

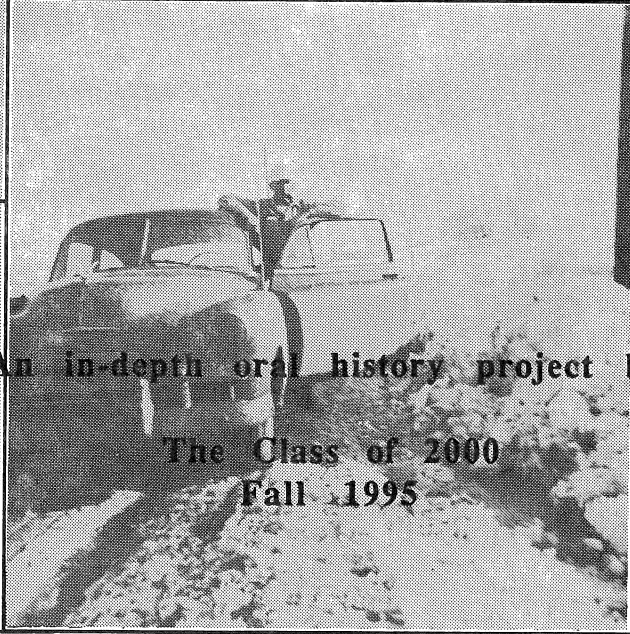
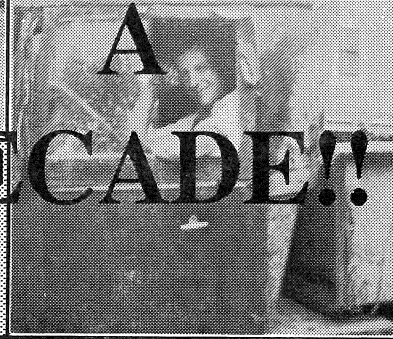
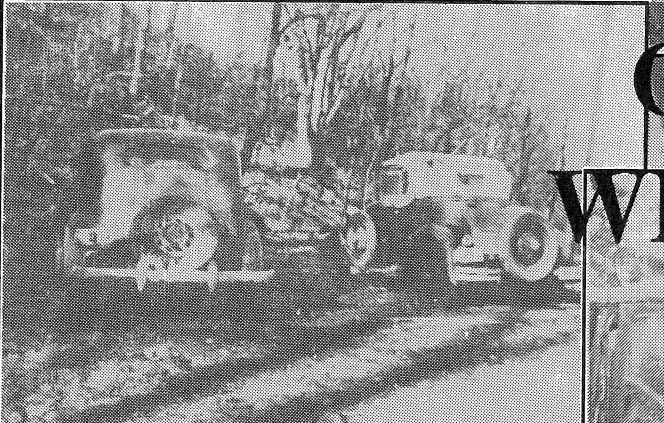
THE 1940'S--

OH

WHAT

A

DECADE!!



An in-depth oral history project by:

The Class of 2000
Fall 1995

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FOREWORD

When we began brainstorming ideas last spring for this project, I had little idea of what an enormous task it would be. In reality, this is a project better suited as a year long endeavor. But the students took what time they were given and made the best of it. Having completed a project like this, I feel that the students know far more about the Forties than ever could be learned in a simple textbook.

Special thanks to Mrs. Kathie Elkins and the high school newspaper class for proofreading, Mrs. Leslie Rullman for the computer time and to Mrs. Cindy Murphy for making this a cooperative curriculum study. Thank you also to the people of the community who allowed the students to interview them about the Forties. And last but not least, thanks to Mrs. Sherry Deaton, who sparked my interest in this project and helped our class enormously.

We hope you enjoy reading about the Forties. Please forgive any errors, as we are still amateurs at publishing books. Perhaps next time (?) we will know better!

Mrs. Sarah Burks

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TIMELINE OF THE FORTIES

1940

- *Local-Moskau Market Advertisement: lettuce 2 for 27 cents; cottage cheese 9 cents a carton.
- *National- Congress expands Army and Navy.
- *International- Germany invades European countries.

Amanda Liechti, Jeremy Wisler

1941

- *Local- Sewing Advertisement: dress pattern 15 cents.
- *National-December 7, 1941: Japan bombs Pearl Harbor.
- *International- U.S. Declares war on Japan, Germany, and Italy.

Amanda Liechti , Jeremy Wisler

1942

- *Local- Doniphan County collects 547 tons of scrap metal in recent drive.
- *National- FDR plans nationwide gas rationing with 35 mile speed limit for passenger cars and trucks. Average annual mileage permitted will be 5,000 miles per car.
- *International- Bataan Death March takes place. Sixty-four thousand Filipino and twelve thousand American soldiers were involved.

Amanda Liechti, Jeremy Wisler

1943

- *Local- Local Advertisement from 1943: Moroline Hair Tonic 25 cents.
- *National- Polio spreads through Texas, California, Washington, Kansas, and New York.
- *International- The Pentagon is completed.

Rebekah Feuerbacher, Rebecca Theis

1944

- *Local- May 5, 1944 Wathena High School Senior Class presents "Mr. and Mrs. America."
- *National- U.S. troops invade Philippines.
- *International- D-Day Landing in Normandy.

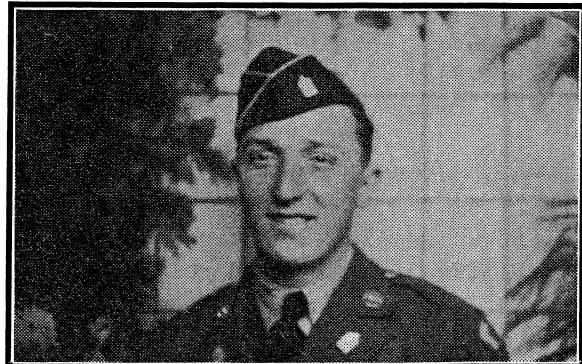
Rebekah Feuerbacher, Rebecca Theis

1945

- *Local-Sgt. Laurence Vertin, wounded on Okinawa, has been moved from the Marianas to a Hospital in Hawaii.
- *National- Gas rationing ends.
- *International- WW II ends.

Rebekah Feuerbacher, Rebecca Theis

- Sgt. Laurence Vertin →



1946

- ***Local-**Pfc. Richard L. Hartman, missing in action since April 5, 1945, has been declared dead by the war department as of April 6, 1946.
- ***National-** Steel Workers, Coal Miners, Railroad, and General Motors Employees all went on strike.
- ***International-** Women win suffrage in Italy.

Billy Ward, Kriston Manthe

1947

- ***Local-** County Apple Blossom Festival will be held in Troy, April 22nd and 23rd.
- ***National-** Jackie Robinson becomes first major league black player.
- ***International-** First Unidentified Flying Object reported.

Billy Ward, Kriston Manthe

1948

- ***Local-** Colored Baptists Will Convene Here on May 18-19 for Quarterly Board meeting.
- ***National-** Truman elected president.
- ***International-** Apartheid begins in South Africa.

Billy Ward, Kriston Manthe

1949

- ***Local-** It will soon be legal to drink in Kansas. Gov. Frank Carlson to sign bill making intoxicants legal for the first time in 69 years.
- ***National-** President Truman inauguration is televised.
- ***International-** Twelve nations sign NATO treaty.

Billy Ward, Kriston Manthe

OVERVIEW OF THE FORTIES

LIFE IN WATHENA. In Wathena life was rough during the Forties. Some of the farmers' sons went off to war, so many of the farmers were left to farm without the help of their sons. Housewives helped out with the farms a lot. A lot of the people were pushed to grow gardens to help out with the war effort. These gardens were called "victory gardens." Scrap metal was collected from the farmers and people in the community to make war machinery and ammunition.

People went dancing to get their minds off the war. Big band music was the kind of music they listened to and danced to. When people went out the favorite activities were dancing and movies.

During the era, the term teenagers emerged. Since most of the 18 year old youths were in service, many adolescents became the oldest in town and were looked upon as the leaders. They held important jobs at home and in town. They had money and for the first time manufacturers of photographic equipment developed products targeted at the new adolescent: the teenager.

Dating. Dating during the Forties changed due to the influences of the decade. World War II and the recovery from the depression added new dimensions to the concept of dating. Rationing and curfews influenced the way people dated. Movies and dinner were popular. The social traditions remained the same in many cases. The man was still expected to pay and to call for the woman. Parents still exercised a great deal of control over the date. Dates would often be dances, USO activities to support war effort, or family celebrations.

Education. Great crises that the nation found itself in during the early Forties had a profound influence upon education in America. The economical depression of the Thirties and World War II caused very little improvement of education during this period. The country could take pride in the fact that the average education of personnel in the armed forces had risen in the period between the two wars from six grades of elementary school to two years of high school. There were serious inequalities in education. During the war enrollment declined and attendance was unstable. After the war the focus was on much needed reforms in curriculum and methods of instruction.

FASHION. Fashion in the Forties wasn't very important because people were more worried about the war. Styles changed because people were saving cloth for the war. Men had shorter jackets and no frills on their suits. Women were restricted in clothing design to save at least 15% of yardage. People saved on clothing by making new clothes out of old clothes. People also saved the sacks that seed came in to make dresses. Maternity clothes, Religious clothing, and small children's clothes had no yardage regulations.

Some of the well known fashion designers of the Forties were Sally Victor and Pauline Trigere. After World War II elegant clothes were brought back into style by Christian Dior in 1947. Also, teenagers were seen as an important market by clothing manufacturers. They developed fashion just for the teenage consumer.

