raleigh) and 2 girls (Nellie and Elizabeth) were born and all survived infancy and childhood. All the children had their father's lust for adventure; they lived and traveled all over the United States.

All of the boys followed their father's example of serving in the military. David, Charles, Harry, and Albert all served in the Spanish American War. Sadly, Harry died of fever, most likely malaria, while in training. Harry died September 11, 1898, at Chickamauga, Georgia. Harry was the first of the Lincoln County regiment of war veterans to die in the war. Samuel served in WWI, and Raleigh served in both WWI and WWII.

William died on October 23, 1911, in Green River, Wyoming, and Catherine died on November 12, 1932 in Rushville, Nebraska.

Researchers believe that Harry Brown is most likely pictured in the photograph below of the North Platte men heading off for training in preparation to fight in the "Great War."

## **Off to 'war'**

North Platte men joined the Nebraska Volunteer infantry and got a glorious sendoff at the depot on April 27, 1898, as they headed for the Spanish American war. They were sent to Chickamauga, Ga., for training, but "to their disappointment" the war ended before they had a chance to do active fighting service.



# Conrad Scharmann

*Portrayed by Justin Morgan*

Conrad Frederick Scharmann was born in Clinton County, Pennsylvania on September 8, 1867. In 1881, he moved with his family to North Platte, Nebraska. "Con" (as he was called) grew to early manhood in North Platte and was educated in the city schools. Upon graduation, he attended the University of Nebraska and was one of the charter members of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. During his early years in North Platte, he was employed at the McDonald State Bank, and served as a court reporter for District Judges Grimes and George Norris. He married Nancy Andrews on July 3, 1900, in North Platte. They had a son, Chester.

Conrad was always interested in military affairs and was elected captain of the local militia company at one time. He served as a Major in the 3rd Nebraska Infantry during the Spanish-American War in Havana, Cuba. His commanding officer was Colonel William Jennings Bryan. The 3rd Nebraska served in the Spanish-American War as part of Fitzhugh Lee's Seventh Corps. They were mustered into service between July 1 and 17, 1898, at Omaha, Nebraska. The Third Nebraska Regiment mustered out of service on May 11, 1899, at Augusta, Georgia. During its term of service, the unit had one officer and thirty-one enlisted men die of disease.

After military service, Conrad worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. At the time of his retirement, he was in charge of car diversion. He also served several terms as Lincoln County treasurer.

Conrad was a Mason, a member of the Knights of Pythias, and a member of the Lutheran Church.

Conrad Scharmann died on his seventy-first birthday on September 8, 1938.



# The Ghosts of War



## 2015 Cemetery Tour

*Welcome to the Ghosts of War Cemetery Tour. This tour takes a fascinating look at men and women who were put under the stress of fighting and living during wartime.*

*This year's tour focuses on the following wars:*

- ◆ *Indian Wars (1811-1924);*
- ◆ *Civil War (1861-1865)*
- ◆ *Spanish American War (1898); and*
- ◆ *First World War (1914-1918)*

*We hope you enjoy this year's tour!*

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the many individuals and businesses that make this tour possible:

- ◆ Actors (Amber Martinson, Andrew Lee, Carolyn Clark, David Breaker, Glenn Van Velson, Jason Gale, Justin Morgan, Lois Lynes-Miles, and Michael Davis)
- ◆ City of North Platte Public Services Staff
- ◆ City of North Platte Cemetery Employees
- ◆ Event day volunteers (Bill Kackmeister, Cecelia Lawrence, Dixie Francis, Elyse Bohling, Kaycee Anderson, Rob Martinson II, Sandy Erickson, Sara Aden, Shirai Armstrong, and Traci McKeon)
- ◆ Grandpa Snazzy's Costume Shop
- ◆ KNOP-TV and KODY-Radio
- ◆ Lincoln County Historical Museum
- ◆ North Platte Bulletin
- ◆ NPPL Foundation Board (Rob Martinson II, Colin Taylor, Traci McKeon, Sky Seery, Carolyn Clark, Bob Barnhouse, and Nicki Henry)
- ◆ North Platte Public Library Staff
- ◆ North Platte Telegraph
- ◆ Quality Inn & Suites
- ◆ Rail Fest
- ◆ Scotty's Potties

## Hugh T. Crockett

*Portrayed by Michael Davis*

Hugh T. Crockett was born in Tazewell, Virginia, on January 9, 1834, to John T and Mary Polly Crockett.