POLIO EPIDEMIC. Poliomyelitis is also known as polio. The spinal cord is where it attacks. That is where crippling damage is done. More children died of polio than any other infectious disease. Those who did not die were often left disabled in some way. People who entered the war would spread this disease to others unknowingly. In order for things to be easier for people with polio they could go through therapy, use crutches, wheelchairs, and braces.

The first polio epidemic was in 1916. In 1946 there were 25,698 cases and by 1949 there were 42,033 cases. By the end of the 1940's, Dr. Weller had started to work on a vaccine. It wasn't until the 1950's that the polio vaccine was perfected by Jonas Salk.

RATIONING. Goods were rationed in the United States because most items were needed for the soldiers serving in World War II. Richard Peck, a scientist, invented the rationing stamps. Sugar was the first item to be rationed nationally during the war. There were different colored stamps for different items. Red stamps were for meat, butter, and fats. Blue stamps were for canned goods such as peas and green beans. Some other items that were rationed were shoes, coffee, rubber, gasoline, and leather.

PEARL HARBOR. By the end of 1941, the United States still had remained neutral during World War II. They were trying to get Japan to stop fighting by cutting off their supply of aviation fuel and steel. Japan wanted to attack the United States to get them involved in the war. Pearl Harbor was the answer.

Pearl Harbor was a Naval and Air Force base located on the island of Hawaii. It was important during World War II because it was an island on the Pacific in which airplanes and boats could stop and refuel.

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Sunday, December 7, 1941 at 7:55 a.m. It came as a total surprise to the American servicemen. The men were relaxing or getting ready for church. Eight battleships, three cruisers, and seven smaller ships were destroyed. The USS Arizona was blown apart and trapped over 1,000 men inside.

The United States lost about 2,400 men at Pearl Harbor. About 1,100 men were wounded. The next day President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan, Italy, and Germany.

WORLD WAR II. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The next day President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. Shortly after, the U.S. entered the war. A total of two million men, ages twenty through twenty-seven, were able to enter the armed forces. While the men were at war, the women helped out by doing some of their husbands chores and working in factories. The women also participated in groups called the USO which provided entertainment for the soldiers. Many supplies were scarce during the war because they gave the supplies to the soldiers and there was no trade between nations at war.

In July, 1945 the United States tested the atomic bomb. It was tested in a desert in New Mexico. On August 6th, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The blast killed over 60,000 people instantly. On August 15th,

1945 the Emperor of Japan asked the people to surrender. On September 2, 1945 Japan had officially surrendered.

D-DAY. D-Day happened on June 6, 1944, and was the beginning of the end of the second World War. It was the world's largest seaborne invasion to recapture Normandy, France from the Germans.

They attacked a fifty-mile strip of the coast of Normandy. Code names had been given for the five beaches. The code names for the beaches were Utah, Gold, Juno, Sword, and the most famous was Omaha beach. For both American beaches (Utah and Omaha) 6:30 had been set for H-Hour, the hour of attack.

Huge holes were smashed in the Atlantic Wall, which Hitler didn't think could be done. The huge right side of the invasion force poured through those holes. For the Allies to bring final defeat to the German war machine, it took from June 6, 1944 to May 8, 1945.

BATAAN DEATH MARCH. On April 9, 1942, 76,000 American and Filipino soldiers were captured by the Japanese at the island of Bataan. They were held prisoners by Japan until they were forced to walk between 65-70 miles to Camp O'Donnell. During this long march they were starved, beaten, and exhausted. In one two-hour bloody incident, the Japanese bayoneted and beheaded 350 Filipinos. Some captives were buried alive by Japanese soldiers. Some of the Japanese soldiers were nice to the American and Filipino captives. They shared cigarettes and food with the captives. They would also release some captives who were sentenced to death. Today many men who were in the Bataan Death March become very emotional when asked to recall this event.

HITLER. Adolf Hitler was a vicious ruler during World War II. He came in to power by promising people food and jobs during Germany's depression. He convinced the German population that blond hair, blue-eyed Germans were the superior race, even though he had brown hair and brown eyes. Hitler sent minorities, particularly the Jewish people, to concentration camps. Towards the end of the World War II he became paranoid about death. He suffered from severe stomach cramps and tremors. On one occasion his own men tried to kill him.

Hitler married Eva Braun, his longtime girlfriend, on July 29, 1945. The day after the ceremony Hitler, his wife, dog, and eight companions were found dead in an underground concrete bunker. They had committed suicide by poisoning themselves with cyanide.

ATOMIC BOMB. The United States had been involved in World War II for four long years. Many American soldiers had lost their lives. Japan did not act as though they would surrender. The U.S. decided that it would be necessary to use a top secret experimental super bomb.

The first atomic bomb that was successful was dropped July 16, 1945 in New Mexico. On August 6, 1945 at 2:45 a.m. The B-29 bomber named the "Enola Gay" took off for Japan. At 7:31 A.M. the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. Sixty-thousand people died instantly. Three days later another bomb

was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. Forty-thousand people died within seconds. Tokyo immediately asked to surrender. They did so formally one month later.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born January 30, 1882 in Hyde Park, New York. He went to Harvard University. After graduation he went to Columbia University School of Law in 1904.

In 1920 Roosevelt was nominated for vice-president, but was defeated in the election. He was diagnosed with infantile paralysis in 1921. He was elected our thirty-second president in 1932. He was re-elected in 1936, and was re-elected again for a third term in 1940. He was the first president to be re-elected three times. In 1944, he again won the election. President Franklin D. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945 in Warm Springs, Georgia at the age of sixty-three.

HARRY TRUMAN. Harry Truman was born on May 8th, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. He married Elizabeth Wallace in 1919. They had only one daughter, Mary Margaret.

After President Roosevelt died, Harry Truman became the thirty-third president of the United States. He was sworn in on April 12, 1945. It was his decision as to whether or not to drop the bomb on the Japanese.

He was elected president again in 1948. His term in office ended January 20, 1953. He died in December of 1972.

JACKIE ROBINSON. Jackie Robinson went to UCLA, where he played four sports: Football, baseball, basketball, and track. He also was drafted into the Army in 1942. When president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, Branch Rickey, searched in 1945 for a black professional baseball player, he found Jackie Robinson. Jackie played for the Montreal Royals, the Dodgers best farm club. In 1947 Jackie Robinson became the first Negro player in the Major Leagues. He played 2nd base. Jackie Robinson's best year was in 1949. He won the national leagues' Most Valuable Player Award. He retired in 1956. In 1962 he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He later died of a heart attack in 1972 at the age of 53.

LIFE IN WATHENA

Some of the things Thelma Hewins recalls that the younger kids would do for fun were: playing with dolls and toy cars, reading books, coloring, getting other kids to play hide-and-go-seek, or tag. As children got older they swam in the creek and went sleigh riding in the winter.

Some of the popular songs for children of this time period were: "The Three Little Fishes in the Fishing Pool," "I Don't Want to Play in Your Yard," and "The Merry Go Round Broke Down."

The schools that they had to attend did not have the educational variety that is offered today. According to Thelma, there were a couple of Christian schools and one public school in town.

Danielle Hewins

John Fetter recalls life in Wathena well. He worked at the hardware store, which was owned by owned by his father in downtown Wathena. He had to walk seven blocks to get to school. When he wasn't in school or helping at the hardware store he was tending the fields or helping to take care of his family's horses. He also helped his father wire houses for electricity. "We wired more houses than anyone ever before in Wathena," he said. He went on dates in his free time. He was lucky enough to be allowed to drive to take his date places. When he was fourteen, he recalls being able to drive anywhere. He lived during this time in the house which is now owned by Dick and Debbie Shultz.

Leigh Anne Cooper

Children growing up in the 1940's helped their parents a lot more than children do today. Children that lived on farms had animals such as pigs, cattle, chickens, sheep, and horses to feed. They also had to help raise gardens. Most girls helped cook, clean, and also worked outside. Boys helped their dads outside and they also had to help during harvest. All children had to work outside by picking fruits and vegetables.

Amanda Liehti

Grant Butcher enjoyed hunting in his free time. "If you were black that's all you had to do for entertainment," he says. Occasionally, he went to St. Joseph. There was a larger population of black people in St. Joseph than there was in Wathena at this time. This is where Grant met his wife. He did not go to the movies much, because they were segregated in those days. "There weren't many movies we could go to," he says.

Patty Jones

Henry Kiehnhoff recalls what farming was like in the 1940's. Henry usually had to work late in the evening and get up early in the morning. His family first farmed with horses and mules. As time went on they got a tractor in 1940, but couldn't do much with it except plow because that was the only implement made for tractors at that time. His family had to use both the tractor and horses for a number of years. Farming equipment changed gradually every year. For example, the tractors became larger and improved to where one could do different things with them; such as cultivate, sow, or plant grain.

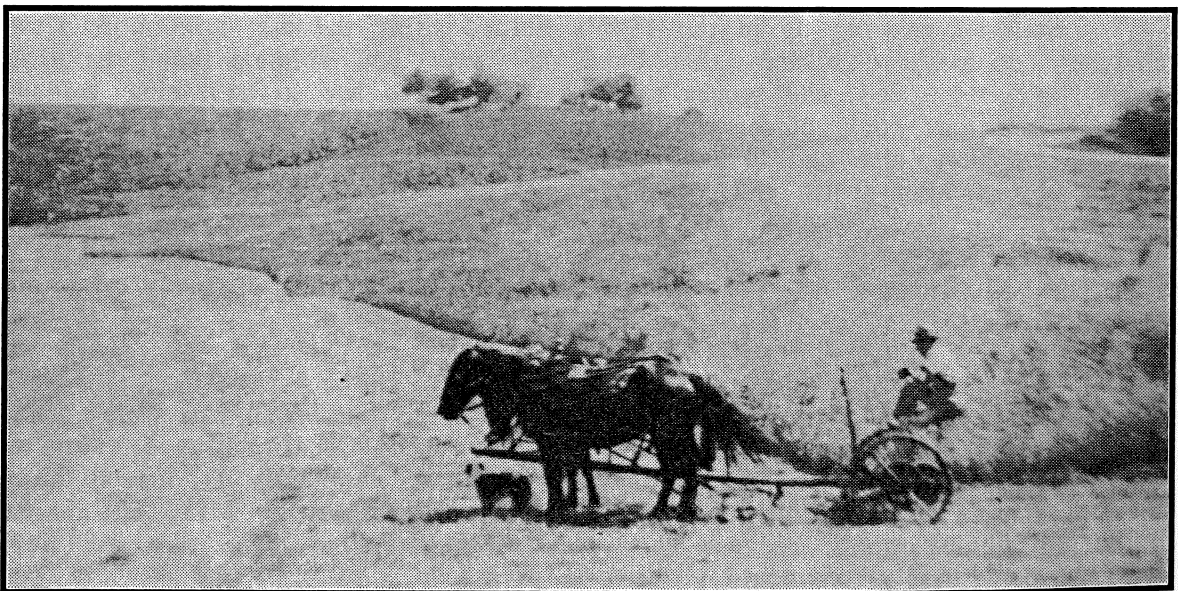
Henry did not have to serve in the war because he had to stay home and raise crops and do the farming. The things that especially kept him out of the war was his family's dairy herd and being the oldest child. However, his younger brother did serve in the war.

On Henry's farm, various crops, livestock and fruits were raised. The types of crops they raised were corn, wheat, oats, and hay. The livestock they had were hogs, and dairy and beef cattle. His family raised a variety of fruit such as apples, grapes, peaches, cherries, plums, strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries.

There were various ways they could get their water. They would catch the water that ran off the roofs of the buildings. This water would then go into cisterns. They would also dig wells and pump the water out of the ground by hand (due to the lack of electricity). The animals got water to drink from creeks and springs. Some people did not have creeks or springs, so another way to get water to livestock was to put it in buckets and carry the water to wherever the livestock were.

Today, Henry still farms with his two sons. Their farm is seven miles south of Wathena. They raise crops and livestock.

Heather Foley



Henry Kiehnhoff on his farm in the 1940s. Each year technology improved.



Above photograph shows Stella Bennett picking apples in the Forties. Apple growing in Wathena was a major industry in the Forties. The many apple orchards supplied jobs for Wathena citizens and other workers who lived in the area.

Ray Manthe Sr. remembers that the teens in the Forties did not date as frequently in the early part of the decade as they did in the latter part of the decade. Today the average curfew time is midnight or one o'clock a.m. for a date. Back then they had to be home around eleven o'clock. One of the most popular places to go to was the "movie show." Some of the restrictions on dating were that the boy had to meet the girl's father and the girl must eat with the young man's family. Many things have changed since then but the outcome is still the same, dating still is a common past time for the youth



Ray and Stella (Bennett) Manthe.
One of their favorite place to go was to the "movie show."

Kriston Manthe

In the 1940's, teenagers did not date a lot like they do now. The woman I interviewed said she was twenty before she could actually date. In 1947, at the age of 34, she got married. Her soon-to-be-husband worked out of town so they had to write back and forth to one another. The very few times she and her fiancé did get to go out, it was to go to a movie.

Rebekah Feuerbacher

When Mildred Smith's children went on dates in the Forties, they went to picture shows, went to listen to bands play, or went to concerts. She would not let her children date until they were seventeen or eighteen, and they were out of high school. They had to be home at 11:00. They definitely were not out until two or three a.m.

Blair Smith

Thelma Hewins recalls dating in the Forties as being very different from dating today. Some of the places she and her date would go were to shows, ice skating, swimming, sleigh riding, or sometimes just for a drive. She said

that most people did not date until they were fifteen or sixteen. She also went on to say that the male always came and picked up his date. It was also an insult to the male for the female to pay for the date. The male always paid. The men wouldn't have to pay very much because it cost about one dollar for both people to go to a show. If they went out to eat after, it would cost about twenty-five cents for a hamburger.

Danielle Hewins

Juanita Munger was sixteen when she began dating. It was her parent's rule that she could not date until she was sixteen, but she recalls that others did date before this age. She wasn't old enough to date during the Forties, but she recalls what others did on dates during this time. Mostly couples went to the movies, but sometimes they went dancing. They would go to barn dances. When boys and girls went "steady", the girl would wear the boy's ring around her neck on a necklace. People would always dress up to go on a date and the girls would never wear pants.

Christopher Godar

Marcella Theis recalls that no one under the age of sixteen really dated in the Forties. When teenagers did go out there wasn't a lot of options for them because the cars did not travel as far as they do now. Teenagers also did not have a lot of money, so if they went out to see a show they were considered very fortunate.

Rebecca Theis



Rosemary (Vertin) Ryser and William Ryser circa 1947. People dated mainly for the same reason they do now.

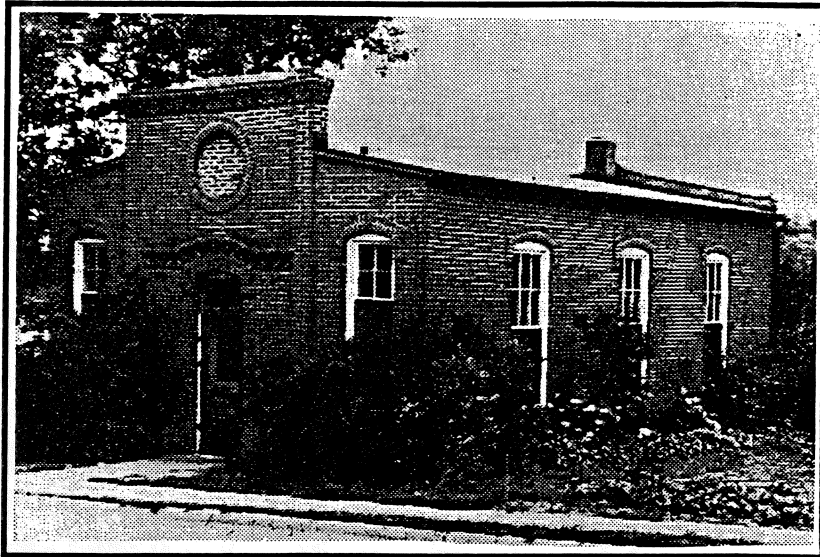
EDUCATION

Grant Butcher thinks that Wathena has always had a good educational system. The first

eight years were segregated therefore he had to go with all blacks. When he got to high school he went with both blacks and whites. He had a lot of good teachers. He said his favorite two were Bess Stratten and Miss Nelson. He participated in football, and they had an undefeated season in 1942. On this team there were three out of eleven players that were black. Grant is amazed at how many students drive cars to high school now. He says, "When I was in school there was only one guy in school that

had a car. He had a little convertible." When one drives by the high school these days it looks like everyone drives to school.

Chris Hewins



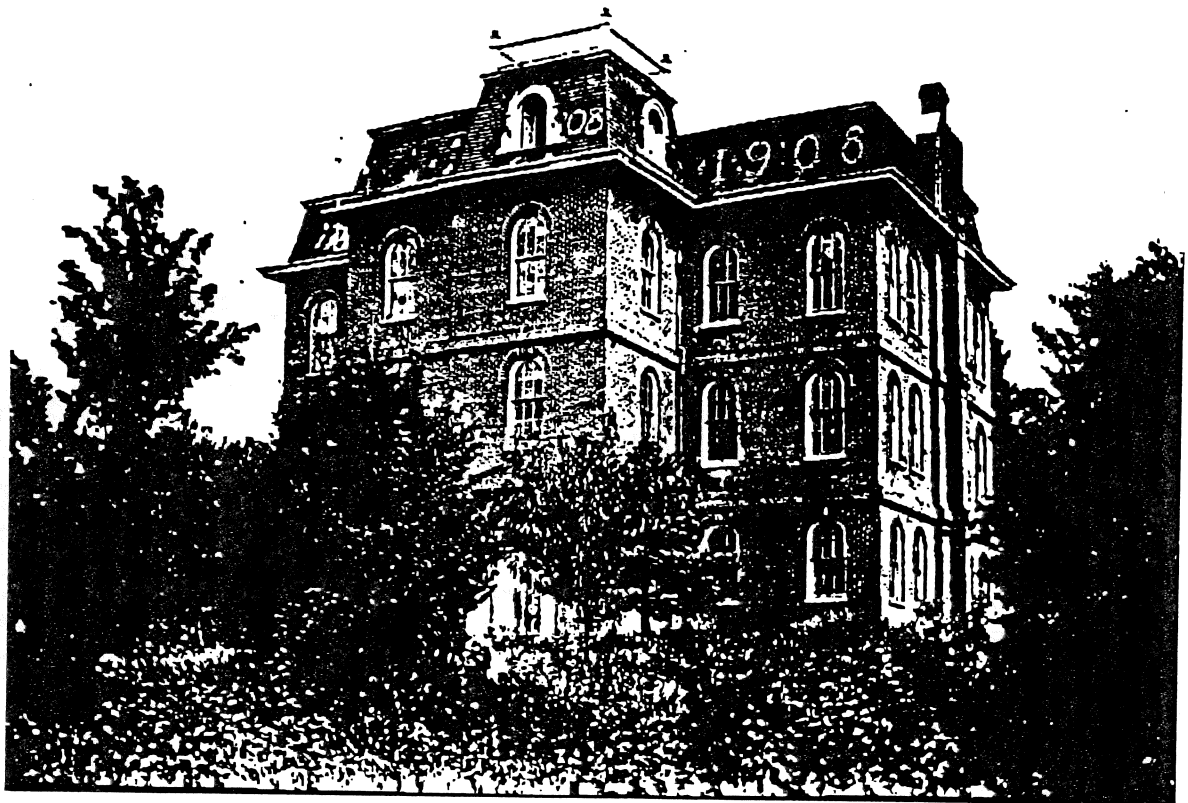
Wathena's First Brick School, pictured above, was built by Alfred Larzelere in 1867. The first school was built of logs in 1855; the second, a one-room structure in 1857; the third school served all the community until Alfred Larzelere built the 10-room brick structure. The above was then made what was known as the colored school.