He later moved to Indiana, where he enlisted in the 46th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry in October of 1862. This Regiment was attached to the 19th Brigade, Army of the Ohio in January 1862. Hugh served as a sharp shooter. This regiment lost a total of 264 men; 4 officers and 66 enlisted men were killed or mortally wounded. Three officers and 191 enlisted men died of disease.

When the 37th Congress convened on July 1, 1861, members of Congress returned to an unfinished capitol building, several pieces of unfinished legislation, and news of the first battles of the Civil War. Before the Civil War, the Northern States had wanted to open up the West to settlement; and they saw homesteads, the transcontinental railroad, and land grant colleges as critical to that process. Southern representatives had opposed all three acts because they knew if new states were created, they would be non-slave states. When these conflicts resulted in the secession of the southern states from the Union, opposition in Congress dissolved. The Homestead Act was passed by Congress in May 1862. The Union Pacific Railroad was chartered on July 1, 1862, when President Lincoln selected a route that would pass through Nebraska.

After the war, Hugh married Elizabeth Allen in Clinton County, Indiana, on November 15, 1865. Elizabeth died in September of 1869 when she was 29 years of age. No children were born to this couple.

Hugh came to North Platte in 1873 and was a painter for many years. In 1876, Hugh married Carrie King. Carrie had a step-son from a prior marriage, and his name was Arthur C. Howard. Carrie and Hugh had one son, born on October 17, 1881, and his name was John Watson Crockett.

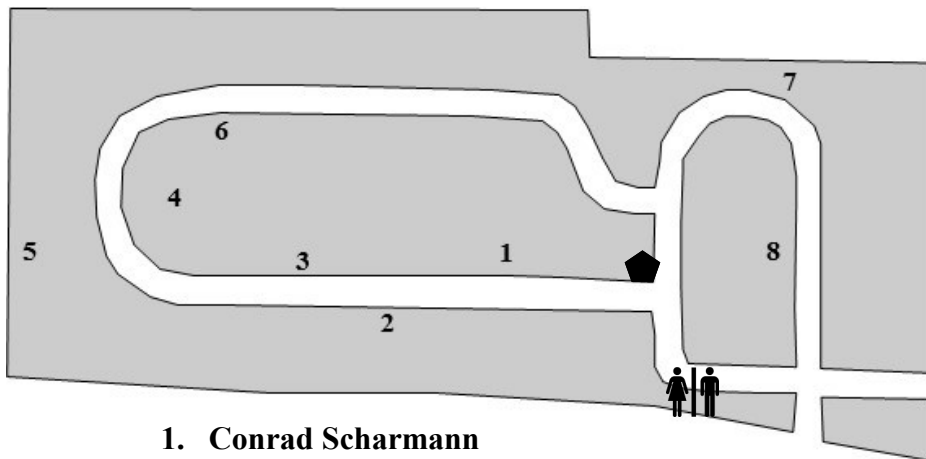
In North Platte, Hugh became an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic in North Platte. He was a respected member of the Baptist Church.

Hugh Crockett is a distant cousin to the famous "king of the wild frontier," Davy Crockett.

Hugh died on April 30, 1912 of throat cancer.



## North Platte Cemetery



1. Conrad Scharmann
2. Tacie McGraw
3. Charles Hendy
4. Butler Buchanan Miltonberger
5. William Charles Ritner
6. William Thomas Brown
7. James & George Babbitt
8. Hugh Crockett



Restroom (Porta-potty)



**Lincoln County Historical Museum**

*The Museum will have historic North Platte, Lincoln County, and Nebraska books for sale*

*Thank you for attending the  
2015 Ghosts of War Cemetery Tour!*



Mid-Nebraska Community  
Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation

Proceeds from this event benefit the *North Platte Public Library Foundation*, a non-profit fund of the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation designed to enhance the facility and services of the North Platte Public Library.

The North Platte Public Library Foundation  
Proudly Presents

# The Ghosts of War

2015 Cemetery Tour



### *Outdoor Performances*

Friday, September 18th

Saturday, September 19th

North Platte Cemetery  
Rodeo Road, North Platte

### *Indoor Performance*

Tuesday, September 22nd

Quality Inn & Suites  
2012 S. Jeffers, North Platte

This event will take place rain or shine.