In 1941, when Juanita Munger was six years old she went to school in a one room school house in Blair, Kansas. There were about fifteen or twenty students attending this school. She traveled about two and one half miles to school each day, either by horseback or horse and buggy. School began at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 4:00 p.m. She studied math, writing, social studies, English, and reading. During her recess she would swing, play hopscotch, or just goof around. When it was cold they stayed inside the school which was heated by a coal stove. She ate ham or egg salad, hot cocoa, peanut butter sandwiches, and homemade cookies for lunch. She liked school because it was fun and she got to see her friends.

Christopher Godar

Winnifred Reed thinks the work was harder back in the 1940's. She had six classes. She said the teachers were strict and punishments were harsh and cruel. She had to walk two and one half miles to school.

Teddy Lindquist



The second brick school in Wathena.

The kids started school at the age of six. The schools were one room schools with eight different grades. School started at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday. The kids went to country school until eighth grade, then they went to Troy High School and graduated. To finish school they had to finish the eighth grade or when they turned sixteen, whichever came first.

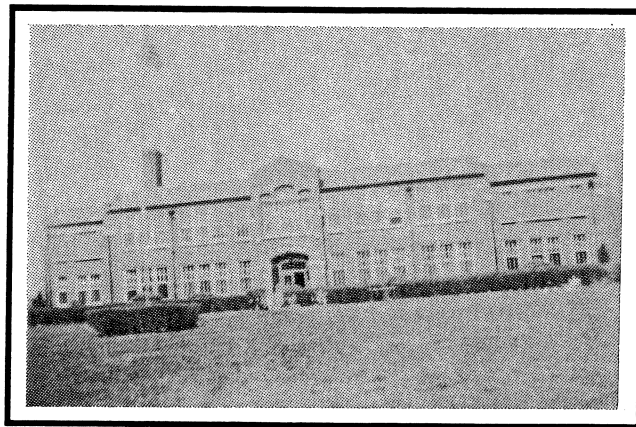
Blair Smith

Letha Gabriel remembers when she went to grade school, she lived 1 1/4 miles away; so she walked there daily. Classes were from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., with an hour lunch and a recess. The school year lasted 8 months. When she was in high school, she roomed in town because there was no school buses. She would go home on the weekends. Classes were from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.; except for Fridays, they got out a 3:30 p.m. The school year lasted 9 months. When she first started high school, there were 30 or 32 people in it, but when she graduated, there were only 18 people. People had to drop out to work and for various other reasons.

Rebekah Feuerbacher



The third brick school in Wathena.
Current site of the Wathena Heights apartments.



**Current Wathena School. View is
on the high school side in 1946.**
It was built in 1930.

Cora Propheeter remembers when people wore what they had in the Forties. Women wore dresses and men wore overalls or jeans. Many people made their own clothes. Women wore high heels or boots, while men wore boots or good shoes. Cora also remembers when shoes cost one dollar to a dollar and a half. Women did not wear much jewelry because it was not very popular.

William Gage

During the Forties, the men wore a lot of overalls or slacks. They rarely, if ever, wore jeans. The shirts were just simply button-down oxfords. According to Lindy Nold, it was "taboo" to wear sweats or sweatshirts. Athletes were the only ones who would wear sweats and sweatshirts. The fabrics were different because they were not man-made. The first suit he ever owned cost thirty-seven dollars, and he purchased it at the J.C. Penney Company.

Shena Mariscal

Mildred Smith remembers sewing clothes for her family and herself during World War II. The clothes were mostly made from cotton which had to be ironed after every washing. The women and girls had two or three dresses for special occasions and church. They kept these clean by wearing aprons when they cooked or cleaned. They needed a couple of "everyday dresses" as well. They had very comfortable work shoes for both men and women. The men wore overalls, and to church they wore suits. She also said that the hair styles were like they are now, meaning that each woman had her own style.

Washing clothes took a lot more time then it does now. They washed their clothes on a board, then they hung them on a line and finally they ironed them. Mildred washed white clothes first in a big, old tub of soapy water, and she had an iron kettle that was put on the stove and boiled. She boiled the white clothes to be sure they were good and clean.

Blair Smith

Shirley Kline said that in the 40's girls mostly wore feed sack dresses. She said that everybody pin curled their hair. Her mom made all of her clothes, so they didn't have to buy them.

Tiffany Juhl

In the early 1940's, the average cost of a dress was six dollars. Today, we wear the same clothes all day, but back then they had school clothes and play clothes. They would wear the good clothes to school and church and when they got home, they would change into their play clothes. Some of the popular styles in the Forties were high cut pants, bobbie socks, and if you were lucky, you would wear your father's white T-shirt. Clothes were one of the things that were rationed. Women would save money by making new clothes. The clothing that had no limit on how many one could get was maternity, religious, and small children's clothes. After the war, elegant clothes came back into style.

Kriston Manthe



Christina Manthe shows the bobbie sock, loafer shoes and full skirt attire.

According to Elton Berg, the men wore corduroy trousers, heavy socks, and moccasins. They also wore slip on shoes and sport coats and white shirts. He recalls wearing a lot of oxford shirts. According to his wife, Ella, the girls wore "saddle shoes", knee high skirts, and Bobbie socks. They said, "Clothes did not cost as much as they do today. Elton said, "Corduroy pants cost about \$5.00 a pair, shoes were about \$10.00, and shirts cost about \$3.00."

Kaleb Johansen

Juanita Munger didn't really care about fashion during World War II. She bought her clothes at a variety of different stores in St. Joseph. Some of the stores that she recalled purchasing her clothing from were: The Holly Shop, Grant's, and Sears. If she didn't buy her clothing, her dresses were made from feed sacks. When she went to church she would always wear a hat, but others would wear scarves. Her shoes were long lasting and made out of patent leather. They slipped on and had a strap on the top. The clothing that was in style were dresses, gathered skirts, and long puffy sleeves. Her favorite color was blue, but she wore all different colors.

Christopher Godar

Marcella Theis remembers the silk hose advertisements from the Forties, because the hose had a seam up the back of the leg during World War Two. Women wore dresses to church and for special occasions. Short dresses were more prominent during the war than the longer dresses. The upper classes were the only people who could afford extravagant clothing.

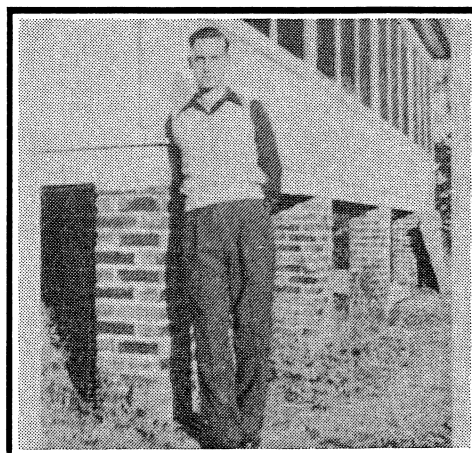
Rebecca Theis

Vern Wilson wore army clothing during the Forties because he was in the service. Back then, the fashion was a big change from what they are today. When the women came home from the service, their skirts were shorter than the civilian skirts. Women's skirts were hemmed about three inches below the knee. Before the war, they were halfway between the knee and the ankle. Girls and women did not wear jeans. Women always wore dresses and skirts in public.

Patty Jones

RoseMary Ryser remembers that fashion in the Forties was very simple. Girls wore gathered skirts that were calf length, bobby socks and saddle shoes. Many people also wore feedsack dresses. When her parents bought feed for their animals, the feed often came in flowered sacks. When the feed was gone, they washed the sacks and made clothes from them. People tried to buy the same pattern on the sacks so that there would be enough material for dresses and other clothing. Whenever there was enough of one pattern, they would make dresses, aprons, tablecloths, or dishtowels. Many people didn't care about fashion, because in this area clothes were too expensive. There were more things to worry about than clothes.

Amanda Liehti



RoseMary (Vertin) Ryser William Ryser during the late Forties. RoseMary said fashion was very simple in Wathena.

Although no one in Florence Stratton's family had polio, she remembers when one of her students contracted the disease. She says that, "It first struck in the 30's." She remembers an immunization where they sprayed it into your mouth. Two of its side effects were to lose one's sense of taste and smell.

Jeremy Wisler

No one in Eulalia Poirier's family died of polio, but it was a common yet frightening disease in the Forties. Some people who contracted polio were often crippled for the rest of their lives. There were no cures for polio, just like there weren't cures for a lot of diseases during this time.

Danielle Hewins

Lindy Nold's first recollection of polio was when they were trying to find a vaccine or treatment. He had a niece who had contracted polio. She has to use a wheelchair because she had polio as a child.

Shena Mariscal

Shirley Kline wasn't worried about getting polio. They lived so far out in the country they didn't know a lot about it. Her older children got the polio vaccine when it first came out in the Fifties. She said that it came out in a sugar cube, and they just put it into a patient's mouth. A few years later they came out with a vaccine in liquid form, and it was taken orally also.

Tiffany Juhl

RATIONING

Grant Butcher remembers rationing during World War II. At first it was tires, then it was food and gas. He said he got by with food being rationed because he, like everyone else, grew his own food. He remembers sugar being rationed because his mom used to cook pies and when they ran out of sugar they would run out of pies! The gas was harder to get by without because he received tickets that looked kind of like postage stamps. He would get so many a month, and would use them every time he got gas. When he ran out he would have to walk wherever he wanted to go.

Chris Hewins

Henry Kiehnhoff explains what rationing was like in the 1940's. "The government would provide stamps to buy food," he said. They would only issue a certain amount of stamps to each person. Whenever a person ran out, they couldn't buy any more food of that item that was rationed. Not all of the food was rationed. Meat and sugar were, however. Sugar was rationed very strictly. One could only buy very little of it at a time. "There wasn't hardly anything to make without sugar that tasted good," he said.

A person could not buy too many shoes. A substitute leather was made to replace good leather shoes. It was also hard to buy tires for a car because they were also rationed. People were allowed only so much gasoline a week. A farmer would get extra gas to haul his produce to town, though.

The worst thing that Henry felt he had to go without would have been sugar.

Heather Foley

RoseMary Ryser remembers sugar, gas, and tires being rationed during World War II. Those items were some of the things that farm families needed the most. Farmers' wives needed sugar for canning fruits. Farmers needed tires and gas for running their tractors and automobiles. Meat was also rationed, but if you lived on a farm, chances are you butchered your own meat. When things were rationed, they didn't have to live without them, they just couldn't use them as freely as they wanted.

Amanda Liechti

During rationing Shirley Kline missed sugar the most. The products she missed the least were pantyhose and other clothing. She said that one could get pantyhose, coffee, sugar, gas, and meat with rationing stamps. A person had to give so many stamps to get these things. She also said people who weren't coffee drinkers would trade their stamps to another person for another item they would need, like meat, for instance. She didn't remember how often they got the stamps. The only kind of clothes she knew of that people had to ration were underclothes and pantyhose.

Tiffany Juhl

I interviewed a woman who was very knowledgeable about the Forties; however, she wishes to remain anonymous. During the war, her family had to give up coffee and sugar, but she said that her mother always made sure that they had homemade bread. Her mother grew a big garden, in order for them to have enough food to eat. They also raised chickens, pigs, and cows so they had eggs and meat. Sugar was rationed, but she said that didn't bother her family because they didn't eat much candy. She also said that rubber tires were rationed, but her family only traveled to church, so it wasn't a hardship for them.

Rebekah Feuerbacher

People were issued ration tickets once a month. Vern Wilson had to go to Troy, Kansas to get his tickets. According to him people could not buy all the sugar, gas, and coffee they wanted. Everyone had to have a coupon to buy even a tire. If one did not have a ticket, he or she could not buy that item.

According to Grant Butcher, there was a black market for gas rationing tickets. A lot of farmers and people who had an abundance of gas ration stamps, would sell their tickets or give them to other people. In other words they cheated a little!

Patty Jones

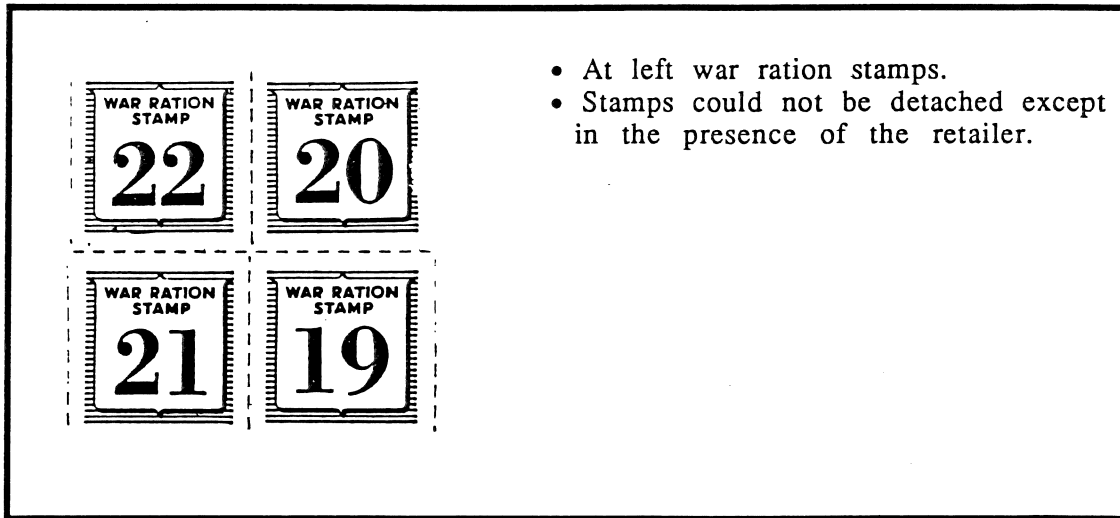
Nellie Hawman lived in St. Joseph during the war. She remembers several items being rationed. Some of the things being rationed were tires, sugar, gas, and meat. She looked for pudding and mackerel almost every day at the store because these items were scarce also. She took the bus a lot because the gas was rationed.

Elizabeth Rullman

Alice Crane was employed by the Farmers State Bank during the Forties. It was her job to keep track of the rationing coupons. Her job was probably a difficult one because she had to keep track of all the coupons issued in the Wathena area and make sure there were no mistakes.

A rationing board handed out so many coupons per family, and how many each family was issued depended on the size of the family. If the family ran out before more were issued, they simply had to do without the item. Everyone had a garden and canned fresh vegetables, because all canned goods were rationed.

Travis Joiner



PEARL HARBOR

John Smith, of Wathena, remembers Pearl Harbor being bombed on a Sunday because that's what he talked about at school the next day. He was impressed by the fact that the soldiers weren't ready for combat because it was on a weekend. John says if Pearl Harbor would have been attacked on a weekday the soldiers may have been dressed in their uniforms. Perhaps they might have been more prepared to fight.

Robert Smith

Larry Sandy said that Pearl Harbor was bombed before he was born. He thought it was a sad day for the United States. If he had been at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked, he probably would have reacted by panicking. Larry stated he did not like the bombing of Pearl Harbor because it killed so many soldiers and innocent civilians. He feels that this definitely was a sad day in the history of the world.

Billy Ward

William Ryser Sr. remembers the day Pearl Harbor was bombed. It was bombed by Japan on the morning of December 7, 1941. Most people didn't have television so they heard the tragic news over the radio. Many people were getting ready to eat Sunday dinner when they heard about Pearl Harbor. After Pearl Harbor was bombed, schools all across America had bomb drills because they were thinking of Pearl Harbor and all the young soldiers getting killed. Many Americans felt they needed revenge for what the Japanese had done. Two men from Wathena, Donald and Junior Lakin, went down on the U.S.S. Arizona. Another young Wathena man, Robert Temple, went down on the USS Oklahoma.

Amanda Liechti

Charles Kline's recollection of the Pearl Harbor bombing was that he was in a walk-in theater in St. Joseph. They flashed on the movie screen that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

In August of 1942, Charles enlisted in the Navy. He boarded the ship that was at Pearl Harbor after it had been repaired. A lot of guys on the ship were at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked. These sailors told him about how they were bombed, and how some of them were blown over the side of the ship.

Tiffany Juhl

Pearl Harbor was attacked on Sunday, December 7, 1941. Arnold Lieffring said, "It was a sad time for everyone." The United States went into a state of shock. According to Mr. Lieffring there were two local boys that died at Pearl Harbor.

Joey Chipponeri

Wesley Hawman didn't think much of the Japanese then, and he doesn't think much of them now because of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He wasn't too concerned about the United States being bombed then because he was in high school at the time.

Later on, when he became more involved with the war, he joined the services on February 21, 1943. He had basic training at Miami Beach, Florida, and then went to Jacksonville, Florida. After that, he went to Cuba and then he was stationed back in the states. He then went to England with the largest convoy that crossed the ocean. They sent out B-24's from England to bomb Europe. He returned from England on the Queen Mary.

Elizabeth Rullman

Alice Crane was in a church meeting in Horton when someone came running in and said that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. They bowed their heads in a moment of prayer. Everyone knew that the war would come and that all the men would leave. As she drove home from the meeting she tuned in the radio to listen to the death statistics. She, like many, remembers the Lincoln brothers, two boys from Wathena, who went down at Pearl Harbor. Later she says she went to Hawaii and rubbed her hands over their names on the memorial. She thought it was a terrible event in history.

Travis Joiner

Elton Berg, who was eleven at the time, was getting ready to go to church when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was really sad since there had been a lot of people killed in the bombing. Elton didn't really know anyone personally, but knew of some people that were friends of family members. To have been present at Pearl Harbor would have been a scary situation.

Kaleb Johansen

Sylvia Rush remembers that she was in the office in a hospital when Pearl Harbor was bombed. She recalled, "The excitement was terrific and when the doctor came in he said that the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor. They sunk one of our ships." There was bedlam the rest of the day, because everyone was worrying about how many doctors would need to join in the war effort. She said, "President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war because the Japanese had invaded our privacy, our land, and threatened us as a nation. He came on (the radio) with a speech that made us all excited to go out and fight those Japs, and in a year's time get them pushed back and the war over with." She also said that dropping the atomic bomb helped to end the war.

Tabitha Saltzman

John Fetter recalls people leaving for World War II. He was once one of those people. He enlisted in the service in 1943. John left Wathena in 1944 and he was sent to the Philippines when he was nineteen. He worked as a bomb specialist during the war. John remembers one time when he had to shoot a Japanese man who was running under a plane while he was loading bombs on a plane. He was in more than one fire fight and he claims he's been bombed, strafed by bullets, but never shot. He even lost two friends on the U.S.S. Arizona. John thought the United States entering the war was necessary to avenge the deaths of those at Pearl Harbor.

Leigh Anne Cooper

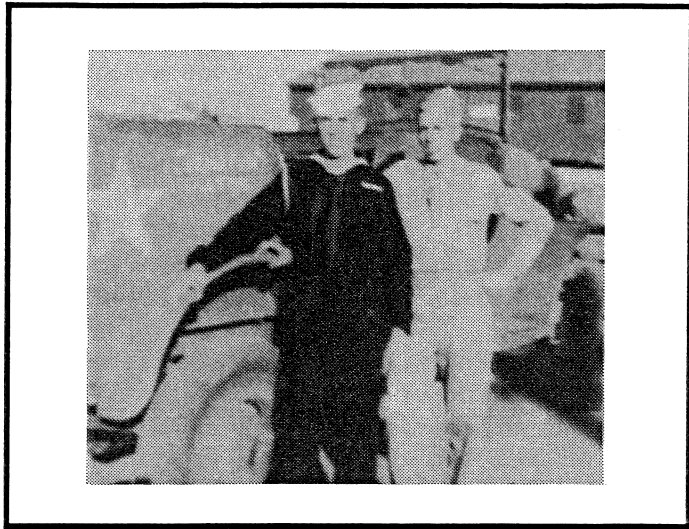
Doreene Whetstine stated that she was only about eight years old when the United States entered the war. Her brother and brother-in-law were going away to war at that time. She said, "Everyone I know was pretty worried about our soldiers and did everything they could to help them." The young kids even helped with the war effort. They collected scrap metal and helped out at home or on the farm. After the war was over everyone was pretty satisfied with the outcome.

Misty Whetstine

WORLD WAR TWO

Charlie Kline was in the Philippine Islands when World War II ended. He was very happy when the war ended, but he also felt bad since his brother George had been killed.

The sailors stationed overseas didn't get to go home as soon as the Army enlistees did. The war ended in August of 1945. Charles did not get to go home until December of 1945. Even after he returned to the States he still had to wait to get permission to go home, but then he finally got to go.



Charles Kline with his brother, George Kline. This was the last time they saw each other before George died.

Tiffany Juhl

Winnifred Reed thinks World War II was an awful time in our history. Her husband and her brother-in-law both fought in World War II. She feels it was necessary to enter the war because she thought we needed to retaliate against Germany and Japan.

Teddy Lindquist

Ernest Patterson knew a lot of people that served in World War II. He himself served in the war for three or four years. He was shot in the back while running an errand. He does not remember too much about the war but he thinks it was necessary to enter the war.

Teddy Lindquist

The lady I interviewed had two brothers in World War II. Her family wasn't too worried about them because they wouldn't be sent overseas. One was sent to Colorado and one brother was sent to New Mexico. She and her family were at home at the time of the war. The listened to the radio to keep up with what was going on daily.

Rebekah Feuerbacher

Norman Bahr remembers his first reaction to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He realized that everyone would have to go to the Army. He was drafted in 1942 at the age of twenty-two. Norman was training (in the United States) for a little over two years. He was trained to be a mountain climber and to climb sides as steep as walls. His first battle was in the suburb of Metz, Germany around November 5, 1944. He was always on the front lines. After his first battle, which was toward the end of November, he was fed a Thanksgiving meal. They had turkey and other good food. A lot of them had gotten sick because it was a change in their diet and they weren't used to the rich foods.

Norman was fighting in Sarlautern, Germany (located by the Rhine River) at the time of his capture. It was December 9th when he and the rest of the soldiers in his company were in the basement of a house. The Germans got on top of them and threw hand grenades on them. Norman was one of three that were captured while running out of the house.

The Germans captured Norman and the other two soldiers because they wanted information. They were trying to knock out a bridge that the United States captured. They wanted to know if they had hit the bridge and knocked it out, which Norman and the others didn't know.

From December 9th to December 23rd, he was taken back by German guards on railroad cars and he also had to walk part of the time. There were ten to fifteen cars of prisoners. On the twenty-third of December they were separated by rank (Privates, Sergeants, and Lieutenants). Then, on Christmas Day they had to clean up the barracks and carry bricks out from the ruined building.

This took one day, but they had to stay there for about one week. The Germans put Norman and the other soldiers in boxcars and hauled them to the western front of Poland. Norman recalls how one night he and the other soldiers could hear the Russian's small arms fire. The next day the Germans walked the camp out. The camp of prisoners had to physically walk out and leave as the Germans took them elsewhere. Norman never did know what happened to them because he and twenty-three others had to stay behind.



They were left because they were unable to walk due to sickness or other injuries. Norman had frozen feet which was what kept him behind.

After a week, the Germans came back in and hauled the twenty-four of them out in teams and wagons. They took them to a railroad station, and from there they went to Barth, Germany. The prison camp, Barth ,Luf 2, became his final prison camp. The camp had 9,000 US Air Force men and twenty-four infantry prisoners. He was there for four months.

The conditions were rough as a POW. The only clothing Norman had to wear was his old uniform. Everyone had lice and couldn't get rid of them until they were taken to France and deloused. If Norman and the other two POWs with him got anything to eat it was rutabagas, kraut soup, old horse meat, and potatoes. This was in contrast to the food in the United States. The only bread they'd get would be one-seventh of a loaf of bread for the whole day. They ate about twice a day. Norman went from 167 pounds down to 127 pounds.

Norman was a POW for six months. At first he didn't think he'd come out of the war alive until he got to prison camp; however, he remained in fear.

About the middle of May, the Russians liberated the prisoners. They were still prisoners (of the Russians), but had a little more freedom. The Russians took the part of the country where they were in prison camp, which was up on the Baltic Sea. They (the Prisoners) were in their section of the country they took. Norman and the other two prisoners could not leave on trucks; they had to wait for the U.S. Air Force to fly them out. They were taken to France and then to the United States. To fatten them up, they were fed eggnog.

Norman received an infantry badge and a Purple Heart. The Purple Heart was for having frozen feet. The soldiers earned a Purple Heart if they shed blood or were injured or wounded in the war.

The war took three or four years out of Norman's life. One change when he came back home was that he now had electricity on the farms.

Norman had flashbacks of the Germans throwing grenades on him and of getting into a tight hole for about a year. Even to this day it still bothers him to get into a tight hole or space.

Heather Foley

Wesley Hawman served in the air force working on the ground crew with B-24's. This was a relatively safe place to be. The most dangerous thing he felt he had to do was to stay out of the way of the V-2 rockets and load bombs.

He had two other family members in the war; Paul Hawman and Henry Hawman. Paul worked in the coast guard operating landings in the Pacific. Henry was a gunner in the Naval Air Force.



Wesley Hawman working with V-2 Bombs.

Elizabeth Rullman

Henry George fought during World War II. He fought against the Germans. Henry talked about what it was like in the war. He said, "Advance, kill or be killed. Keep going forward."

He was later taken prisoner in the war by the Germans. He was a prisoner for four or six months. He thought the conditions were terrible. He sat all day and exercised himself to keep in shape. He lost weight from starvation. All he got to eat was rutabaga soup with horse meat to flavor it. He also got one-fifth of a loaf of bread. He said, "The bread was so hard you could kill someone with it." The prisoners received packages from the Red Cross. They contained: a three pound can of powdered milk, one can of spam, coffee, lumped sugar, and a can of cream. Two men shared a package.

He now lives in Wathena with his wife, Helen. Helen also had a brother and a nephew who served in the war.

Elizabeth Rullman

John Fetter remembers the Bataan Death March well. He said that not a lot of people from Wathena were involved with it. He thought it was a terrible thing for the Japanese to do. The death march caused him to dislike the Japanese because of what they did to the American soldiers.

Leigh Anne Cooper

D-DAY

John Smith was working on his farm when D-Day occurred. D-Day happened on June 6, 1944, so John was either planting or getting ready to plant crops. He recalls that "D-Day was a great big invasion." The United States government had planned this invasion to be on June 5, 1944, but the weather was bad. John's family had only a radio so they didn't know what was going on until it was broadcast on the radio.

Robert Smith

The Allied forces invaded Normandy, France in June of 1944. Arnold Lieffring said that the Allies invaded the beaches of France because we were trying to turn the war in Europe around to the American advantage. He also said that D-Day was the most important part about the end of the war. The United States tricked Adolf Hitler into going to the beaches around the Netherlands. The United States went to the beach with the code name of "Omaha."

Joey Chipponeri

Charles Kline, twenty-two at the time, was on the USS Nevada on D-Day. They arrived at the French Coast at six o'clock in the morning. A large number of ships started bombarding and shelling the beach. Charles stayed aboard ship and didn't go up on the shore to fight. The Navy was there bombarding for six days. He didn't recall how long the Army and the servicemen that went ashore were there.

Tiffany Juhl

Cora Propheter remembers D-Day with feelings of relief. D-Day was an immense invasion on Normandy, France. Most people were fearing for their loved ones who were serving in Europe. She says, "Many people had loved ones fighting in the war and it really meant a lot to us when we heard we had won the war in Europe from D-Day."

William Gage

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William Gage

HITLER

Arnold Lieftring said that Adolf Hitler was a very good leader because he made the country of Germany a very powerful nation. He was a good leader, but as a person was a very bad man. He put the Jewish population in concentration camps. He also believed the supreme race to be blond-haired and blue-eyed, although he was dark complexioned.

Joey Chipponeri

Bill Whetstine remembers hearing that Adolf Hitler was a wicked dictator. He didn't know anyone in the concentration camps but thought that Adolf Hitler was very cruel to Jews. Mr. Whetstine felt that Hitler affected his life because much of his family went to war.

Misty Whetstine

Florence Stratton said that she remembers when Hitler committed suicide. She said "If he hadn't killed himself, someone else would have done it." She claims that Hitler's ideas definitely had an affect on the community. She believes that Hitler had some good ideas, but he went a little too far with them. She also said that she did not know of anyone personally that Hitler tried to kill, but she had friends who were in the war.

Jeremy Wisler

"Hitler was a very wicked man," says Hattie Moskau. She had relatives living in Germany during Hitler's reign, and they were killed. She recalled that she thought that Hitler should have surrendered, or been found and killed earlier. "It would have ended a lot of the misery," she says. Hattie doesn't feel any hatred against the Nazis or Germans at present because her mother and two uncles were born in Germany.

Mitchell Mason

THE ATOMIC BOMB

At the time the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, Charles Kline was at Okinawa. They had just finished an invasion there. They were just leaving there to go to the Philippines Islands for repair, when they heard that the atomic bomb had been dropped. Charles didn't even know anything about the atomic bomb until it was dropped. He thought that it was a very good thing. It helped to end the war, because if they hadn't dropped it a lot of Americans would have died.

When Charles Kline came back to the United States after World War II, he went back to Wathena for awhile. Then he went back to California. From there he took the ship, the USS Nevada, and got it ready as the target ship in the atomic bomb test. They had a large number of ships that they were going to test the effect of the atomic bomb on, both above the water and below it.

They arrived where the bomb was to be tested. Charles' ship had a large number of animals aboard, since it was the target ship. This ship was to be used for above-water testing.

After it was ready they were loaded onto troop transports. They had to get about forty miles away from the target ship. They were allowed to look after the bomb exploded. Charles said there was a large mushroom cloud.

They went back aboard the ship after it was over. They cleaned it up and lived aboard it until the second test was ready. The next test was to occur underwater.

After the second test was over the sailors couldn't get back on the ship, because it was radioactive. So they were all taken back to the United States on a trooper transport. The USS Nevada was taken out and used for target practice. It was now radioactive and no one could get aboard it.

Tiffany Juhl

Alice Crane remembers the Atomic bomb as a necessary measure because it ended the Japanese threat. She was shocked that we were responsible for so much death and destruction. Alice said, "It was like 20,000 tons of TNT dropping on the city." She thought it must have been a great responsibility for Truman, a brand new president. She also said, "It was very hard to sympathize when everyday the Japanese would sink two more ships of our men." Mrs. Crane commented, "It at least put an end to the war."

Travis Joiner

According to Hattie Moskau, the making of the atomic bomb was a good idea. But the first time it was used, it killed a lot of innocent people. The destruction that it caused was a very terrible situation. "I felt sorry for all the people, but it ended the war," she said. She recalled it to be very effective. If it was her decision, she wouldn't have changed it because it ended the misery of thousands.

Mitchell Mason

The atomic bomb, according to Florence Stratton, "was a good thing." She says that, "At the rate they were going, Japan had just about wrecked everything." She said that at first she disagreed, but after she found out what had been going on she agreed with the decision. She said, "A lot of people were afraid of what the atomic bomb might do." She remembers people panicking and building bomb shelters. She also said that people began practicing air raid drills just in case another country decided to bomb the United States.

Jeremy Wisler

ROOSEVELT AND
TRUMAN

Laurence Vertin recalls when Franklin Roosevelt was the president of the United States. He was a Democratic president who served four terms in office. People say he was a good president because he was fair, and he got what he wanted. Since Kansas was mostly a Republican-dominated state, some people in Wathena didn't vote for him. Laurence's parents didn't vote for Franklin Roosevelt, but after he took office they liked him.

Amanda Liechti

Letha remembered when President Roosevelt was elected because he got 526 electoral votes and that was uncommon. One day after she left Mead, she was at the depot and everyone was crying. She finally realized it was because of the news of President Roosevelt's death. She said that the whole nation was shocked and upset.

Rebekah Feuerbacher

Shirley Kline thought that Roosevelt was a great president. Everybody just liked him because he put so many people to work. She said that he was the one that helped out the poor and the old by having some kind of security. Shirley thinks that he was a really good guy. He was wealthy, but he didn't just think about the wealth. Shirley was never old enough to get to vote for him though.

Tiffany Juhl

Ray Manthe Sr. remembers when President Roosevelt was in office. He wasn't very old but his father was a staunch Republican. His father didn't think too much of Roosevelt because he had a bunch of plans, one was called the WPA, or Works Progress Administration. People made fun of the WPA, and called it the "we piddle around" plan. They said that they had five men working on one man's job. Despite what people said the WPA helped many American citizens. On April 12, 1945 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage. Truman then took over the presidency.

Kriston Manthe



Hattie Moskau recalls that although Truman took office without being voted in, he turned out to be a good president. For one thing, Truman stayed calm when he had to make the decision of dropping the atomic bomb. If it were up to Hattie, she wouldn't have changed anything about Truman's presidency. Although Truman was a good president, those were critical times, and it was better that he didn't get re-elected.

Mitchell Mason

Lindy Nold's opinion about President Roosevelt was a reflection of his parents. He was eight years old when Roosevelt became president. He said the taxes were too high and people couldn't afford to pay them.

Shena Mariscal

JACKIE ROBINSON

Elton Berg thinks that Jackie Robinson started to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Elton thought it was a good idea to let blacks play baseball. He didn't think it was fair that blacks have been discriminated against. People wouldn't let blacks play baseball even though they had the ability. Elton was pretty happy that they let Jackie Robinson play baseball for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Elton was about 17 when Jackie Robinson started to play.

Kaleb Johansen

Grant Butcher's hero during the 1940's, was Jackie Robinson. He was the first black Major League Baseball player. He was surprised to see Jackie get to the big leagues and become successful. He watched him play every chance he got. He didn't collect any of his cards because they weren't popular at that time.

Chris Hewins

Laurence Vertin and Bill Ryser remember when Jackie Robinson was playing Major League Baseball. When people think of athletics, one name that pops up is Jackie Robinson. He was the first black Major League Baseball player. He was a star football and baseball player at UCLA. Everyone said he was a good example. Some other famous sports figures of that time were Joe Di Maggio and Ted Williams.

Amanda Liechti

Larry Sandy remembers that Jackie Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He grew up not liking the Brooklyn Dodgers or the New York Yankees. He said that he grew up listening to the radio at the time when radio was a big deal and the Cardinals were the team. Mr. Sandy also said that the two well known black baseball players were Satchel Page and Jackie Robinson. Jackie Robinson was one of the major reasons Negro players had a chance to play in the major leagues. Until he came along, they didn't have an opportunity to earn the big money.

Billy Ward

BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Norman Bahr is 75 years old. He was born in Doniphan county on August 30, 1920. He was married on August 27, 1950. He went to war in 1944 at age 22. He was a POW for six months. He has four children and 16 grandchildren. Today he lives with his wife, Elizabeth, nine miles southwest of Wathena.

Ella Berg was born May 7, 1930 in Lustre, Montana. She attended country schools until the eighth grade. As a freshman attended high school sixty miles from home at Glasgow, Montana. She graduated from Tabor Academy in Hillsboro, Kansas in 1948. She has been a missionary and a pastor's wife. During this time, she has taught piano lessons and a few years of elementary music.

Elton Berg was born June 18, 1930 in Richie, Montana. He attended country school through the eighth grade. He graduated from Dawson County High School in Glendive, Montana in 1948. He has been a missionary and a preacher for thirty-seven years until his retirement in July of 1995.

Grant Butcher is 71 years old. He was born July 16, 1924. He lived in Wathena until 1945. He got married in 1945 and moved to Elwood, where he lived until 1952. Up until eighth grade he went to an all black school which was located on Fremont. His favorite teacher was Bess Patten.

Alice Crane began her career in 1935. She worked at the Farmers State Bank during the Forties, and lived about three miles out in the country during this time. She retired from the bank in 1950.

John Lucas Fetter was born in Wathena. He lived in Wathena all his life except when he was in World War II. He is the father of Roxanne Turner, and grandfather of Leigh Anne Cooper. He has three grandchildren, and one cat. John manages Gaslight Acres. He likes watching football. John is a very sociable man.

Helen George was born and raised in Plattsburg, Missouri. She has lived in Kansas for the past twenty-seven years.

Henry George was born and raised in St. Joseph, Missouri. He has lived in Kansas for the past twenty-seven years.

Nellie Hawman was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. She used to teach elementary music at Humboldt Elementary and Bessie Ellison Elementary in St. Joseph. She now lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Wesley Hawman was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. He attended school at Lindbergh, Lafayette, and Central. He now lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Thelma Hewins was born in a country home where her parents lived. She was born on March 5, 1920. She is now retired and enjoys taking care of her garden.

Henry Kiehnhoff is 79 years old. He was born on October 21, 1916, seven miles southwest of Wathena in a rural home. He has one brother and one sister. He got married on September 16, 1950. He has six children and ten grandchildren. Today, he lives with his wife Agnes, near his birthplace.

Charles Kline lives in Wathena, Kansas. He enjoys working outside. He is retired and lives happily with his wife. He has eight children, sixteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Shirley Kline lives in Wathena, Kansas. She is retired and lives happily with her husband. She has eight children, sixteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren

Arnold Lieftring was born three and a half miles west of his house now. In the 1940's he was living about two-thirds of a mile from where he was born. He was in the air force in World War II. Now he is retired from the Air Force, and lives in Wathena.

Ray Manthe was born on April 8, 1936. He was born in a little house outside of Highland. He has one brother and six sisters. He is now married and has two kids.

Stella Manthe was born on April 13, 1936. She was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. She is now married and has two children.

Hattie Moskau was born on March 2, 1911. She grew up south of Wathena, and she now lives in Wathena. There were five children in her family. In the Forties, she loved to go dancing.

Jaunita Munger was born on June 19, 1935. She was in her early teens during the Forties. She grew up in many parts of Kansas, and now lives in Wathena. She is the grandmother of Christopher Godar.

Lindy Nold was born in Wathena, Kansas on July 29, 1924. He's married and has six daughters, four sons and eighteen grandchildren.

Ernest Patterson is eighty years old. He was born on a farm outside of St. Joseph. He now lives in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Eulalia Poirier was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, and grew up in Wathena, Kansas. She has four children and sixteen grandchildren.

Cora Prophter lives in Wathena and is a housewife and has four children. Her hobbies are cooking and reading. She likes to get together with friends and loved ones all the time. She also thinks that education is the most important part of life.

Winnifred Reed is seventy-three years old. She resides in Easton, Missouri.

Sylvia Rush, 74, lived in Twin Falls, Idaho, Wichita, Kansas, and Troy, Kansas during the Forties. She was a medical laboratory technician, and worked in hospitals and doctor's offices. Today she is a homemaker.

RoseMary (Vertin) Ryser was a teenager in the 1940's. She was born in Wathena and has lived here all her life. She has four children and seven grandchildren. Some of her hobbies are reading, gardening, cooking, shopping, and she also likes sports.

William Ryser was a teenager in the 1940's. He was born in Morrowville, Kansas and currently lives in Wathena. He married RoseMary Vertin on May 8, 1951. He has four children and seven grandchildren. Some of his hobbies include reading, working in his yard and shop, playing cards, and sports.

Larry Sandy was born in Atchison, Kansas on January 21, 1942. He now teaches seventh and eighth grade math at Wathena Middle School. He has been teaching for twenty eight years and is looking forward to retiring in two years.

Mildred Smith was in her late thirties during the Forties. She was a mother of five, a housewife and when her kids were older she worked at the St. Joseph hospital for ten years. She was born on April 8, 1903. She lives in Troy, Kansas.

John Smith was born on September 7, 1927. He was a young teenager in the Forties. During this time John went to school and worked on the farm. He lives in Wathena.

Phillip Staudemaier is a resident of Wathena. He was born in 1915 and has three daughters and one son. He is a retired farmer and factory worker. He also went to the Pacific to fight.

Florence Stratton was born in 1916 in Winslow, Arkansas. She taught school in Wathena, Elwood, and in the Prairie Village school district. She has since retired.

Charles Theis is 84 years old. He shares a birthday with his grand-daughter, Rebecca. Prior to his retirement he was employed by Swift Meat.

Marcella Theis was born August 17, 1912. She lived on a farm all her life, and raised five children.

Laurence Vertin was in his twenties during the 1940's. He was born in Wathena and currently resides here. During World War II, he fought in the Phillipines and in Okinawa, , where he was wounded in the leg. He has been farming all his life. Some of his hobbies include farming, playing cards, and bowling.

Bill Whetstine was born in Troy, Kansas. He currently resides northwest of Troy.

Doreene Whetstine was born in Agency, Missouri. She currently resides northwest of Troy.

Vern Wilson was born January 9, 1920. For the first ten years of his life he lived in Missouri. Then he came to Wathena, Kansas. He has seven brothers and five sisters.

Letha Gabriel was born in Wathena on August 30, 1926. She was an only child. She said that she was a farm girl. She would tag around with her father and help him. They raised pigs and they had a 40 acre fruit garden. Her mother worked in the house and in the fruit garden. They raised tomatoes, strawberries, grapes, apples and other fruits. There wasn't much crime rate around where she lived. She said that doors could be left open all night and leave things out on your porch and nobody would bother it.

One Lady who wanted name withheld was born in 1913. She lived with her mother, father, one sister, and five brother. They all grew up on a farm. On the farm, they raised pigs, chickens, and cows. They, also, grew a big fruit garden. She started dating a man at the age of 20 and later married him in 1947.

ABOUT THE
AUTHORS

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Joey Chipponeri was born in California. Now he lives in Wathena, Kansas with his mom and sister. He hopes to be a basketball player someday.

Leigh Anne Cooper was born in North Carolina. She now lives in Wathena with her mom, step-father, four brothers, and a sister. She would like to further her education and become a lawyer.

Rebekah Feuerbacher likes to go swimming, play volleyball, and take care of animals. She lives in Wathena with her parents, a sister, and four cats; she also has a sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and a brother. Someday she hopes to be able to have a job working with animals.

Heather Foley lives in Wathena with her parents and two older brothers. She enjoys playing sports, dancing, listening to music, and being with friends and family. After high school she plans on going to college somewhere near home.

William Gage was born in Atchison and lives in Wathena. He lives with his parents and two brothers. He likes football, basketball, cooking, camping, and fishing.

Christopher Godar lives inside the city limits of Wathena with his mother and two younger brothers. He attends school at Wathena Junior high and wants to go to college. He likes basketball, track, art, rock, rap, heavy metal, and plays the guitar and drums.

Christopher Hewins enjoys playing football, basketball, and baseball. He lives in Wathena with his parents. He has two sisters and one brother.

Danielle Hewins was born in California and now lives in Wathena with her dad, step-mother, two step-brothers, one step-sister, a brother, a cat, and a dog. Her hobbies are swimming, playing basketball, and running track. Danielle hopes to become a veterinarian one day.

Tanner Hrenchir was born in Atchison, Kansas in March of 1982. He lives with his parents in Wathena and has two sisters. After high school he would like to join the Air Force.

Kaleb Johansen was born in Atchison, Kansas and lives in Wathena. He has three sisters and one brother. Kaleb enjoys fishing, hunting, camping, biking, and hopes to one day play professional basketball.

Travis Joiner resides in Wathena. He likes playing and inventing video games and hopes to one day be a chemist. He lives with his mother, step-father, and his Sheltie, Trina.

Patty Jones lives in Wathena. She resides with her parents and three sisters. She hopes to become a cosmetologist.

Tiffany Juhl lives inside the city limits of Wathena with her mother, father, sister, and nephew. She enjoys baby-sitting and playing sports. Her future plans are to finish up school and go to college.

Amanda Liechti was born in St. Joe and lives with her mom, step-dad, and two brothers in Wathena, KS. She loves to read, play volleyball, baby-sit, and cook. After high school she plans to be a teacher.

Teddy Lindquist lives on the outskirts of Wathena. He was born in California. He lives with his parents and two sisters. He hopes to one day play professional football.

Kriston Manthe was born in St. Joseph, MO. She lives in the urban area of Wathena, KS. She is active in sports and would like to further her education in electronics.

Shena Mariscal was born in Orange County, California. She now lives in Wathena, KS with her family. She hopes to become a singer in the future.

Mitchell Mason was born in Oklahoma. He lives in Wathena with his step-mom, dad, and three brothers. He would like to go to college and afterward would like to become a fighter-pilot for the Air Force.

Elizabeth Rullman lives with her brother, sister, mother, and father in Wathena, KS. She hopes to become a photographer. She enjoys photography, drawing, dancing, playing piano, and sports.

Tabitha Saltzman was born in St. Joe and lives in Wathena with her parents and younger sister. She likes to play volleyball, sing, and read. She wants to get a good education and be drug free.

Blair Smith lives in St. Joseph, MO and attends school in Wathena, KS. She likes to travel, cook, and ride horses. She lives with her mother and father and has two cats. She hopes to one day be a photographer.

Robert Smith was born in St. Joseph, MO. He lives with his Dad and Mom and one brother in the country. He loves cats, dogs, and all kinds of sports. He hopes to become a fighter pilot or a cop.

Rebecca Theis lives with her mother, father, and brother in the rural area of Wathena. She likes to ride horses, be with her friends, and play sports. She goes to school at Wathena School.

Billy Ward was born in St. Joe, MO in 1982. He lives with his mother, two brothers, and a sister. He would also like to become a professional baseball player and further his education in college.

Misty Whetstine lives in the city limits of Wathena, KS with her mother, step-father, and brother. She loves riding horses and traveling. She loves dogs and hopes someday to go to college to major in law to be a lawyer.

Jeremy Wisler lives with his mom, dad, and younger brother within the city limits of Wathena. He likes baseball, basketball, and football. He is planning to become a plastic surgeon.

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